

HOLINESS

A. Introduction

A form of the word **holy** is found about 900 times in the Bible. Related to the word HOLY are the words “*saint*,” “*sanctify*,” and “*sanctification*.” These terms all have the idea of “being set apart”. The key OT book with a “holiness” theme is Leviticus, and correspondingly, in the NT, is the book of 1 Corinthians (cf. Lev. 11:44-45; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

B. God is Uniquely Holy

1. **Holy** means “*UNIQUE*”. There is none other like God (cf. Isa. 40:25; 46:5; 57:15).
2. **Holy** signifies the Standard of Moral Perfection (cf. Rom. 3:23; Heb. 12:29; 1 Jn. 1:5).

C. Positional Holiness

1. Based solely upon Christ’s CROSS work (cf. Heb. 10:10, 12, 14, 19)
2. All Believers Are Saints (cf. 1 Cor. 1:2, 30-31)

D. Progressive Sanctification

1. Believers are called to live holy lives (cf. 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).
2. Those Christ perfected POSITIONALLY are also being sanctified in PRACTICE (cf. Heb. 10:14)
3. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2).
4. Romans 6: Three Key Words related to SANCTIFICATION – 1) Know, 2) Reckon, 3) Yield.
5. Romans 7 presents a struggle (cf. Rom. 7:15). The new nature desires righteousness. The flesh (old nature) desires sin. The new nature has holy desire but lacks power (cf. Rom. 7:18).
6. Romans 8 shows that the power to live a holy life comes from the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom. 8:3-4). The Holy Spirit is mentioned more in Romans 8 (19 times), than in any other chapter in the Bible.
7. The key to victory is to “walk in the Spirit” (cf. Gal. 5:16).
8. God disciplines all His children to build holiness into their lives (cf. Heb. 12:7-11).
9. The key to growth in holiness is to renew our mind through the Word of God (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 20:32).

10. There is a biblical BALANCE between the “PIETISM” of “working out your salvation” and the “QUIETISM” of realizing that it is “God Who works in you” (cf. Phil. 2:12-13).

E. *Glorification*

1. When we see Christ, our sanctification process will be complete. When we see Christ, we will be morally pure like Him (cf. Eph. 5:27; 1 Jn. 3:2). According to God’s promise, we look for “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (cf. 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:27).
2. The whole of creation is personified as eagerly waiting for the full manifestation of what it means for believers to be “the sons of God” (cf. Rom. 8:19). When the children of God fully enter into what God is giving them in the kingdom, then the whole of creation will also enter into that time of blessing.

F. *Conclusion*

We, as believers, are all in PROCESS and will one day be completed. “He Who has begun a good work in you will complete it” (cf. Phil. 1:6). “The Best is Yet to Be!” To God be the glory!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