

Welcome to
Who is God
and
Why Does it Matter to Us?

The Holy God



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 - ▶ The Omnipotent God
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 - ▶ **The Holy God**
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To define holiness as an abstinence from sin and a hatred of sin is be half right.

Habbakuk 1:13a

Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor

Holiness also means to be separate, to be above. It has a sense of supreme excellence.

Exodus 15:11

Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?

1 Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God.



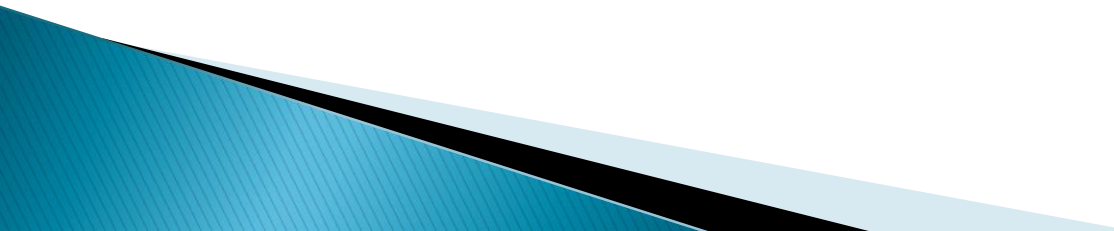
“Holy” is the only attribute of God that is repeated three times in any one place.

Isaiah 6:3

And one called out to another and said, " **Holy, Holy, Holy**, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Revelation 4:8

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** is **THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.**"

- ▶ The Holy One (Acts 2:27)
 - ▶ The Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 49:7)
 - ▶ Blessed and Holy Ruler (1 Timothy 6:15)
 - ▶ Holy Spirit
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Psalm 5:3–7

⁴For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;
No evil dwells with You.

⁵The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;
You hate all who do iniquity.

⁶You destroy those who speak falsehood;
The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

⁷But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your
house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

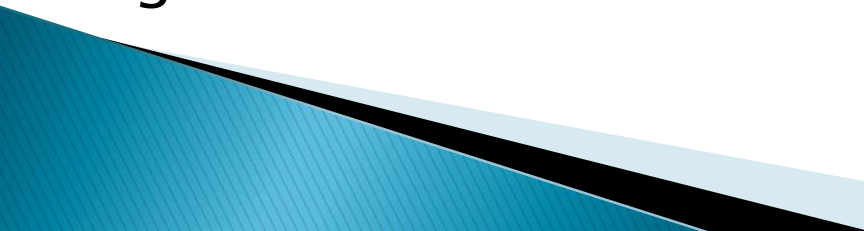
To understand holiness we need to understand what sin is

1. "Hamartia" = "To miss the mark", as in archery competition, and therefore fail to receive the prize, or blessing. This is the general Greek word for sin, and is used 221 times. "Hamartia" encompasses the other 6 words for specific sins, in the sense that in all types of sin, we are "missing the mark". Example: Heb. 12:1, "the sin (hamartia) which doeth so easily beset us". We are aiming at God's best, but miss it.

2. "Hettema" = "Diminishing what should have been given full measure". Example: 1 Cor. 6:7, "there is a fault (hettema) among you". Not giving God and all that is related to Him their proper place.

3. "Paraptoma" = "Falling when one should have stood". This is actually an unintentional slip. Example: Eph. 1:7, We have "the forgiveness of sins (paraptoma), according to the riches of His grace".

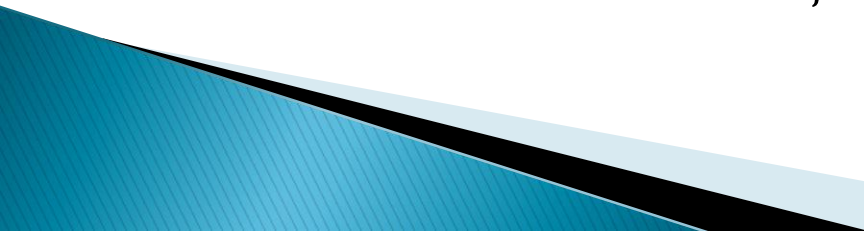
4. "Agnoeema" = "Ignorance when one should have known". Example: Heb. 9:7, "the errors (agnoeema) of the people". This passage speaks of how the Old Testament was a shadow of the New Testament. Ignorance is no excuse.

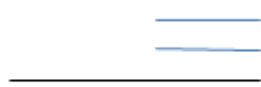


5. "Parakoe" = "To refuse to hear and heed God's word".
Example: 2 Cor. 10:6, "disobedience". In this passage, Paul urges us to hear God's Word and to bring every thought into captivity for Christ.

6. "Parabasis" = "To intentionally cross a line". Example: Heb. 2:2, "every transgression (parabasis) & disobedience (parakoe) received a just recompense of reward". When God "draws a line in the sand", we can suffer great loss of rewards and blessings by intentionally "stepping over".

