



PATHS OF LIFE

The Pursuit of Holiness

The following document is a copy of Pastor Wayne Flowers' sermon notes

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We are doing a series called **“Paths of Life.”**

What is it about?

We are being **encouraged to walk the paths of truth** that bring life to us!

Introduction:

What **attributes** do you **associate** with **God**?

What comes to mind first? Love. Mercy. Grace. Power. Wisdom.

What about **HOLY**?

Many times we read verses such as the following:

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God is **holy**. Psa. 99:9

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His **holy** name! Psa. 103:1

For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am **holy**.
Lev. 11:45

It is ironic that the **attribute spoken** of the **most** about God in scripture is spoken of the **least** in our definition of who God is.

Are we lacking in our understanding of the holiness of God?

That is despite the fact that we sing about God's holiness often.

The word "holy" appears over 600 times in the Old Testament.

Today...

The **“Path of Life”** I want to tell you about is **“The Pursuit of Holiness.”**

Show you why it is beautiful and life giving to know and embrace God's holiness and embark of a personal pursuit of holiness.

To say that God is holy is to say that...

- He is separate from all that is imperfect.
- There is no trace of sin or evil in God's character, words or actions.
- His motives are pure and His thoughts and deeds are only good and undefiled.

The problem with our attempts to embrace the truth of God's holiness is...

- Our thoughts and conceptions about holiness are limited by our experience of holiness as we have seen it in others.
- Holiness is often associated with “holier than thou” attitudes.
- God's holiness falsely translates to a moral indignation toward us (Looks down on us)
- Holiness conjures associations of judgment, rule keeping and boredom.
- We project these attitudes onto God.
- God's holiness is an essential component of His being!
- God's holiness may cause us to tremble, but it is also beautiful and life giving.



The ways God's holiness brings life...

1. Because God is holy we are filled with hope and wonder.

I don't want a God that is like me. Man is broken, sinful, rebellious. God is perfect.

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? Num. 23:19

Because God is holy and **transcendent** and above all that is broken, we have hope that we too, through our holy God, will transcend this broken and sinful world.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1st John 3:2,3

Hope!!!! Yes. We shall be like Him.

Do you want a God that is one of boys? A little off? **Impure** and a little **broken**? No!!!!

2. We can trust a God who is pure, perfect and holy.

Would you want a God whose motives are impure?

Would we not be afraid if God was all-powerful, but not holy.

That would be a bad combination!! God is righteous.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17

There is **nothing deceitful** in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle!
He is not **shady** or casting evil shadows!

3. Because God is holy, He cannot tolerate sin.

We may be tempted to say "Aha!! That's where the catch is!"

But wait...this is one of the most beautiful things about God's holiness!!

You may say..."I want a God who is loving, merciful and forgiving."

Being Holy does not exclude these attributes!

There was a **cross** not just because God was **loving**, but because he was **holy**.

It is God's holiness that magnifies His love!

Do we want a God who is tolerant, nonchalant and indifferent?

We want a God who hates the thing that can destroy us...our sin!!

Constraints and prohibitions are a manifestation of His love for us!!

Recap...

God's holiness:

1. Inspires hope.
2. Builds trust.
3. Magnifies His love.



In conclusion:

In light of God's holiness, we are told to pursue holiness!

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. Heb. 12:14

There is a side to God's Holiness that can cause us to feel undone and inadequate.
That is okay. Let me tell you why!!

The story of Isaiah the prophet illustrates this...

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim, who cried to one another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" So I said: "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 my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and speak to my people! Isa. 6

What I see here is the...

Glow. Woe. Lo. Go.

Glow: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

Woe: "Woe is me, for I am undone!"

Lo: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away."

Go: "Go, and speak to my people!"

We can pursue holiness because we have the **provision**, the **power** and the **prerogative**.

You have a choice!!!

To **receive** the **provision** of the cross.

To be **filled** with the **power** of the Holy Spirit.

To **exercise** your **prerogative** of saying yes to holy living and no to sin.

