



The Holiness of God by R.C. Sproul

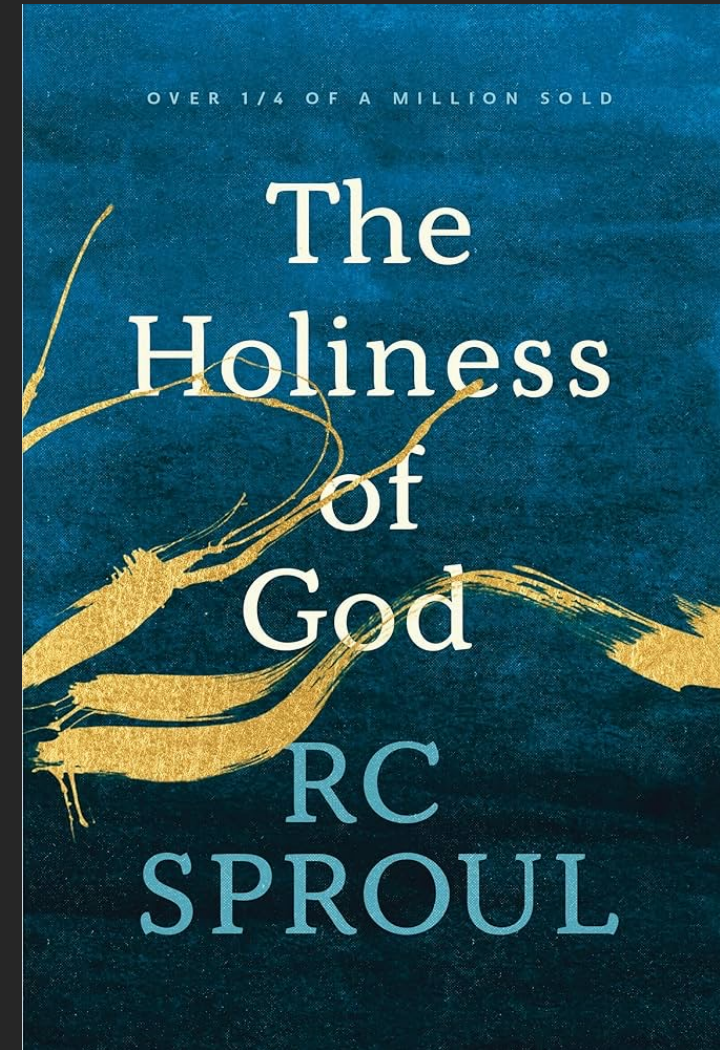
WESTMINSTER BOOK OF THE
MONTH

R. CARLTON WYNNE

APRIL 10, 2024

Introduction

- I. Who was R.C. Sproul?
- II. My Debt to R.C.
- III. What is the Holiness of God?
- IV. Key Bible Texts in Chapters 1–5



I. Who was R.C. Sproul?

- ROBERT CHARLES (“RC”) SPROUL
- Born February 13, 1939, to Robert Cecil & Mayre Ann Sproul
- Converted at Westminster College (New Wilmington, PA)
- Read Scripture Voraciously and majored in Philosophy
- Married Vesta – June 11, 1960



I. Who was R.C. Sproul?

- Mentored by Dr. John Gerster
- Studied for PhD in Amsterdam under G.C. Berkouwer
- Moved to U.S. to begin teaching ministry
- Founded Ligonier Valley Study Center in 1971 (later moved to Orlando and renamed “Ligonier Ministries”)





