

The Holiness of God – Part VII

Remember, God is the only uncreated thing in all of existence; the only self determined thing in all of existence, and all of the struggle as human beings from Genesis 1:1 on is when man tries to declare himself as self determined. He is Holy. He's "other than." Perfectly pure as well as Holy meaning anything called holy by the One Who is Holy...the "other than" God of Genesis 1:1. We even define truth when we receive the revelation of this "other than" God we can only define truth as what God is and how God views everything else. So truth is how God views reality; not how man views reality.

The origin of choice - God is love; love is relational; relational is choice and if one choice is God, then any other choice is ungod or ungodly. So every choice that we face throughout our time on planet Earth is the same choice. It is God and how he views reality and anything else which is ungod.

Love - the progressive revelation, caring, effortful caring, sacrificial service, and ultimately a passion for oneness. This Holy God of Genesis 1:1 has an absolute burning passion to burn away every part of ourselves that is not like Himself so that He can fulfill His love for us. The three essential characteristics of God that we must hold in harmony to relate to this sovereign, majestic, creator King, this passionate lover and this fierce, but righteous judge.

(Next poster) Today we are going to look at the subject of transcendent majesty as part of the Holiness of God. Sometimes concepts like that are just so abstract and so big that we can't get our arms around them. So this poster is simply an attempt to take that which is indigestible and break it down into bite size portions to let us begin to grow in the revelation of the transcendent majesty of our Holy God. This started with my doodling when I read Romans 5:20 KJV- "but where sin abounded grace did much more abound." So I wrote a little inner circle and labeled it sin and then wrote a surrounding circle and labeled it grace. Because where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Then I began to doodle with other inner circles in order to see if I could identify an aspect of this Holy God of Genesis 1:1 that encapsulated, surrounded, transcended, and exploded past my inner circle of human circumstance. So in regard to (top left) space, God is infinite, He is omnipresent, we can put no limit on the extent of our God. In regard to time, He is eternal, He is transcendent, He exists outside of time, creates time, and expresses Himself within time.

Gloom—there's joy. Even joy as Jesus went to the horror of the cross to pay the price for our sins, "for the joy that was before Him."

Turmoil—transcended by the peace of God; because we have peace with this God, through Jesus Christ. And that peace then translates into interaction with other human beings. So there may be turmoil all around us, but there is to be peace within us. Because the kingdom of God within us is a kingdom of peace because our God gives us that inner peace.

Bondage – there is freedom. We need be in bondage to no sin because we are free in Christ. Sin, itself, I explained grace where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

Death is transcended by life. Not just physical death, which we will overcome with the resurrection, but even before that when we are born again, the true resurrection, we go from spiritual death, separation from God, to spirit life, in communion with God, indwelled by His Holy Spirit. So death itself, is swallowed up in the life-giving power of God.

Fear – transcended by faith. Anger – transcended by forgiveness. Hate – transcended by love. The unifying theme of this poster is simply that whatever physical or spiritual circumstance you find yourself, there is a surrounding aspect of the essential characteristic of God that transcends your present situation. So the only way you can, for instance, be in anger is to not be living in the transcendent revelation of the grace of God expressed predominately on the cross of Christ. So the progression from salvation on is to grow in the light of the transcendent majesty of God that transcends your present circumstance. Philippians 4:7 – “The peace that surpasses all understanding.” John 8:32 – “The truth shall set you free.” John 15:11 – “That your joy may be full.” We weep with those who weep; but simultaneously, deeper than our weeping is the revelation of the joy that is before us. John 11:26 – “He that believes in Me will never die.” So, “death, where is thy sting?” Death is swallowed up in the transcendent majesty of the life of God. James 2:13 – “Mercy triumphs over judgment.” Hebrews 13:8 – “He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

So you can see that all of those scriptures flow out of the transcendent majesty of God which flows out of His Holiness which should teach us how other than this God is. He is not a slightly improved human being. He is not a being that we can put our minds around. He is a being that simply reveals Himself progressively to our minds; but our minds can never transcend God. God will always transcend our minds. That’s why it’s the peace that surpasses all understanding. And in fact, all of the aspects of God transcend human understanding. That should begin to fill us even more with holy fear that is awe and reverence of this Holy God. And that holy fear, then, is the beginning of what? The beginning of truth, beginning of knowledge, beginning of wisdom. Because except you be living under the shadow of the holy fear of God, you’re somehow walking in something which is not how He views reality. Because the fear of the Lord is the foundational revelation that flows out of His Holiness and the fear of the Lord is then the beginning of every single thought you’re to have from that moment on as a Christian.

