Holiness – A Life in the Spirit

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Holiness – A Life in the Spirit

What Is Holiness?

Holiness is derived from the verb ‘to make holy; to sanctify; to dedicate; to consecrate’. In biblical terms, it means TO BE SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD AND PROFANE MATTERS. This separation, while not necessarily indicating a physical, or external separation from the world, certainly signifies a total separation from evil and defilement. As Jesus said:

- John 17:14-15 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

In order to be separate from evil or defilement, we need to understand what these two words imply.

Evil

The nature of evil is an absence of those qualities that make a thing what it is supposed to be. Evil is manifested by its effect or influence brought about through destructive or dangerous actions, involving injury and troublesome afflictions. It causes harm, destruction or misfortune. The root idea is that of pain.

Defilement

Defilement is a state exhibiting pollution, contamination, uncleanliness (in any form). An object is defiled when it is made filthy or dirty (physically or spiritually). When a piece of cloth is dyed, it exhibits a state of defilement; it is stained. All sin defiles.

Evil causes defilement, and the ultimate evil is Satan.

Holiness then is a state of being set apart from evil and defilement for the purposes of Almighty God. That which has been made holy must exhibit no evil or defilement.
Having defined our terms, we now move on to examine some scriptural aspects of holiness (only a few reference examples are usually given, there are many more verses available in the Bible). Initially, these are taken from the Old Testament, in order to demonstrate the practicality of ‘being in the world, yet not of the world’. The Old Testament is only the shadow of the reality; that reality is seen in the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet even so, the shadow shows just how matters were conducted (usually at the behest of the Lord) in order to maintain the state of ‘being separate from the world’ in connection with service and worship to Him.

The first reference to something being holy, or sanctified, occurs immediately after the creation.

- **Genesis 2:1-3** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day and **SANCTIFIED** it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Sanctification, holiness, and all other variations upon this idea emanate from Almighty God. He is Holy. In fact, He is thrice Holy. The angels adore the Almighty with this appellation.

- **Isaiah 6:3** And one cried unto another, and said, **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

- **Revelation 4:8** And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

It is because God is holy that we too are required to be holy.

- **1 Peter 1:16** Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy**.

- **Leviticus 11:44-47** For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye **shall be holy**; for I am holy: neither shall ye **DEFILE** yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: **ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy**. This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth: **To make a difference between the unclean and the clean**, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

Thus, on the seventh day, Almighty God decreed that it was a ‘separate’ day from the other six. It was a day consecrated to Him, in which mankind should rest from the toil and labour of the past week and refresh himself in the delights of his Creator. It is a day specifically set apart for devotion to God. Nothing else matters, and nothing else should pollute the day of rest in God.

- **Exodus 16:22-26** And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that today; for **today is a sabbath unto the LORD**: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.
God decrees what is holy and what is profane. Man’s proud opinion of what is holy and what is 
on has absolutely no bearing upon the matter at all. That which man may think holy, God may 
(and probably does) deem to be defiled. For example, a simple burning bush was decreed by 
the Lord to be holy. What type of bush it was no one knows, but when Moses approached it, he 
was told, directly...

- Exodus 3:5-6 Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place 
  whereon thou standest is HOLY GROUND. Moreover, he said, I am the God of thy father, 
  the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was 
  afraid to look upon God.

It was the presence of the Lord that made the ground holy. God also determined that, following 
the Passover of the angel of death in the land of Egypt, there would be a continuous 
remembrance of that occasion, and having prescribed certain conditions for this perpetual 
feast, His instructions then state...

- Exodus 12:16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh 
  day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in 
  them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

This was to be a meeting of all the tribes in order to glorify God. It was not to be like a glorified 
market, with all manner of business taking place, but a specific day of focus upon Almighty 
God. No playing football, no going shopping, or tending the garden. No, it was to be a day 
dedicated to Almighty God – a holy convocation.

Almighty God also laid claim to the first-born, whether human or animal.

- Exodus 13:2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the 
  children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

In other words, every first-born was dedicated unto the Lord. This is a type of the Lord Jesus 
Christ...

- Colossians 1:15 ...who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

It is the right of the Almighty to determine what He desires to be holy.

In looking at these various examples of what was deemed to be holy in the Old Testament, it is 
important (for this study) not to focus too closely on the specific, but to understand what 
holiness, and being sanctified, or set apart signified to the Old Testament people. In this way, 
an understanding of what New Testament holiness in the Lord Jesus Christ entails can be 
gained. We are trying to determine the ‘practical’ aspect of what holiness means.

In Moses’ great song of praise to God for the wonderful deliverance from the house of bondage, 
he says the following...

- Exodus 15:11, 13 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, 
glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? ... Thou in thy mercy hast 
  led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy 
  strength unto thy holy habitation.

This ‘holy habitation’ is, of course, Israel, the Land of Promise. It is the land set apart for the 
Jews, in which they can work, rest, and play without any interference from the surrounding 
nations.
• Hebrews 11:8-9 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

God promised, and set apart a land for His chosen people, the Israelites.

When the Lord told Moses that He was going to appear to the tribes of Israel, they had to sanctify themselves in order to appear clean in the presence of God.

• Exodus 19:10-15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. And Moses went down from the mount unto the people and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.

