



## HOLINESS

*'It's What the Body Needs!'*

*by Matt German*

Holiness. Like so many words in our spiritual walk, it's a word that carries different connotations to different people. And yet it's a word so basic to the walk that we must truly understand it's meaning if we are to become all that Yahweh has called us to be.

In the Old Testament the word holiness is translated from the Hebrew word *kadósh*, "a sacred place or thing; consecrated". It derives from another word, *kadásh*, "to be (causatively, make, pronounce, or observe as) clean".

Yahweh revealed it to me this way: "Holiness is the absence of the carnal and the abundance of the Divine."

We are called – commanded – to be holy for the simple fact that Yahweh is holy:

**Lev 11:44** I am Yahweh your Elohim ('God'). Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy...

It's really that simple – be holy because He is holy. Where does holiness come from? It comes from Yahweh. It is not self-righteousness and it's not man-made; it cannot come through programmatic Christianity, nor can it come from the traditions of men. Yahweh is the source of all holiness. Before we can be holy, we've got to be cleansed and forgiven of our sin through the Blood of Yahshua; we've got to put on the robe of righteousness.

### Holiness Befits Yahweh – and His House

**Psa 93:1-5** Yahweh reigns! He is clothed with majesty! Yahweh is armed with strength. The world also is established. It can't be moved. <sup>2</sup> Your throne is established from long ago. You are from everlasting. <sup>3</sup> The floods have lifted up, Yahweh, The floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves. <sup>4</sup> Above the voices of many waters, The mighty breakers of the sea, Yahweh on high is mighty. <sup>5</sup> Your statutes stand firm. Holiness befits (adorns) Your house, Yahweh, forevermore.

Holiness befits His house, His *ekklesia*. 'Befits' means to be appropriate to or suitable for. In other words, it is the "natural order" of things, the way it's supposed to be. But holiness also befits Yahweh's children individually. The house cannot be holy if the people are not. Each of us must be holy if the entire house is going to be.

Israel in Old Testament times experienced numerous "revivals". One such revival occurred under Hezekiah, king of Judah, when he restored the priesthood (see 2 Chronicles 29 – 31). Of particular note are two verses:

**2 Chr. 31:18, 21** "in their office of trust they [the priests] sanctified themselves in holiness... <sup>21</sup> In every work that he [Hezekiah] began in the service of the house of Elohim, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his Elohim, he did it with all his heart, and prospered. (2 Chr. 31:18, 21)

Notice that the priests "sanctified themselves in holiness" in their office of trust and that King Hezekiah sought Elohim with all of his heart. As those who are called to be a "royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Pet. 2:9), do we do the same? Have we sanctified ourselves in holiness, and do we seek Him with all of our heart? Do we do it as a way of life? Holiness is not a "some time" thing or an accessory you just put on whenever you want. We are not "weekend warriors"! Holiness is a way of life, a state of being. Yahweh's commandment was and is "be you holy!"

**Lev. 10:1-11** Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in it, and laid incense on it, and offered strange fire before Yahweh, which He had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup> And fire came forth from before Yahweh, and devoured them, and they died before Yahweh. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what Yahweh spoke of, saying, 'I will be sanctified in them that come near to Me, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" Aaron held his peace. <sup>4</sup> Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Draw near, carry your brothers from before the sanctuary out of the camp." <sup>5</sup> So they drew near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp, as Moses had said. <sup>6</sup> Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and to Ithamar, his sons, "Don't let the hair of your heads go loose, neither tear your clothes; that you don't die, and that He not be angry with all the congregation: but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which Yahweh has kindled. <sup>7</sup> You shall not go out from the door of the Tent of Meeting, lest you die; for the anointing oil of Yahweh is on you." They did according to the word of Moses. <sup>8</sup> Yahweh spoke to Aaron, saying, <sup>9</sup> "Drink no wine nor strong drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the Tent of Meeting, that you don't

die: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations: <sup>10</sup> and that you are to make a distinction between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean; <sup>11</sup> and that you are to teach the children of Israel all the statutes which Yahweh has spoken to them by Moses.”

