

# **'Be Holy, for I am Holy'**

(Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16)

**(Matthew 1:18-21; Hebrews 12:7-17)**

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## **Introduction: ‘Holy, Holiness, What?’**

Beware of fake faith! *‘All that glitters is not gold - ’*

The bottom line of Biblical faith - ‘... you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21) & ‘strive for holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.’ (Hebrews 12:14)

Fake faith lures us away from the Biblical Jesus, and one clear sign of fake faith is the absence of holiness in the lives of the so-called Christians.

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Holiness is the essential characteristic of God, which stands in sharp contrast to our sins, although God had originally created us to share in His holiness. Jesus' atoning death now enables us to recover that shared holiness.

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When and if we are living in sin, holiness is absent in our lives. If we walk in holiness, sin is banished from our lives! The key to holy living is the Holy Spirit, in sync with the holy Word of God, ruling over our lives.

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## Unpacking Hebrews 12:7-17

1. Appreciating Hebrews, the *Theological* Gospel.
2. God is shaping us (via discipline) ‘for our good, that we may *share his holiness* (12:10) - without which, no one will see the Lord.’ (12:14)

The letter to the Hebrews was written as a warning that we may not miss out on the grace of God, with holiness as the litmus test or plumbline.

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**Unpacking Hebrews 12:7-17**

3. Three Hindrances to Holiness:
  - a. 'root of bitterness' (v.15) - unforgiveness
  - b. sexual immorality (v.16a)
  - c. unholy like Esau (v.16b) who belittled the holy things of God.

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<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”  
(1 Peter 1:14-16)

Shaping us to share in God’s holiness is the work of the Holy Spirit, who alone can minister deep into the depth of our spirits. Let us pray ....



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**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,** (Charles Wesley)  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

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2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

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3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

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4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

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