Psalms 40:16 – “Those who love thy salvation say let the Lord be magnified.” And that’s the cry of us as Christians—let God be magnified; be glorified, Jesus Christ. And to get rid of anything in our lives that seeks to give the glory to something other than this God. Now God, of course, can’t be enlarged or magnified in that sense of the word. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. But certain things can be magnified. Our revelation of Him can be magnified, be transformed by the renewing of our minds. And our reflection of Him on planet Earth can be magnified as we deny self and present this transcendent, Holy God to the human race.

When you do those things, He is then glorified which, of course, is the meaning of being magnified. Now if we do not magnify the Lord with our next thought, word, or deed, we will magnify something. If it’s not God, it will be something. We’ll then behave like the Moabites, the descendants of Moab. Jeremiah 48:42 – “And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people.” Why? Because he hath magnified himself against the Lord. And that’s what all human endeavor is about. The choice between God and ungod; will you magnify the Holy God of Genesis 1:1 or will you magnify yourself in judging the God of Genesis 1:1? So that’s the question. What will we magnify? Will it be God or will it be ourselves? It started with Adam and Eve in Genesis when they determined what? They determined that they were self determined. They determined that they could determine what was best for them rather than turning to this creator God and letting Him tell them what was best for them. So they made the declaration within themselves that they would be self determined, not God determined. And that’s what the Moabites did and that’s what every human being since Adam and Eve has done.

Then we behave as if we’re children of God, but children of a lesser god. So the point is this. If your problems seem too big, it simply means your God is too small. Now what that meant is not that God

shrinks, but our view of Him is small; thus, our problems seem bigger than our God. We're focusing simply stated in a graphic sense on the inner circle of ourselves and our circumstances, rather than swallowing up of the outer circle of the transcendent majesty of God.

Even when we use a simple word like "miracle" - let's look at how that would be interpreted in the light of this transcendent God. A miracle is something that occurs contrary to our understanding of what should occur, or even contrary to our understanding of what even could occur under a given set of circumstances. Well since God knows and understands everything, then nothing could ever occur contrary to His understanding. So there is no such thing as a miracle to God. The word miracle itself is only useful to people or beings who are less than God. The miracle to God would be, which could never be, but would be, if it could be, if something ever occurred contrary to His understanding and outside of His sovereign power. The man says, for instance, the resurrection was a miracle. And God says in Acts 2:24, it was "impossible for the grave to hold Him." So what we view as a miracle, God viewed as an impossibility to occur contrary to Himself. It was simply impossible for the power of death to overrule the life-giving power of this transcendent God Who is Holy and reveals that to us in Genesis 1:1. So why do we regard it as a miracle? Because we have not lived our lives in the light of the Holiness of God. We have not lived our lives in the light of the fear of the Lord; because if we did, we would not even use the word miracle. It's only useful to people who are not living in the fear of the Lord.

So the antidote for the fear of death and the antidote for all fear is to fear God. That's why Christians are never to have dread and terror of anything; but only awe and reverence of this Holy transcendent God Who transcends everything that can occur to them, including death. When we do that, then we quit worshipping a lesser god, and begin to worship God in truth, which we're called to do. Those who worship Him, must worship Him in truth. Well, the truth is, He is Holy. The truth is, His ability to give life transcends all death. So to worship Him in truth, you cannot have fear of death. In fact, any fear that you're operating in, in your life is in fact, an insistence in that moment of walking in self determination, that the circumstances somehow transcend the power of God; somehow transcend the purposes of God. So if we are going to worship Him, we have to let go of all fear, have only the fear of the Lord, which is to worship Him as He is, and the truth is, He is Holy.