I. Who was R.C. Sproul?



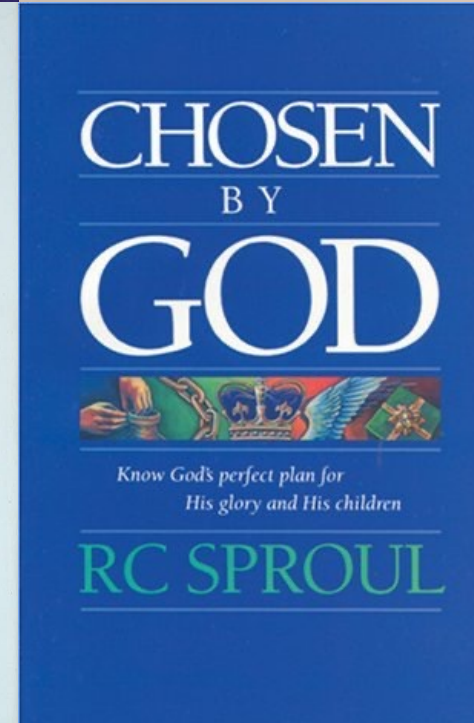
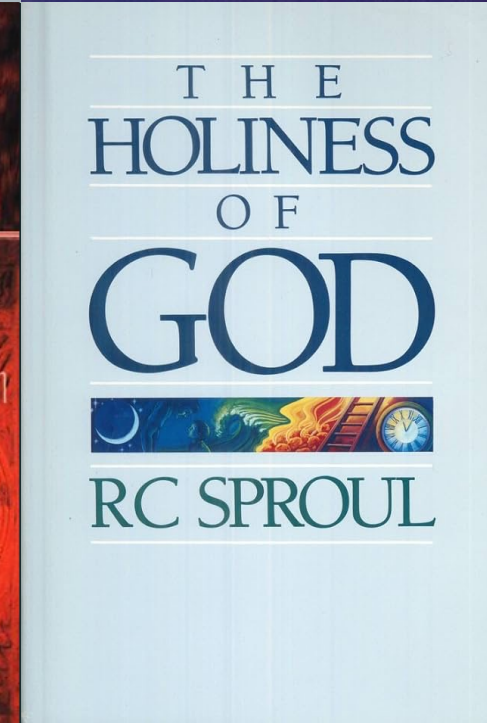
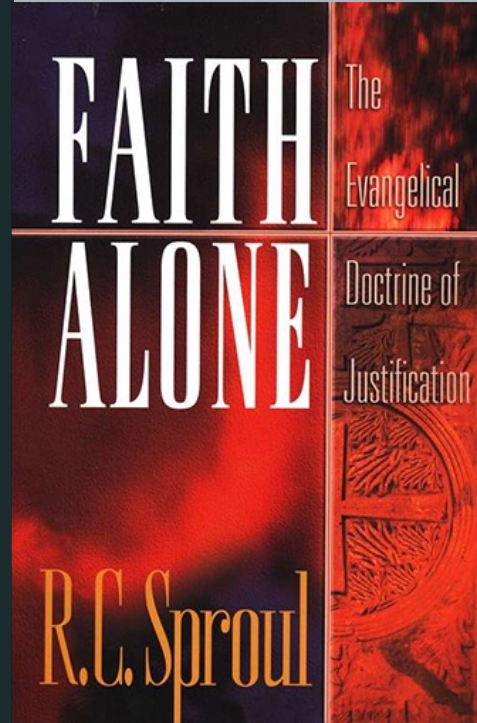
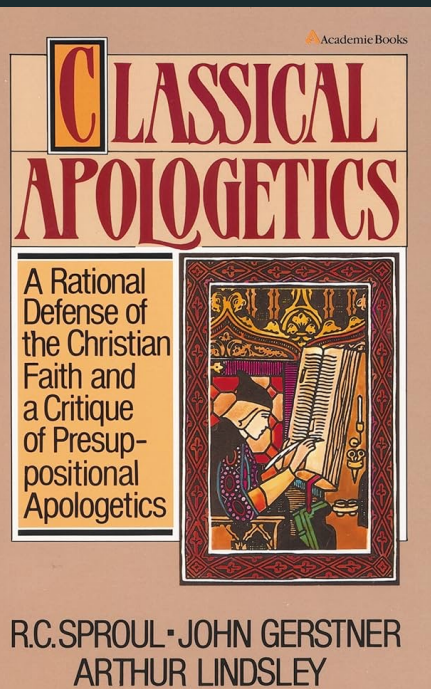
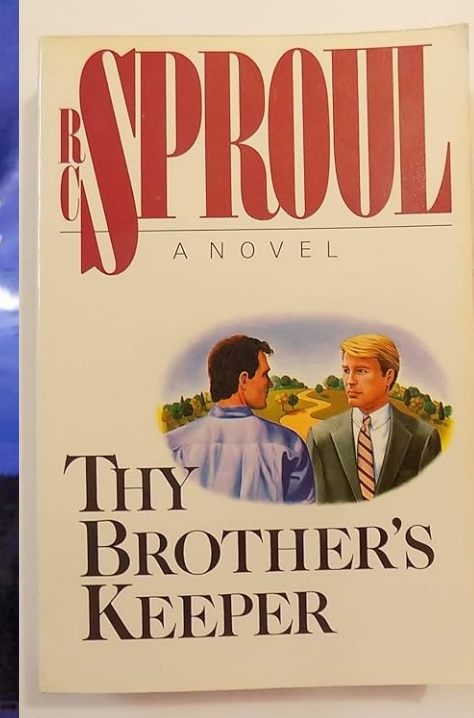
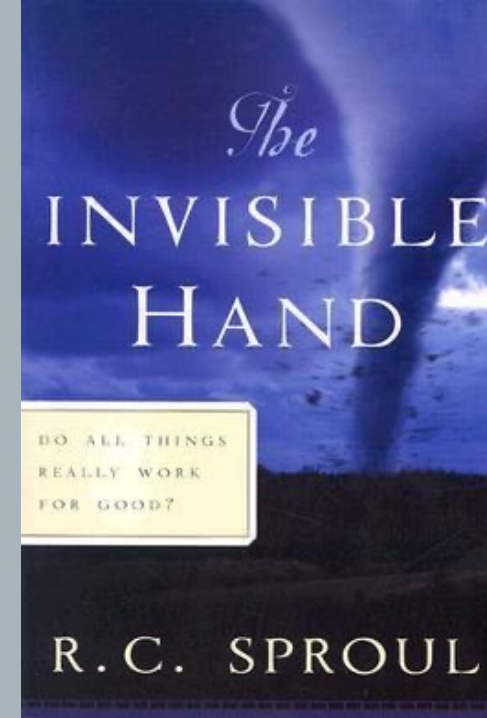
• TWO BIG IDEAS:

