

How do you read this verse? ***I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore, be holy, because I am holy.*** Leviticus 11:45 (NIV) Does that sound like a rather heartless command, telling us to be something we could never be? That's how it sounded to me when I first heard it. And yet nothing could be farther from the truth! In fact, even though this is from the Old Testament, this is not a command at all. Rather, it is a benediction, proclaiming to us what we are becoming! And this is not from one who is hopelessly optimistic but flawed in judgment – this is from who already sees the end from the beginning and declares to us what is to be!

I actually like the way this verse reads in the ESV better, it says; ***You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*** Isn't that awesome! Doesn't that get you just a little bit excited? If so, let me tell you – that's not the best news – there's more! Remember, that is Old Testament. The New Testament declares that ***we... are being transformed into the image of God from one degree of glory to another*** (2 Cor 3:18), but then John declares to us this amazing reality: ***By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is, so also are we in this world.*** 1 John 4:17 (ESV)

In the spirit realm, because of Christ, who now dwells in us, and because the Spirit of God inhabits our being, what is becoming on the outside, is already a reality on the inside! That is very cool!

So, when you are down and feeling hopeless, don't look down. Instead, look up, and get your hopes up, because you are in the process of one incredible makeover! And everything pointed at you by the enemy to bring you down, and every circumstance that the enemy would use to make you feel hopelessly lost and broken and ashamed, God will use to grow you into a son or a daughter who bears His image in the world. That's His promise. So, keep looking up – it's going to be another great day!