

Daily Devotional #1 – God’s Holiness

Read Isaiah 6:1-5, 1 Sam. 2:1-2

What does it mean to be “holy”?

God is holy. But what does that mean? The word “holy” means set apart, separate, or distinct. In other words, something that is holy is different from something else. For example, if I were to say that the phone you are holding is holy, what I mean by that is that it is different from all of the other phones. It is unique. It is better. It is more valuable. It is to be prized. This of course is a silly example but I use it to show you what exactly God’s holiness means.

When the Bible says that God is holy (as in the verses above), it is saying that God is completely distinct/different/separate from everyone and everything. He has no equal. There is no one and nothing in all creation that compares to the Living God. This is why Moses writes in Ex. 15:11 – *“Who is like you among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?”* Moses knows the answer. No one is like God! Knowing that God is completely distinct from everyone causes Moses to worship!

How is God totally distinct from anyone and anything else in the universe?

Firstly, He is perfect, as there is no flaw in Him. His holiness reveals that He is not like anything else in this world that has flaws. He is completely without sin. In addition, God has no weakness since He is all-powerful. He has the power to create and the power to destroy. He does not lack in any way, and we will see this as we look at some of His attributes a little closer. It is important we start with God’s holiness because all of His attributes showcase how unique, distinct, glorious, and holy He is. It is His chief attribute.

What does all of this mean for us?

Too often we view God as if He is human. We question what He does because His plans don’t make sense to us. When God doesn’t do something the way we would have, we become angry and doubt His goodness, wisdom, and love. It is in these moments that we must remember that God is HOLY. He is complete perfection. He is distinct and set apart from sin and evil. He is a Being like no other. None can compare to Him. He is on another level. He is high. We are low. He is God. We are frail humans. He is the Creator. We are His creation. He is perfect. We are evil. He has a perfect mind, tainted by nothing. We have minds tainted with sin. He is powerful. We are weak. His understanding is so far beyond ours, and His ways are always good and always the best ways. He is totally distinct from us. He is HOLY!

It is only when we come face to face with God’s holiness that we also will cry out like Isaiah in 6:5, *“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”* When we see God as holy, we see ourselves for who we are: inferior and unholy beings who need a Savior. The beautiful thing about this is that God has made a way for us to become holy, which we will see in the days ahead. For today though, I hope that this brief study of God’s holiness causes you to feel small, as you see how much greater God is than you. You will find that the greater you view God, the more you will appreciate everything He has done for you as an inferior and unholy creature. His holiness should cause us to fall on our knees and worship!