Well, how Holy is He? Exodus 33:20 – He says, "no man can look on Me and live." He can only give us protected glimpses of Himself because if He showed Himself to us in entirety, we couldn't even live. He is a consuming fire, so He can only give man protected glimpses. Moses' face shown, remember? When he had a brief, protected, partial glimpse of God, placed in the cleft of the rock, allowed a partial glimpse, and then his face shown so brightly that no other human being could bear to look at the face that had looked at God in a protected, limited partial way. He is Holy!

Revelation 15:4 – Thou, alone, art Holy. He is other than. He is Holy, Holy, Holy. Recall, though, that Holiness has multiple meanings - one being, "other than." Another meaning is anything called holy by the Holy One. So, let's have Susan read us a Scripture about what He says about us in that regard. I Corinthians 3:16-17 – "Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."

So, the Holy One says we're the temple. And He said, the Holy One says this temple of God is holy; so we are holy. We're holy by being indwelled by the Holy Spirit; we're holy because the Holy One called us holy as the temple of God, and then He begins to progressively produce holiness in us, meaning progressive purity. As we're transformed by the renewing of our minds, to release the mind of Christ,

through the Holy Spirit to our spirit and released into our minds rather than the unrenewed mind that we have walked with throughout our lives.

I Peter 1:15-16 – says you shall be holy for I am Holy. Now we tend to view that as a burden as God begins to shatter everything in our lives that is contrary to His will, His purposes, and His character. But can you imagine the Holy One Who has a passion to be one with righteousness and has an absolute hatred of unrighteousness doing anything other than transforming us into His very image. Does that not upgrade your assessment of who you are that the Holy God of Genesis 1:1 has a consuming passion to make you just like Himself? Imagine what life would be like if He had any other motive and purpose in life from the moment of your salvation on. So God, Himself, calls us holy.

And then He begins to produce holiness. But which one does He look to, to even begin? Isaiah 66:2 – To this one I will look, to the one who is humble, contrite, and who trembles at My Word. Well, what does that describe? That describes one who fears the Lord, who is holding God in awe and reverence. Because once you begin to see the Holiness of God, you can't help but respond that way. That's why Isaiah would say, woe is me, I am undone; I have seen the Holy God. That's why Job, in spite of all his protestations when he began to get the revelation of the Holiness of God, would simply say, I am vile; I spoke once, not twice; I have seen God. So once you begin to get that revelation of the Holiness of God and functioning in the awe and reverence of His Holiness, that's when you're humble and contrite and trembling at the Word of God. It's not just another verse to be memorized with difficulty, it is the Word out of the mouth of the Holy One of Genesis 1:1, Who wrote that Word specifically so He could communicate to me; because He can't show me His face or I would be consumed by the consuming fire, you see. But He has a passion to be one with me, so He gives me a revelation through His Word to progressively transform me into His very likeness; and thus, to reveal Himself to planet Earth through me as an Earthen vessel. Could there be a higher calling than that? But that fire is only lit when you begin to see this God as Holy and to see that you are holy and that you're to be used for His Holy purposes; and you can't be used when you insist on walking in self determination regarding this God as smaller than He really is. So, the Holiness of God is not just a nice concept; the Holiness of God is the fire of God Himself to light the match in your life to consume and burn away with joy everything that doesn't declare this Holy God to planet Earth.

What's our part? Well, we agree in the process. Because He doesn't strip away our choice and our choice is always God or ungod. We will either agree with the process or we will disagree, digging in our heels, live life in the flesh with self as the basis and glorify ourselves like the Moabites did, as opposed to glorifying this Holy God. James 4:2 – You do not have because you do not ask. Well, what do we not have? The fear of the Lord. So we're to ask for it. Pray as the Holy Spirit motivated David to pray in Psalms 51 – Create in me a clean heart. See, I can't clean my own heart; but I can agree with God to clean my heart. And then we loose on earth and He looses in Heaven the power of God, through the Holy Spirit to transform us into His very likeness. But he calls for our agreement in the process. That's why your will is your chooser; but the ultimate choice of your chooser is either God or ungod. It's your worshipper; you will either magnify God or magnify yourself. That's what every part of the will throughout your life really comes down to. Now if you don't do that, you remain double minded. Psalms 86:11 – David prays: “unite my heart to fear Thy Name.” If we don't have united hearts, if we have a split heart, if we have a double-minded heart, then we will not magnify God, we will at least in part insist on magnifying ourselves. That's why we occasionally, as New Testament Christians, set our minds on the spirit, but even more often we have our minds set on the flesh with self as the basis and truth being what I say rather than Jesus as the basis and truth being what He says. James 1:8 – tells us the outcome in that occasion, being the double-minded man unstable in all his ways.