CORAM DEO (“BEFORE THE
FACE OF GOD”)

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

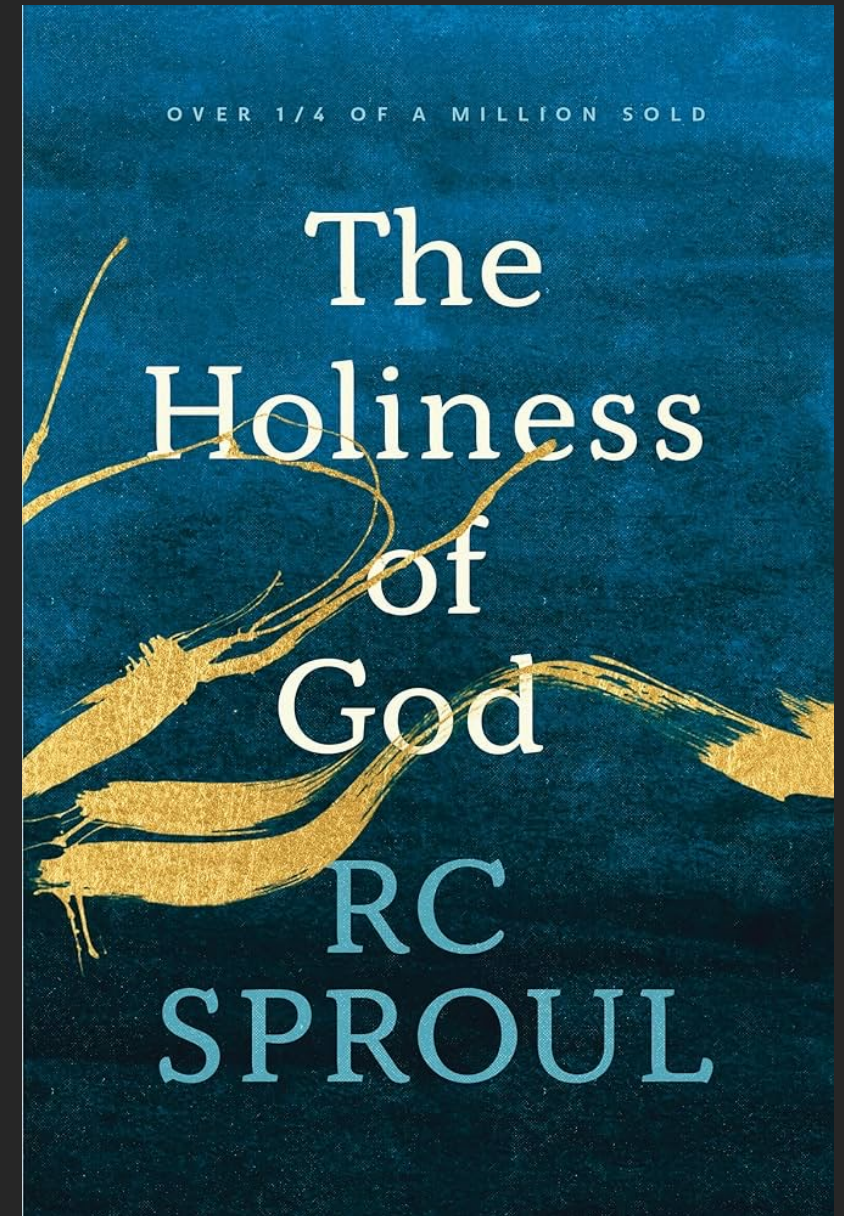


II. My Debt to R.C.



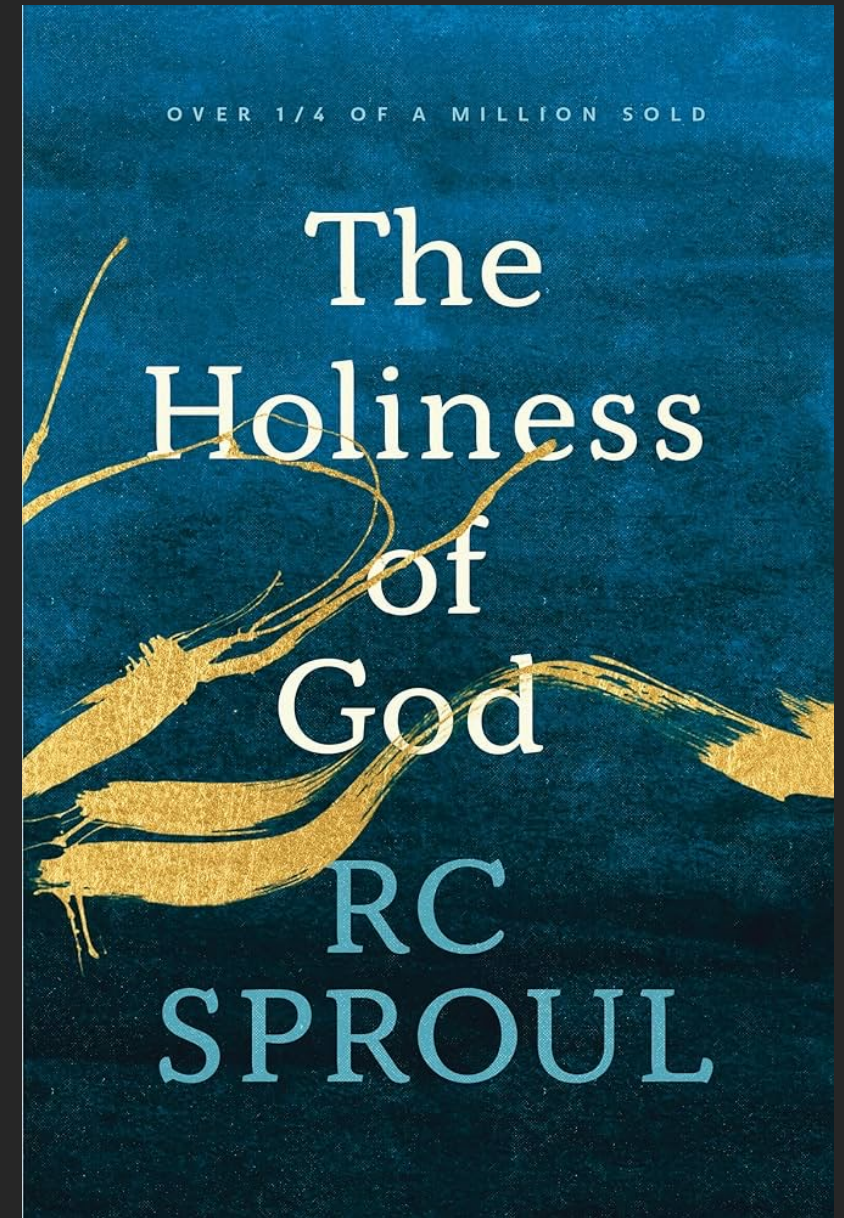
III. The Holiness of God

- CH. 1 – THE HOLY GRAIL
- CH. 2 – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
- CH. 3 – THE FEARFUL MYSTERY
- CH. 4 – THE TRAUMA OF HOLINESS
- CH. 5 – THE INSANITY OF LUTHER