7. "Anomia" and "Paranomia" = "Lawlessness, or willfully breaking God's written rules". Example: Titus 2:14 Jesus gave himself for us in order to "redeem us from all iniquity (anomia)". God gives us "rules" so as to bless us, not to curse us.





Murder
My sin of lying



Huge difference in our eyes

God's perfect holiness

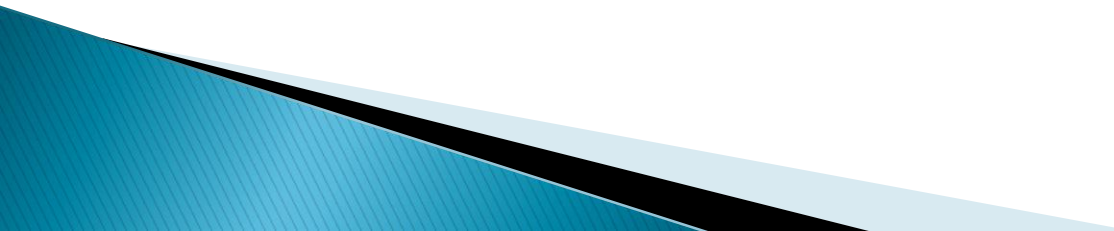
An infinite distance

My sin of lying

Sin is an outrage to the holiness of God. It slanders all that God is and all that God says.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.



The punishment of sin is not so much based on the sin itself but by the quality of what was sinned against.



Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

No amount of good works can ever bridge an infinite gap.

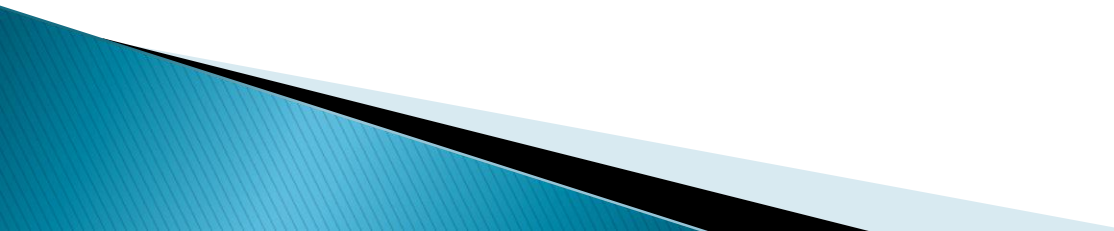


The Wicked Mock God's Holiness

Psalm 10:11 records the thoughts of the wicked: "He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.



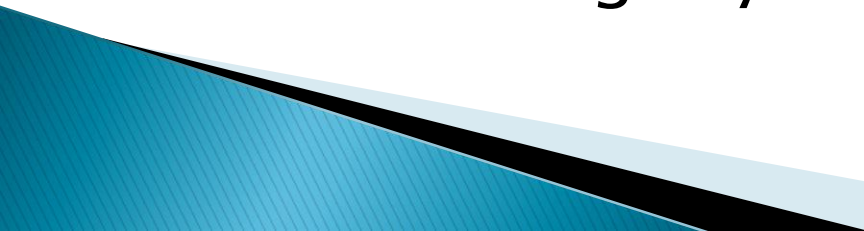
God's Holiness gives us Security

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

2 Corinthians 1:20

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.



God wants us to be Holy

1 Peter 1:15–16

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

God's Holiness is Praised Throughout the Heavens

Our few glimpses into heaven find God being much adored and worshipped for His holiness. Isaiah heard the seraphim herald the glory of the triune God saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Isaiah 6:3) As they did this, the thresholds trembled and the temple filled with smoke.

Likewise, in the book of the Revelation, the victors proclaim, “who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify They name? For Thou only art holy.” (Revelation 15:4)

What does God's holy mean to us?

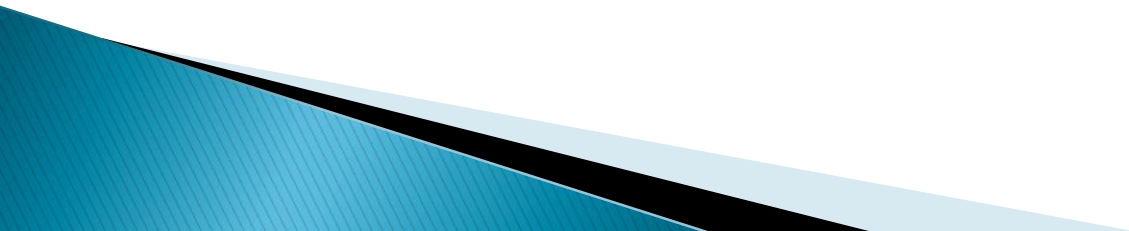
When we are saved we can be assured that our sins are not merely overlooked but are fully paid for.

He expects us to be holy also.

God wants us:

- 1) To recognize sin
- 2) To not sin
- 3) To hate sin
- 4) When possible, to act against sin

We will never need to stop becoming better.



