

Living Holy, Wholly Unto the Lord,

1.10.16

Intro

- ❖ In November, I preached on praying with authority and power. I said that my opinion was that the authority of the believer is based on his/her position in Jesus. By virtue of believing in Jesus, I have His authority on earth. I went on to say that the power we have in Jesus is based upon the HS's presence in our life.
 - Power comes from the Holy Spirit – Acts 1.7-8; 4.30-31.
 - The disciples already had the authority because they were in Christ, but they did not operate with any great power. The power came from the infilling of the HS.
 - Power comes from the HS. Every believer in Jesus has a dimension of power, but I believe there is much more available. I believe that power of the Holy Spirit vacillates based upon three realities in my life – Wholly, Holy and Holey.
 - Wholly – completely devoted to God; pressing in for more of him; quickly obeying His will; seeking for more of his character and power in my life; yielding myself to His plan.
 - Holy – separating myself from sin, living a righteous life, not compromising; dealing with brokenness; having a humble attitude; not letting the world dictate my values and thinking.
 - Holey – half-hearted; areas that don't reflect the character of God; little fruit of the Spirit; halfway committed to doing God's will; if it's convenient and isn't going to cost much, etc.
- ❖ During this 28 Day season of prayer & fasting, I want to develop this idea of what it means to be holy, wholly before the Lord.
- ❖ Diagram:

- ❖ Today's message focuses on "Holy." The Key Verse is Matt.5.48, "Be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy."

+Big Idea: We can live on earth like we will in eternity.

The Measure of Living a Holy Life (How you know you are living a holy life)

- ❖ Living the Life of Heaven on Earth – We can both pray "on earth as it is in Heaven" and live "on earth as it is in Heaven." It's learning to live like Adam & Eve did before sin.
 - The word "holy" means – to be set apart, different, unique or a different order.
 - How this applies in Matt.5 and the entirety of our lives – we relate to life completely different; I don't hate my enemies that's how the world says to live, but rather I love my enemies that how God lives and says to live. I am living the life of Heaven on earth.
 - There are people in heaven who were enemies with each other on earth. Today, they are friends. They have grace, love and mercy towards the other.
 - Image of Jesus/Light with a person standing before Him/it. If God took you to end of your life and showed you how everything in your life was interrelated and what He did and the enemy did and what our actions did both positive and negative, don't you think you would begin living life differently? You would live from a different perspective.
 - I believe this is the foundational idea of living a "holy" life. You are living from the perspective of heaven on earth. This is what it means to live a Kingdom lifestyle. You are living life the way God intended for it to be with Adam & Eve. It's made challenging because everything is broken, stained by the residue of sin, and there is a real enemy who is resisting our efforts.
 - Living the life of Heaven on earth will affect our morality and our relationships.
- ❖ Moral Purity
 - Morality is a set of values that determine what is right and wrong. The foundational values for every believer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and Love your neighbor as yourself. This must be the cornerstone for every follower of Jesus. To love God means: I obey Him; put Him first place in every place; completely surrendered and committed to

Him. To love others means: I treat them the way I want to be treated and I love them the way God does.

- If these foundational values aren't in place in practice you will never fully live the life of heaven on earth. You will not be "holy as your Heavenly Father is holy."
- **1 Pet.1.13-16** and its application to the vertical side of the graph.
 - **¹³So think clearly and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."**
 - Peter is calling us to live differently...live the life of heaven on earth. Two very clear moral areas where there is a worldly/godly or dark/light conflict are in our sexuality & speech.
- **Speech** – Rom.12.14; Eph.4.29 – **Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.**
 - Worldly perspective – it's a free country and you can say whatever you want; curse words don't mean anything; I'm just going to tell people the truth regardless; I'm looking for the negative or want to be critical or nitpick; elevate what is wrong; use God's name in vain; it's a critical, coarse, pessimistic, and vainly opinionated speech
 - Godly perspective – Run your speech through the grid Eph.4.17-24. He's saying you used to be here – bottom of the graph – now live here, b/c your perspective has changed. You are from a different order. Live from your new heart and let the Spirit renew your thinking and attitude.
 - Important: This isn't behavior modification – straighten up your life; stop doing the bad stuff and start doing the good stuff. Rather, live your life differently b/c you have a new perspective. It's like the perspectives of two college students - an 18 year old freshman who doesn't know what she should do compared to a 32 year old freshman who is married with children working a f/t job and knows exactly what he needs to do. They are responding to their class assignments completely different based on perspective.
- Sexuality – Matt.5.27-30.
 - Worldly perspective – it doesn't matter with whom as long as it's consensual and your thought life and whatever pornography you want to view is your own business – put it on the vertical graph