III. The Holiness of God

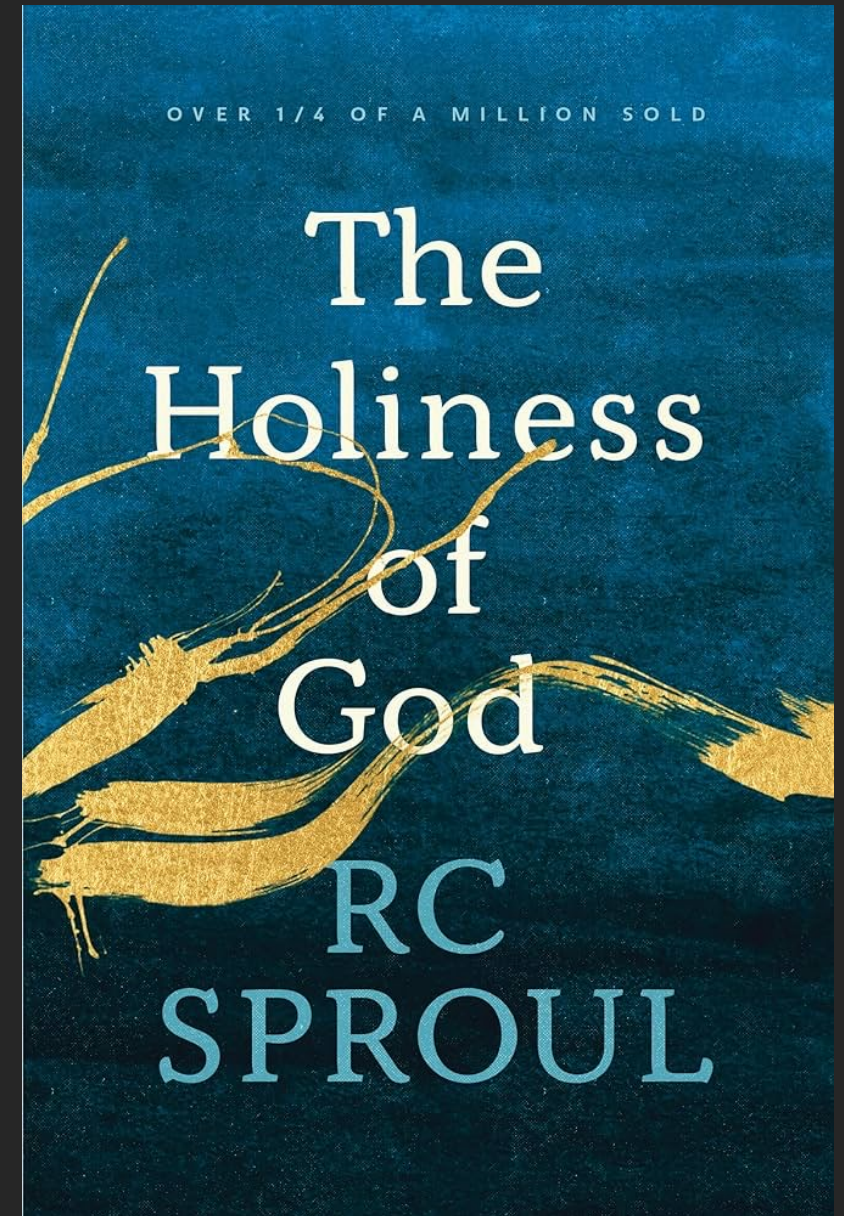
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- SUPREME GREATNESS, MAJESTY
- SEPARATENESS (“CUT ABOVE”)