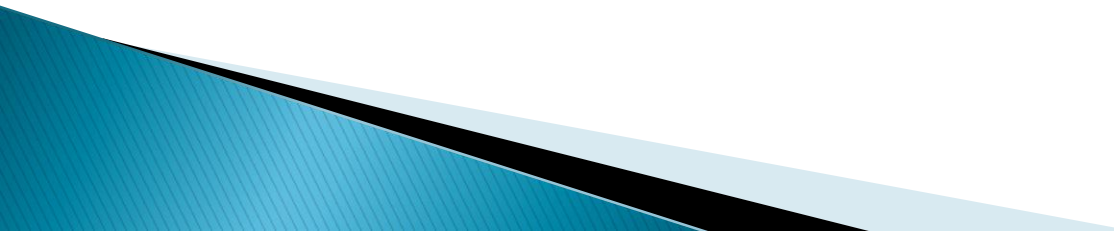
Praise God for His Magnificent Holiness

Psalm 30:4

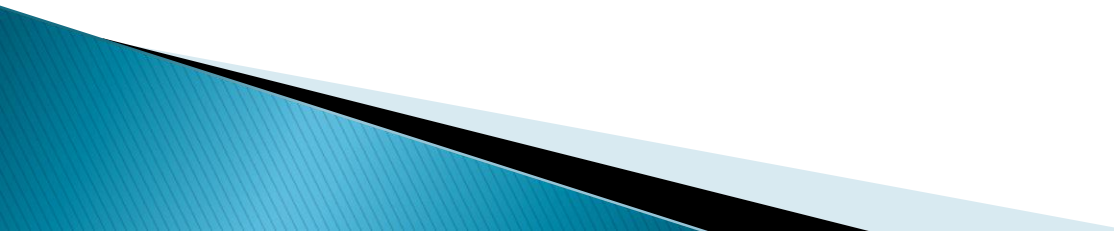
Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones,
And give thanks to His holy name.

Psalm 99:5

Exalt the LORD our God
And worship at His footstool;
Holy is He.



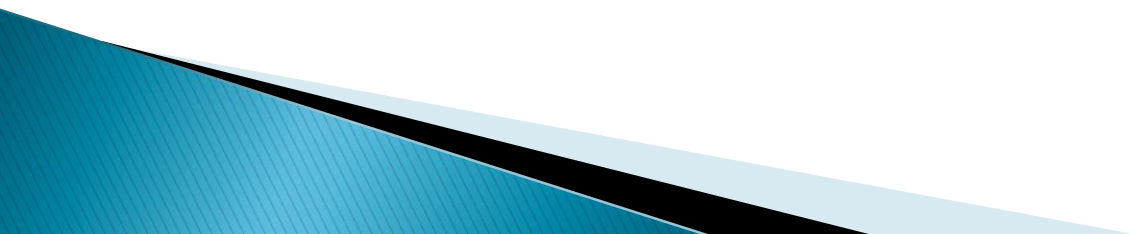
Discussion Questions

- 1) In addition to the ones discussed above, what are some other assurances that God's holiness means to us?
 - 2) Why is it important to us that God is holy?
 - 3) How can we learn how to hate sin?
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4) What are some practical things that we can do to become more holy ourselves?

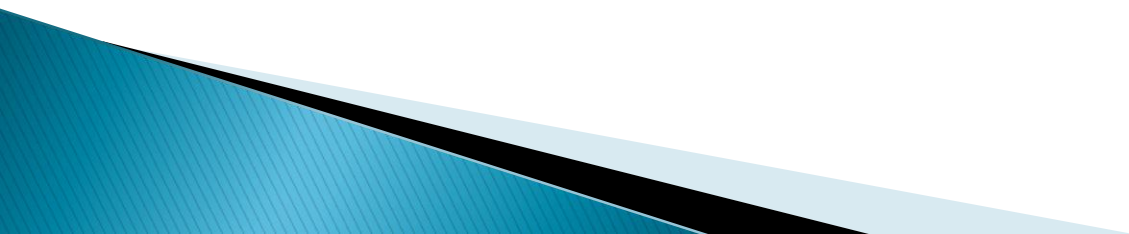
5) What are some obstacles to a person desiring to be holy?

6) Why, when we first get saved, does God not just make us completely free from sin for the rest of our lives?



7) If we have been doing well overcoming a sin in our lives but then slip up once does that mean that we have to start all over again as though we had not made any previous progress?

8) In my quest to become holy why should I not compare myself to others?



Situation

Jill has been a Christian for quite a while but every once in while when she is confronted by temptation she readily gives in to it and sins. Her explanation is that God promises to always forgive and so once she confesses her sin and repents it is completely wiped out. Therefore, there is no problem and if anyone points out that sin then that person is being judgmental since God no longer remembers it. Keeping in mind God's holiness, how would you explain to Jill that her reasoning is flawed and that her behavior is destructive?