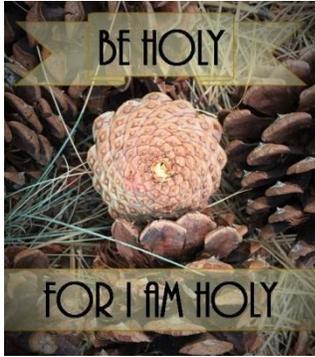


## Be Holy



"Did you clean your room?" "Yes, I did." "Then why are there still socks on the floor and papers behind the desk? And what's this candy wrapper doing here?" I've had conversations like that too many times to count. For some reason, what is clean to one person is not clean at all to another. And then I realize that I often do the same thing with the Lord. "Is your heart clean?" "Yes, Lord" "Then what is that anger about? Why do you elevate yourself over that person? Why are you still feeding that sinful habit?"

And I'm struck with the hard truth that partial obedience isn't really obeying at all. God has called us to live and walk in the holiness that we became when we accepted Christ Jesus. Don't miss that tidbit there. We BECAME HOLY the moment we accepted Christ BECAUSE CHRIST IS HOLY, and since at salvation we are placed into Christ, all that He is, and all that He has, is ours. His heart for others is ours, His Spirit is ours, His scars are ours.

Then why does God have to say, "**Be Holy for I am Holy**" (1 Peter 1:16 nasb)? Why tell us to be holy if we already have that in Christ? Because there is a large difference between our position in Christ, and what we experience in this world in our flesh. We find ourselves willing to oblige God... in certain ways. We are willing to set ourselves apart from certain behaviors, we clean ourselves up to a degree, but our fleshly desires hold on to things of this world, whether it's language we shouldn't be using, or looking like the world to fit in, or accepting things in our life that are truthfully unholy.

The more we walk with Him, the more we see that when He asks for obedience, He wants total compliance, all of us, our whole obedience: body, soul, mind and strength. The more I know Him and His holiness, the more I realize how far I indeed fall short of His glory. Ladies, God did not send His Son to suffer humiliation, die a horrendous death for us to say in exchange, I will obey You if it's convenient for me, or when it makes sense to me. He called us to something much more. He called us to Holiness.

In **1 Samuel 15** we find the example of Saul only partially obeying God, and the result was that God removed him from his throne. Saul quickly tried to justify his sin, he tried to rationalize the bits of obedience as if that were the whole. But ultimately, his lack of obedience in one point made him guilty of all. That is true for all of us, as James 2:10 points out.

The story of Balaam in **Numbers 22** is another example of trying to do what we want to do under the guise of obedience. We are incredibly adept at rationalizing lifestyles, aren't we? We have been taught tolerance so long that we allow what is unholy into our day as if it were acceptable to a HOLY and PERFECT God. Psalm 50 talks about living that kind of life, and in verse 21 He sums it up by saying to those living in sin, "These things you have done and I have kept silence; You thought I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes." You thought I was just like you! God is nothing like us! He is faithful ALWAYS, we are faithful if it's convenient. He does only what is best for us, where we often do the worst. He is Just, Loving, Immutable, we run with the winds of change. God is most assuredly, HOLY. And let's not forget, Christ Jesus is our standard, not the person next to us. He is our example of holy perfection. His complete obedience is what we are to follow.

## Be Holy

The excuses come easily. Well, Jesus was God, I can't be like Him, I'm human. Then we have missed the point of His coming. He came as a human, setting aside His deity as something not to be held on to (**Philippians 2:5-8**). He was born a baby, to be tempted as we are tempted, yet without sin. How did He accomplish that? He accomplished it by only doing what the Father said, and always submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit in His life, every moment. He was in the world, but not of the world. Christ lived holy. We, too, are called by God to be holy. To separate ourselves out from the world, and it requires us to be obedient to His leading, every moment, not just the moments of our choosing. Take a look at your day, has it been holy unto the Lord, has your heart reflected His? If not, don't even take the time to beat yourself up, just take a minute to confess it to Him, and get to following Him again.

He provided grace in Christ Jesus to make it possible. He sent a Helper to help us achieve it, but it requires our walking in Him and the plan He has for each of us. It requires, dare I say it again, submission. Submitting to Him is often hard, but once we make that first move to do it, He carries us along in it. So, walk with Him today. Submit to His Spirit's leading today, and walk in holiness. Be set apart to Him in our words, in what we put in front of our eyes, and in what we do. For we belong to Him if we have indeed asked Jesus to be our Lord and Savior.

***"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,  
whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"***

1 Corinthians 6:19

Be Holy, for He is Holy.

*Father, we understand we cannot be holy on our own. It is only through Your Son that we are made holy before such a holy God. It is only through Your Spirit that we can live holy. Forgive us the times we fall short each day and help us to live in Christ, holy before You. May we not look like the world, act like the world or be absorbed by the world, but rather, be recognized as belonging to You. Lord, the fact that You can take such unholy people and make them clean is truly a gift to us. Thank You for Your great love. Help us to walk in that holiness today. Amen*