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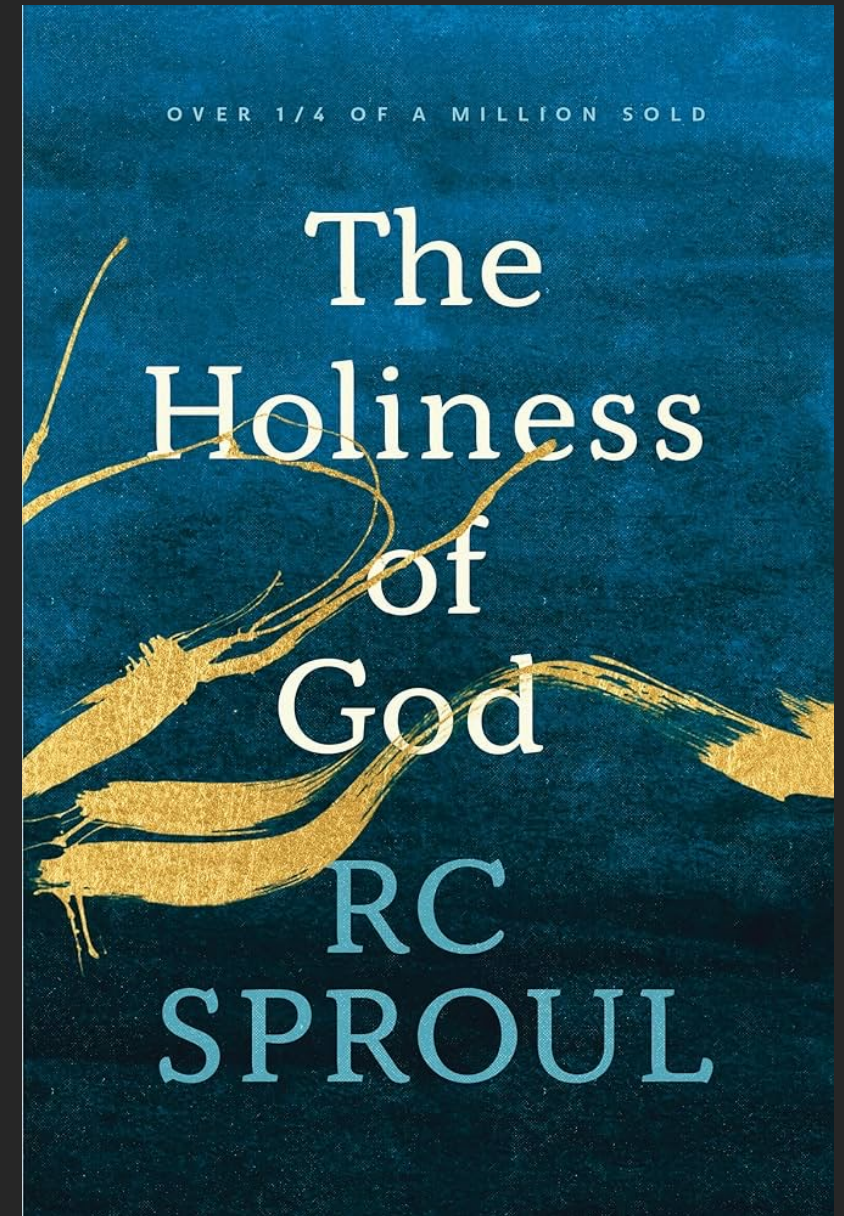
“The root $\psi\delta\pi$ originally means, ‘to be set apart,’ ‘to be separated.’ God is therefore called, ‘the Holy One,’ because **He exists in Himself and nothing can be compared to Him.** The metaphysical gap that exists between Him and the creature is therefore expressed by the concept of holiness. A very clear Scripture is 1 Samuel 2:2, ‘There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.’” (Geerhardus Vos)



III. The Holiness of God

- PURITY? YES, BUT MORE!
- SUPREME GREATNESS, MAJESTY
- SEPARATENESS (“CUT ABOVE”)

“[W]hen the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute ... The word is used as a synonym for his deity. **That is, the word holy calls attention to all that God is.** It reminds us that His love is holy love, His justice is holy justice, His mercy is holy mercy, His knowledge is holy knowledge.” (*HoG*, 39–40)