- Heavenly/Godly perspective – only with your spouse who is a person of the opposite sex and your thought life is to be pure – put it on the vertical graph.
- Different worldly perspectives: with whomever; with only committed relationships; with people you would marry. Living the life of heaven on earth: with only those you're married to. God established the relationship and set the standards for sexual expression and it's only "holy" when it follows His will. We want to change the rules. Can you imagine NFL teams changing the rules based on what is best for them?
 - Apply 1 Peter 1.13-16 to sexuality.
- Many other applications to living a holy life: Money & possessions; Taking care of your body; Time & Giftings; Developing your mind and personal relationships.
- ❖ **Personal Relationships – Matt.7.1-5**
 - The Bible does not teach that we cannot judge each other, but that we must do it with a heart of mercy, grace and humility. We are to correct and reach out to each other when we see a brother/sister in Christ living in sin, but it's done with a heart of grace. We realize we have our own inconsistencies and brokenness (logs) and we go to that person in humility and compassion wanting what is best for them. The worldly perspective is to point out the flaws in others and be like a buzzard looking for the opportunity to pounce on rotting flesh.
 - **Image of Hoarders, Season 8 Episode 1 – Judy.** A lady who couldn't let go of anything including trash. Family frustrated and angry with her. They think it's a self-discipline issue; it's a lack of will power; laziness and ungrateful; unreasonable and illogical. At first I was incredulous thinking the lady was just lazy, but then I saw her as a person with, at a minimum, a mental disorder. Suddenly, my perspective changed from the bottom of the graph to the top of the graph. I felt like I was watching a stroke patient who was being told by well meaning family members, "What's wrong with you? Just get out of the bed and walk." This lady couldn't change until some deeper issues were resolved in her.
 - This is what it means to live like Heaven on earth...this is what it means to relate to people from a godly perspective. The world says, "You're a pig and an object of disdain", but the heavenly perspective says, "I see brokenness and pain."
 - The NT has a lot to say about how we relate to one another from a godly perspective: **Matt.5-7; Rom.12; Gal.5; Eph.4.17-6.9; Col.3; 1 Thes.4; James; 1 Pet.2-4; 1 John 3.**

The Means to Live a Holy Life

- ❖ **You have a new heart and it is good. Meditate on Col.2.6-3.17.**
 - My old sinful nature has been done away with and I have a new nature in me. My sins are forgiven, my old sinful nature has been removed, I am not bound by the Law of Moses, I am not

bound to the devil or any wicked spiritual power. I have a new life in Jesus, I am united with Him and I have the HS living inside me.

- At the same time, I have old mindsets and old ways of doing life and lies that I believe all of which need to be changed. This happens as he says in Col through building my life on him, letting his message and all its richness fill my life, teach and sing the wisdom that he gives. and living from that new nature that is in me.
- ❖ **Renew your mind – Rom.12.2 – Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then (when your thinking changes as God deals with those old mindsets and lies) you will learn how to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect** How this happens:
 - Following the movement of the HS. Letting him check you and being sensitive. During this 28 Day Prayer & Fasting, he's been challenging me on this world-like or god-like perspective.
 - Living from God's perspective as the Scripture describes. We follow God's Word. Surrender to it.
 - Following the example of Jesus of how he related to people, His Father, life's problems and death. His teaching and life showed us how to live a holy – unique, of a different order, from a different perspective – life.
 - What does living like heaven on earth look like? What does life look like there and what do I need to do to live it here. The place isn't what changes you, but it's that your perspective has.

Big Idea: We can live on earth like we will in eternity. It is possible to be holy as God is holy.

Conclusion

- ❖ Graph yourself in the areas of personal morality, speech, sexuality, relationships
- ❖ **What is one area where you need a change of perspective from a worldly one to a godly one?** What is God's perspective and what do you need to do to get into alignment with it?