So the solution for us as New Testament Christians is to be rid of double-mindedness; to have our minds set on the things of the Spirit, by crying out to God in prayer—grant me the gift of the fear of You so that it unites my heart to fear Thy Name and be gone this double mindedness.

Well, we've learned before that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, understanding and wisdom and even understanding what truth is. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of producing holiness in us. Because, remember, what we do not hallow, we will not follow. That's why it's in the Lord's Prayer, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. But it will never come on Earth as it is in Heaven unless we are hallowing His name. Well then how is His Holiness perfected in us? I'm sure you won't be stunned by II Corinthians 7:1 – "Perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." Thus, holiness in us begins and is perfected in the fear of the Lord. It's all part of working out your salvation. Philippians 2:12 – "Work out your salvation"; we are children of God, but we are to work it out. How? With fear and trembling. So this is not a concept that we tuck away; it's a concept by which we live, as part of the life-giving power of God to give you a progressive revelation of His Holiness, His other than-ness. And then you purify yourself. Well, how does that work? I John 3:2-3—Susan will read for us. "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

So we're purified by beholding what? By beholding Jesus Christ; not by beholding ourselves. In fact, we are revealed to ourselves clearly only by progressively beholding with clarity, Jesus Christ Himself through Whom God has spoken to us in these latter days. The way to do that is to quit focusing on self; because then you will invariably end up comparing yourself to other and judging yourself to be good in certain circumstances and bad in others; but you will never become progressively holy by looking at self, comparing self to others. You will only become progressively holy by constantly beholding this Holy God and seeing Him ever more clearly as the Holy God that He is and then you purify yourself. That becomes your hope, your optimistic expectation, you see. But that's the choice. Will I be focused on God or will I be focused on self? Will I be focused on circumstances? Will I be focused on others? Will I be focused on comparisons? Or, will I be focused on the Holy God of Genesis 1:1 through Whom He has revealed Himself to me, Jesus Christ?

So as we'll see later in the series, the root of all sin is to consider ourselves as the judge of God. And the only way to quit judging God, to shatter that thought process, is to see Him as He is as Holy. And then you will let go of self determination, joyfully be God determined; because your faith is in God and this God you're now seeing as He is as transcendent in all of His aspects, in His transcendent majesty, which is to say, as Holy. So our revelation of the Holiness of God begins with Genesis 1:1. Are you just not in awe of the wisdom of God that He put the most foundational concept of Himself to man in the first sentence of the Bible? What man could think with such clarity and wisdom? In the beginning, God—that's the beginning of everything that human beings are to understand and do. And it is with I John 3:2-3 that we just read. We shall be like Him. Why? Because we shall see Him just as He is. And how is He? He's Holy. Now we should have a certain amount of pity for the one who refuses to begin with Genesis 1:1. Not anger, but pity. Think of that one who refuses to live in the light of Genesis 1:1. He has existence without a cause. He has design without a designer. He has morality from that which is amoral. He has consciousness from that which is unconscious. He has a mind from the mindless. He has reason without a reason produced by the unreasoning. He has feelings from the unfeeling. And he seeks purpose from that which is purposeless. In a word...lost, poor, blind, dumb, naked, miserable, helpless and hopeless; and hopeless to change the fact that he's helpless. That's a sad condition. (Say that again.) Well, is it any wonder that God said in Psalms 14:1 – "the fool has said in his heart there is

no God.” He’s declared Himself through creation; He declares himself through the inner witness, put eternity in our hearts, He declares Himself through the written Word; He’s declared Himself by coming to Earth in the form of a man to reveal Himself. Only a fool can say there is no God. And not only that there is a God, that God is Holy, you see. That’s how we’re to live our lives; in truth, He’s Holy. That’s the foundational truth for all of humanity. He is; and He is Holy.

