

Prayer-Part Three-Worship the Holy God

We must have this keen awareness that God is Holy. We must reverence him as holy, worship him as holy. The holy and profane don't, can't mix.

If God is holy, then we must be holy to commune, fellowship, become one with him.

When Moses was approaching a manifestation of God's holy presence, a burning bush that was not being consumed, God called to him from the bush saying Moses, Moses (an example of God initiating communication) and Moses says "Here am I." (Ex.3:4) But then God says "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." The ground is holy because of the presence of the Lord, and Moses must do something to be fit to stand on that holy ground. God is Holy, and we who approach him, even upon his invitation, must reverence his holiness.

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus teaching on prayer says "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." According to Jesus our savior, prayer should begin with WORSHIP, and in that worship is the acknowledgment of the holiness of God. God is first and foremost holy. Our worship, then, is not acceptable, if we don't approach God in reverence of his holiness, knowing that we cannot be in his presence just any old kind of way.

Isaiah 6, where Isaiah had his vision of the Lord, the seraphims cried out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." In verse 5, Isaiah responds, "Woe is me! For I am undone: because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Faced with the holiness of God, Isaiah becomes aware of his own unclean person, and unfitness to stand before the holy God. But the seraphim takes a live coal from the altar and lays it on the mouth of Isaiah and declares "thy iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." The Lord cleanses us so we can stand in his presence, abide in his presence.

In Psalm 24:3, the question is asked, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?" And the next verse gives the answer, "He that hath clean hands, and a pure (holy) heart: who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." One who lives in integrity.

In Exodus 28 and 29, God prepares those who will approach him, his priests. They will have holy clothing, and then they must be especially consecrated with sacrifices and anointing. All to make them sanctified unto the Lord, because he is holy. In Leviticus 8, the priests are anointed with oil and washed in water. In Leviticus 16, the High Priest, to enter the Holy of Holies, had to come with sacrifice, be anointed, and wash himself in water before putting on the holy garments (Lev. 16:1-5).

Hebrews 10 :19-22, Lets us know that through faith in the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us from our sin and makes us fit to come into God's presence, we can come boldly into the holy place. But we live a life of daily accountability to God, making sure we don't drag the dirt of sin from our shoes into the holy presence of the Lord. We worship and honor his holiness.