This is a very sobering account. Nadab and Abihu were the eldest sons of Aaron. Though they were of the high priestly lineage, only Aaron himself was authorized to offer incense before Yahweh (Ex. 30:7). Yahweh found their presumptuous act so grievous that He sent forth fire to devour them, declaring through Moses that “I will be sanctified in them that come near to Me.” He wouldn’t even allow Aaron or his remaining sons to mourn their deaths.

Holiness is serious business – it’s living and abiding by Yahweh’s standards. We, too, are to “make a distinction between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean.”

This same basic principle is reiterated over and over in Scripture. Consider this prophecy through Jeremiah regarding false prophets and wayward shepherds:

**Jer. 23:1-12** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture! says Yahweh. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who feed My people: You have scattered My flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them; behold, I will visit on you the evil of your doings, says Yahweh. <sup>3</sup> I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will set up shepherds over them, who shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be lacking, says Yahweh. <sup>5</sup> Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will raise to David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is His name by which He shall be called: Yahweh our Righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that they shall no more say, As Yahweh lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; <sup>8</sup> but, As Yahweh lives, who brought up and who led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all the countries where I had driven them. They shall dwell in their own land. <sup>9</sup> Concerning the prophets. My heart within me is broken, all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome, because of Yahweh, and because of His holy words. <sup>10</sup> For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourns; the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right; <sup>11</sup> for both prophet and priest are profane; yes, in My house have I found their wickedness, says Yahweh. <sup>12</sup>

Therefore their way shall be to them as slippery places in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein; for I will bring evil on them, even the year of their visitation, says Yahweh.

Notice Jeremiah’s reaction to this prophecy – he was like a man overcome by wine, because of Yahweh, and because of His holy words (KJV: “the words of His holiness”). The question is, how do we receive His holy words? Whether we read them in the Bible, have a personal revelation of them by His Spirit, or hear them preached by a man of Yahweh, do we receive them as Jeremiah did, with a tremendous sense of awe? Do they shake us to our core as the “words of His holiness”, or do we just receive them as “common words”?

I believe that one of the key problems plaguing many if not most ‘churches’ in America today is that – no matter how anointed the preacher and how much truth he actually preaches – the vast majority of people hear the words as the words of a mere man; therefore, they feel free to take or leave those words as just so much good advice. They don’t receive them as “the oracles of Yahweh” (1 Pet. 4:11). Unless the Word is received as a living thing, it cannot produce life.

**Rom. 1:1-4** Paul, a servant of Yahshua Messiah, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Yahweh, <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who was declared to be the Son of Yahweh with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Yahshua Messiah our Master.

Yahshua was declared to be the Son of Yahweh with power by His resurrection from the dead. This was done, not by just any old spirit, but by the Spirit of holiness. This brings up an obvious yet extremely poignant point: the “Holy Spirit” is HOLY! Many people tend to think of “Holy Spirit” as a name, but it’s actually a powerfully descriptive term – Yahweh’s Spirit IS holy... and it MAKES holy! The same Spirit that raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in His people, making them holy vessels. That’s why it’s ludicrous to think that a Spirit-begotten son or daughter of Yahweh can just live any way he or she wants after conversion. The apostle Paul dealt with this very thing in one of his famous passages about grace:

**Rom. 6:1-8** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don’t you know that all we who were baptized into Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with Him through baptism to death, that just as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, we will also be part of His

resurrection; <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Messiah, we believe that we will also live with Him;

Just as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of Yahweh – by the Spirit of holiness – so we also are empowered to walk in newness of life. That is why Paul could ask the rhetorical question, “We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer?” (v2). He was trying to demonstrate the complete incompatibility of continuing in a lifestyle of sin after conversion. He continued his call for holiness just a few verses later:

**Rom 6:12-14** Therefore don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to Yahweh, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to Yahweh. <sup>14</sup> For sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace.

The sinful nature is the opposite of holiness. As believers we are to present our bodies as instruments of righteousness to Yahweh, as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). We are no longer under the dominion of sin; we have the authority to refuse to allow it to reign in our mortal bodies.

Paul further exhorted the assembly at Ephesus to “put on the new man, who in the likeness of Yahweh has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth (KJV: ‘true holiness’, Eph. 4:24). Again, that is the Spirit-natural order of things upon conversion. In fact, Paul goes on to issue this warning: “Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of Yahweh” (v30). ‘Grieve’ means to distress, cause grief, make sorry. We certainly don't want to make Yahweh sorry He gave us His Spirit in the first place by walking contrary to His ways!

