

Holiness: A Key to Divine Exploits

“For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy...”

Lev. 11:34

“But as He who called you is Holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” 1Pet. 1:15

As Christians we are called to be holy as our God is holy. What is holiness? Holiness is a manifestation of an inner state of purity. This purity reflects the righteousness of God.

We were made the righteousness of God when we accepted Jesus Christ, *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God”* (2Cor. 5:21). There is therefore nothing that we can do to make ourselves any more righteous than God has made us through the sacrifice of His Son. However, to be partakers of His righteousness, we have to actively pursue holiness.

There is a prevailing attitude that once saved, we will make Heaven, no matter the sins we commit, because God is a merciful God who forgives all our sins. It is true that God is a merciful and forgiving God but this doesn't mean that we can live any way we choose. God is so holy that sin cannot come near Him, therefore if we are not living holy we automatically cut ourselves off from His presence. The Bible says in 2 Cor. 7:1 that we should *“cleanse ourselves from filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.”*

Many times in the Old Testament, God called His servants to consecrate and cleanse themselves before He could show Himself or His power. This was the case in Exodus 19. God had delivered the Israelites out of Egypt and had brought them to the Wilderness of Sinai where He wanted to come down upon Mount Sinai so they could see and hear Him. In order for God to do this, He told Moses in v10-11 to *“go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.”* They were only to encounter God from a distance and yet they had to rigorously cleanse themselves. Later in the Old Testament, we are told that no one was allowed into the Holy of Holies (the holiest part of the tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant i.e. God's presence dwelt) except the Levite priests who had to go through comprehensive consecration before they were ready for service.

These examples illustrate how seriously God views sin. He cannot be in the presence of it! Thank God that Jesus died for our sins, thereby reconciling us to God. But in this day of 'grace' we forget that God is still a God of judgement and a consuming fire. When we sin, we once again cut ourselves off from His presence and it is only when we confess and repent genuinely that we are again reconciled. *'Genuinely'* is the key word here. When an individual is continually, willingly and knowingly committing the same sin, thinking in their heart that it will be fine because they can repent tomorrow then God will judge them accordingly. Gal. 6:7 says *“Do not be deceived. God is not mocked...”* We cannot fool God for He knows the heart, 1Sam. 16:7 says *“...the Lord does not see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart.”* Therefore, someone can be viewed by others as righteous but only God knows whether we are living a holy life or not.

The purpose of these words is not to condemn but to challenge. Most of us are still 'works' in progress but this is no excuse for living any way we like, depending only on the grace of God. Especially in today's society of complacency, we need to remind ourselves to **actively** pursue holiness in all our thoughts and actions. It's not just about us and our relationship with God; there are souls that are waiting on you to bring them to Christ. But to be active soul winners, we need to be vessels unto honour, fit for the Master's use. *“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself...he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”* (2Tim. 2:21).

Daniel 11:32b says “...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” Holiness is also a key to Divine Exploits. An exploit is an extraordinary achievement. In order to do exploits, we need God’s empowerment. As was stated earlier, God can only show his power once we are living in holiness. Without holiness we cannot do the exploits that God has ordained for us do, such as living a victorious life, winning souls and healing the sick. A man of God said, “If there is no intimacy between the Bride (the church i.e. you and me) and the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) then there can be no children.” In other words, we cannot win souls for the Kingdom unless we have intimacy with God and this intimacy can only take place where there is holiness. Therefore, from today let us examine ourselves and make the necessary changes so that we can be in right standing with God and be candidates for Divine Exploits.

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