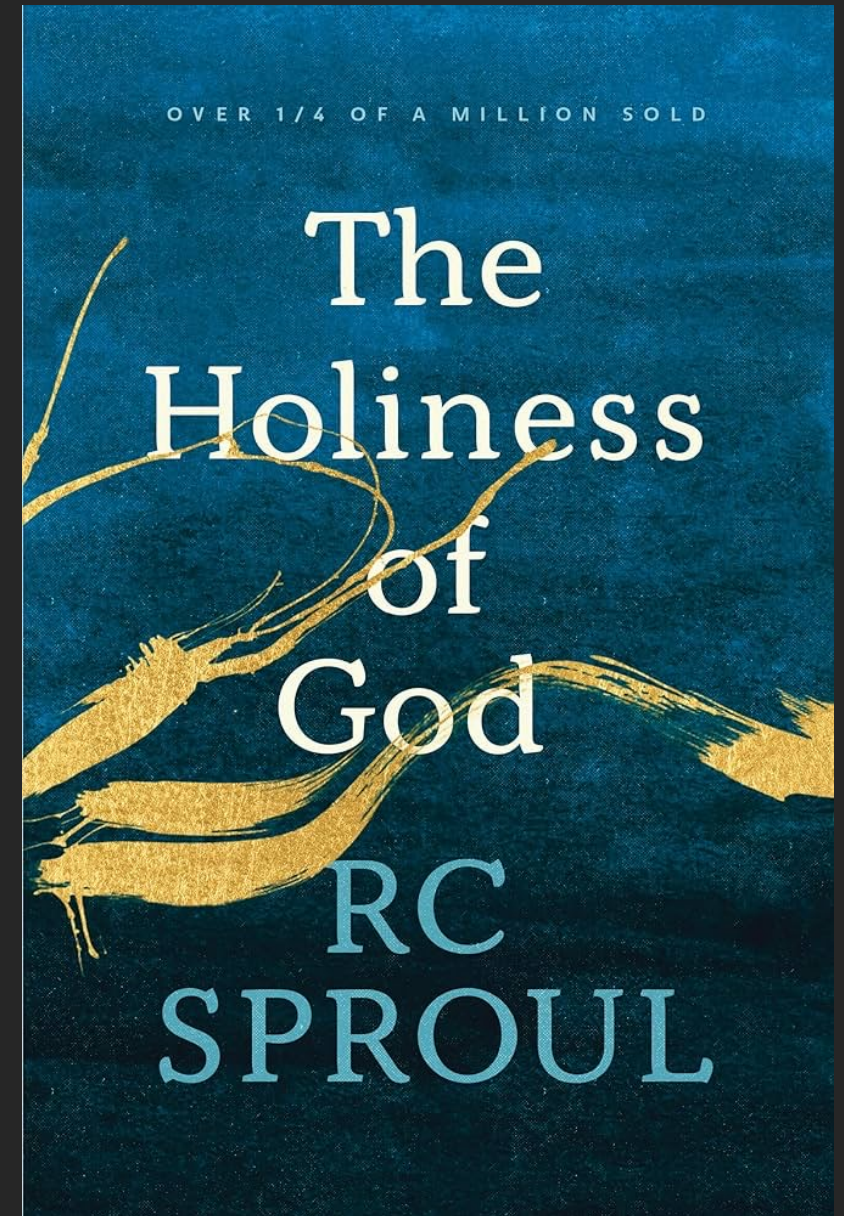


III. The Holiness of God

“God is inescapable. There is no place we can hide from Him. Not only does He penetrate every aspect of our lives, but He penetrates it in his majestic holiness. Therefore, we must seek to understand what the holy is.

We dare not seek to avoid it. There can be no worship, no spiritual growth, no true obedience without it. It defines our goal as Christians.

God has declared, ‘Be holy, because I am holy’ (Lev. 11:44). To reach that goal, we must understand what holiness is.” (Sproul, *HoG*, 14)



IV. Key Bible Texts

Is 6:1–6 – “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

*‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!’*

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for 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!’”



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Q. Have you ever had an experience or period in your life when you were overcome by the holiness or presence of God?

What caused it?

What was its effect on you?

IV. Key Bible Texts

Mark 4:35–41 – “On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him,

‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’

³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’

⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another,

‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’”



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Q. In what ways do we tend to downplay the holiness of Jesus? Why? What does the Bible teach is the antidote to this tendency?

Q. What might practically change in your life if you were transformed more into the likeness of God’s blazing holiness?

CONCLUSION

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)

“The growing Christian is one who has learned to do the natural thing *spiritually* and the spiritual thing *naturally*.” — William Still