We're a brand new creation in Messiah, but we still have an active part to play in putting on the new man. Holiness comes through purification, through sanctification (setting apart for a sacred purpose). Without the true fear of Yahweh, we cannot perfect holiness.

**2 Cor. 7:1** Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Yahweh.

We don't just keep the 10 Commandments because they were written in stone; we keep them because they're written on our hearts! We don't just obey Yahweh's Word because it's revealed in a book; we obey it because it's unveiled in our spirits!

**1 Th. 3:11-13** Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Master Yahshua Messiah, direct our way to you; <sup>12</sup> and Yahweh make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we also do toward you, <sup>13</sup> to the end He may establish<sup>4741</sup> your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Savior Yahshua with all His saints.

This passage deals with holiness of word and holiness of deed. But it's not just about what we do and what we say; it's about what we even allow into our HEARTS. Paul's prayer was that Yahweh would make us to increase and abound in love toward one another, for the purpose of establishing our hearts blameless in holiness before Him. The word translated as 'establish' is #4741 in Strong's: *ste-ri-zo* (stay-RID-zo); to set fast, that is, (literally) to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or (figuratively) to confirm: – fix, (e-) stablsh, stedfastly set, strengthen.

**1 Pet. 1:13-16** Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be sober and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Yahshua Messiah -- <sup>14</sup> as children of obedience, not conforming yourselves according to your former lusts as in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but just as He who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior; <sup>16</sup> because it is written, “You shall be holy; for I am holy.”

We must prepare our minds for action – for doing – be sober (serious), and set our hope, our earnest expectation, on Yahweh's grace. We must do this as “children of obedience”, refusing to allow ourselves to be conformed any longer to our former way of life or the things of this world.

Holiness is based on Yahweh's choosing, not men's. Yahshua Messiah paid the price that the ekklesia “should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27). And “(Yahweh) chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4).

Holiness is attainable. We are called to be holy; more than that, we have been anointed as holy! We have been empowered by the very Spirit of the living God to walk in holiness – the same Holy Spirit that raised Yahshua from the dead.

Society defines success in many ways. True success is walking in holiness with Yahweh all the days of our life... because that's what Yahshua did! When we as believers truly receive a spiritual revelation that He dwells within us, “be you holy, for I am holy” takes on a whole new significance. He is living out His holiness within us on a daily basis!

**Holiness – it's what the Body needs!**

## Recent Sermons

- Shaken, Not Stirred? (5/7/11)
- He's ALIVE! (4/24/11)
- Holiness – Pt. 1&2 (3/19 and 3/26/11)
- What Does It Mean to 'Minister to Yahweh'? (3/05/11)

For all the latest teaching & preaching from this ministry, please visit us online – [www.4LionofJudah.com](http://www.4LionofJudah.com). Most recent sermons are available for immediate download in mp3 format.

## Recommended Tool of the Month

Peak Performance Principles for High Achievers by John R. Noe.

“John R. Noe uses his mountain-climbing adventures as an allegory for the challenge of goal setting and the thrill of high achievement. Noe shows you how to choose accurate goals, how to reach them, how to remain committed to the accomplishment of a goal, whether earthly or spiritual and, in short, how to become a high achiever. To help you succeed Noe offers a unique philosophy of reaching beyond self-motivation to the spiritual motivation that comes from God.”

Available at Amazon.com starting at \$2.50 (paperback).

## *Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2011*

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2011 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> (Mon. – Sun.)
Pentecost	June 12 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 28 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)
Day of Atonement	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> (Wed. – Tue.)
Last Great Day	October 19 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)

*\* observed the evening before*

*Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.*

---

### Contact us:

**(PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS)**

Lion of Judah Family Worship Center	<a href="http://www.4lionofjudah.com">www.4lionofjudah.com</a>
P.O. Box 11141	<a href="mailto:pastor@4lionofjudah.com">pastor@4lionofjudah.com</a>
Huntsville, AL 35814	(256) 797-9779

**Lion of Judah Family Worship Center**  
**P.O. Box 11141**  
**Huntsville, AL 35814**

