

Holiness

Recap: Series called "Ascend":

- Using the primary image of a mountain
- Bottom of the mountain is 'basecamp' and a lower-level of experiencing God
- Top of the mountain (the SUMMIT) is the maximum amount we can experience God in this life - it's much greater than most people recognize or realize
 - **WE determine how close to God we will be, not God. God has made a way for everyone to be close to Him as they truly desire to be. If you seek Me, you will find Me. If you draw near to Me, I will draw near to you.' If desire to be close to the Lord badly, one will give themselves fully to that end and lay aside anything that hinders intimacy with the Lord. We have what we seek.**
- Fact= there is MORE of God we can experience in this life - don't settle for less
- God's love language is OBEDIENCE (can't ascend in friendship without obedience)

Last Week:

- Significance of Humility - no one will ascend without humility (I am 2nd)
- Clothing yourself= Garment of praise, armour of God, Cloak of humility

Tension:

- God has more, we can get more
- OK with being where we're at, no interest in ascending
 - Costly- sacrifice
 - Fear
 - Make missionary and have to move to Africa
 - Remove things in life that are not of God
 - It's true, but in the long run you won't care and it won't matter
- In order to ascend you must grow in holiness, which is being more like Christ
 - Do you want to be more like Christ?

2 Corinthians 3: 16-18

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

GOD IS HOLY AND WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM WITHOUT GROWING IN HOLINESS (ASCENDING)

- This is the scriptural depiction of this idea of ascending the mountain we have been talking about for this series
- Holiness, along with humility (last week), is a key characteristic that leads to moving up or glory to glory.

- **Worship Note:** Holiness is the **process** of **becoming** more like Jesus.
- Already said it was becoming more like Christ
- Recovering the image of God, the way we were created
- Sanctification
 - Process, Perfection
 - Sanctifying Grace, enables us to become like Jesus, empowers the whole process

How God's Children Change

Craig Barnes, author and pastor of National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.; from sermon "The Blessed Trinity" (5-30-99)

When I was a child, my minister father brought home a 12-year-old boy named Roger, whose parents had died from a drug overdose. There was no one to care for Roger, so my folks decided they'd just raise him as if he were one of their own sons.

At first it was quite difficult for Roger to adjust to his new home—an environment free of heroine-addicted adults! Every day, several times a day, I heard my parents saying to Roger:

"No, no. That's not how we behave in this family."

"No, no. You don't have to scream or fight or hurt other people to get what you want."

"No, no, Roger, we expect you to show respect in this family." And in time Roger began to change.

Now, did Roger have to make all those changes in order to become a part of the family? No. He was made a part of the family simply by the grace of my father. But did he then have to do a lot of hard work because he was in the family? You bet he did. It was tough for him to change, and he had to work at it. But he was motivated by gratitude for the incredible love he had received.

Do you have a lot of hard work to do now that the Spirit has adopted you into God's family? Certainly. But not in order to become a son or a daughter of the heavenly Father. No, you make those changes because you are a son or daughter. And every time you start to revert back to

the old addictions to sin, the Holy Spirit will say to you, "No, no. That's not how we act in this family."

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- Why?
 - Already said it is costly, couple weeks ago said it was denying self (dying), scary, no fun, have to remove stuff from our life
 - **Worship Note:** Moving up results in greater reward.
 - Eternal rewards
 - Final Quest- this wouldn't have been a motivating factor for- The reward is being closer to the Lord in Heaven
 - Based on degree of friendship with the Lord on earth
 - God trusts us with more on earth of the things that we desire
 - Me=Father
 - More responsibility, like workplace example
 - More revelation
 - What we are supposed to be doing
 - Growing in intimacy with the Father
 - Judgement Seat
 - Give an account for our life on earth, not just name written in Lambs book of life, everything
 - Do you really want to look at God when he says why did you not seek more and say 'I was satisfied where I was at'
 - Fruits of the Spirit
 - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Self-control, goodness, etc
 - Recognize that your life is void of these, it's time to get off the Struggle bus and get on the Holiness bus
 - THE WORD SAYS "BE HOLY"

1 Peter 1:13-16 - **13** Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14** As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

GOD IS HOLY AND WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM WITHOUT GROWING IN HOLINESS (ASCENDING)

- No prescription on how to move up a level, No list
 - Things we can do
 - Going after God
 - Living a life pleasing to God

- Set Apart, Different from the world
- Aides to the process of holiness= Spiritual Disciplines
 - Prayer
 - Reading the word
 - Listening to the voice of the Lord
 - Fasting
- Sharing how we cultivate intimacy in our God time
- Quality Time
 - Invest time
 - Bottom line, can't be a true friend without an investment of time
 - Difference between acquaintance and true friend

Fellowship with God – *Since closeness in a relationship requires time and deep conversation, then the same is true in our relationship with God*

GOD IS HOLY AND WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM WITHOUT GROWING IN HOLINESS (ASCENDING)

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit Accelerates
- **Worship Note:** Baptism of the Holy Spirit accelerates holiness.
 - Difference in disciples before and after BOS
 - Acts 2
 - Before= Went out and healed sick, raised the dead, drove out demons
 - Luke 10, Matthew 10
 - After= to a greater degree, thousands saved, Peter's shadow healed (Acts 5)
 - John 14

GOD IS HOLY AND WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM WITHOUT GROWING IN HOLINESS (ASCENDING)

Closing