Can it be described? No. That’s why the word Holy—the concept of holy will always be mystical. Because it’s beyond; I mean it’s beyond, beyond. It’s beyond any avenue of approaching. It’s beyond words, it’s beyond thoughts. It’s beyond any frame of reference, beyond any method of description. Now what do you think would happen to a man who would come close to understanding? Well, he would write half of the New Testament and his words inspired by the Holy Spirit of God would still fall short because the Holiness of God is beyond language. And that Spirit Who reveals the truth to us has to get to a point of groanings that are inexpressible. Susan, read for us II Corinthians 12:2-4 - “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows - was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak...”

See, Paul was so undone, that he didn’t even know if he’d gone to Paradise in the flesh or left the flesh behind and went in the spirit. The words were inexpressible. He had gone beyond any understandable frame of reference. He’d gone beyond expression, beyond language. He’d entered that “other than-ness” of God. He continues in verse 7 because of the surpassing greatness of the revelation. Anytime in the Bible you read surpassing, think transcendent majesty of God. The revelations had surpassed, gone beyond any language, any word, any thought, any frame of reference, just beyond, beyond. He’d gotten a whiff, a glimpse of that transcendent majesty of the Holiness of God. That’s why that same man who had that would write I live, yet not I; Christ lives within me. Because once you’ve had that kind of revelation of the Holiness of God and what this is really all about, you can no longer live for self. And it’s at that point that to die is gain. And to live is Christ. Because when you’ve gotten that revelation of that Holy “other than” God that begins in Genesis 1:1, you cannot continue to walk in self determination.

So, the question for us as New Testament Christians is, do we live where Paul lived? Do we regard God as Holy? Do I tremble at the Word of God? Do I withhold anything from him? Do I regard miracles as extraordinary? Am I captivated by the mystery of His “other than-ness”? Do I obey Him and not consider it burdensome? Do I regard Him as Holy? Do I regard Him alone as Holy? Do I regard as holy what He calls holy? Do I regard every thought and word and deed as one more opportunity to magnify God? Am I ever mindful of that transcendent majesty of God that transcends my present circumstance? Do I fear anything other than Him? Well, depending on our answers, we either serve God in truth, or we serve a lesser God, or serve ourselves as god. That’s why we can understand David, a man after God’s own heart, he would say oh, God, be magnified. Unite my heart to fear Thy Name.

Now the next time when we carry forward, we’ll go into the sin of man. But everything else in your spiritual journey is only understood in the light of the Holiness of God. Because if you don’t begin to receive the revelation of the Holiness of God, you will continue to judge God. You’ll say, I don’t feel the love of God; God must not love me because; if God would do this, then I would know His love. But when you see His holiness, you see His love as not just your version of love; His love is an “other than” kind of love. His love becomes an unconditional kind of love, it becomes that agape love; the word that we like to use, but don’t live in the light of; or else we could never have a single thought that God must

not love me...because; or if He loved me, He would do this, which is nothing more than to continue to walk in self determination. If we see His Holiness, we'll quit judging His judging. We'll quit looking at the horror of Hell and saying I know He's love and I don't see how he could do that. We'll see that not only is His love other than, but His love of righteousness is other than. His hatred of unrighteousness is other than. And the horror of Hell is the revelation of the hatred of this perfectly pure Holy God for anything contrary to His will, purposes, and character. It could not be otherwise; but until then you'll either say there is no Hell or you'll say well, Hell can't be as bad as that seems to make it sound, or you'll say I don't see how He could send anyone to Hell and you'll continue to walk in self determination rather than walking in God determination and accepting it as truth because He tells you that's how I view reality. I wrote the Book so you could not misunderstand it, you see. But you only do those things when you're smitten by the Holiness of God, living in the fear of the Lord. Because otherwise you'll continue to walk in self determination rather than gladly letting that thing go which is called denial of self and gladly take up your cross which is any suffering that comes to you as you bear witness of Him on planet Earth and follow Him according to how He views reality—not how you previously regarded reality. The key to the whole spiritual journey, the most foundational stone to put in your spiritual house is, God is; and He is Holy.