Even though the people were sanctified, and prepared to meet God on Mount Sinai, there were still strict conditions applicable to those sanctified ones. Notice the practical details that they had to perform. Although these practicalities do not apply to those in the post-resurrection era, they are still practical instructions to us. Although we do not have to wash our clothes, we must nevertheless cleanse our minds and thoughts.

Aaron, the high priest, and the other priests wore specially made garments.

• Exodus 28:2-4 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

We do not have special clothes made for us; we are ‘endued’ (or clothed) with something of far surpassing value.

• Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.

• Romans 13:12-14 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

• Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have PUT ON Christ.
• Ephesians 6:11 **Put on** the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

• Colossians 3:10 And **have put on** the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

This is holiness indeed.

The whole purification of Aaron and his sons in preparation for their roles as priests of the Most High God is typical of what Christ has done for us in salvation. We are set apart in order to minister to Him. The Old Testament anointing oil is symbolic of the New Testament Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

Sanctification in a believer only occurs after salvation; in the same manner, the Book of Leviticus is only applicable following the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Leviticus is the summation of the laws regarding cleansing, purification, and holiness unto the Lord.

The Israelites were delivered from the bondage of Pharaoh by the mighty right hand of God. They played no part in their salvation, except to physically walk out of Egypt. Once free from the powers of darkness, they were able to worship God, in the way that He desired. Yet, being human, they sinned, offended, and needed a means of restoration. This was allowed for in the various sacrifices. There were strict conditions applicable to what could be sacrificed, and when, and how, but effectively sin was only forgiven by the shedding of blood.

• Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission**.

• Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for *it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul*.

That this sums up the whole of salvation, redemption, and atonement in the Lord Jesus Christ is obvious.

Leviticus is a series of rules and regulations that had to be strictly adhered to, in order for the atonement to be satisfactory to God. Here is an example of the particular strictness of these rules

• Leviticus 1:2-4 ...Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it *shall be accepted for him to make atonement* for him.

It was this practical aspect to the things that God had decreed that brought holiness (separateness) to the individual. No other nation had anything like the sacrificial offering system of the Israelites to a Holy God. There were many sacrifices, including human, to the gods, but this was man’s idea of appeasing these angry gods. There was no nation whose god had decreed the method of atonement except for the nation of Israel. These sacrifices were acceptable, because that is what had been decreed by Almighty God; and it made the Israelites a holy nation, a nation that was separated unto God.

It is in these practical details, that our holiness also must be worked out. We have indeed been shown the way, but we must walk that route. There are no short cuts.
In Summary

What is holiness? Holiness is the result of *keeping oneself separate* from all uncleanness, defilement, and evil *in accordance with the teaching of Almighty God* as given in the Bible – not in accordance with our own ideas of what constitutes sanctity. It is an act of the will, to pursue the paths of righteousness and flee all manner of temptation.

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee fornication.* Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.
- 1 Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, *flee from idolatry.*
- 1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and *follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*
- 2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but *follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace,* with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
From Whence Cometh Holiness?

- Psalms 121:1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Holiness can only come from Almighty God.

- Psalms 47:8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
- Psalms 48:1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.
- Psalms 60:6 God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.
- Psalms 89:35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.
- Amos 4:2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.

It is His command that all who approach Him in whatever manner must be holy. In other words, they must exhibit the state of ‘holiness’. In itself, this is impossible for fallen man. However, Almighty God, in His mercy and love to mankind has decreed ways to establish this state of holiness. For those living in the pre-Christ era (that is, in Old Testament times), this state of holiness was achieved by various washings, separations, sacrifices etc., most of which are described in the book of Leviticus.

- Leviticus 20:26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

All these various ‘means’ of separation, however, were only applicable until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has established the one and only way of holiness acceptable to Almighty God.

- John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible (seed), by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

It is in this very fact of being ‘born again by the Spirit of God’ that the beginnings of holiness are conferred upon a believer. This state of holiness, or to use another biblical term, ‘sanctification’ is a process, which commences with ‘new birth’, and continues working throughout the whole of the believer's earthly life. The Holy Spirit creates the principle of holiness, and then the believer has to nurture it, and bring it to maturity under the guidance of the same Holy Spirit.

- John 17:17, 19 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. ... And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.
- Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him (Almighty God) are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

In Christ, we are holy and have holiness.
1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 To the end he (the Lord) may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Therefore, in answer to the question ‘where does holiness come from’, the answer is simple – it comes from the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.
Who Are The Holy Ones?

If you have a bag full of grass seeds and take out a handful and put them into your pocket, then those seeds in your pocket have been separated from those in the bag. Obvious, is it not? Those separated grains are now in a different category to those in the bag. That is exactly what Almighty God does in the world.

- Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...
- Colossians 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

In our parable, those seeds in the pocket could be called ‘holy’, because they have been separated from those in the bag. Using the language of the Bible, those people who have been separated, or delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the Kingdom of the Son of God are termed ‘saints’, or ‘holy ones’.

The term ‘saint’ is used in the Old Testament, and from the various translations of one particular Hebrew word (H2623 – chaciyd), an understanding of the term ‘saint’ can be derived.

In Hannah’s prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for the birth of Samuel, she says:
- 1 Samuel 2:9 He (the Lord) will keep the feet of his SAINTS (H2623)...

At the end of Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the Temple, he says:
- 2 Chronicles 6:41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy SAINTS rejoice in goodness.

In the Psalms, the term ‘saint’ is used in a variety of ways, but the examples below will indicate the meaning of this word. <H2623> will follow any terms that are not immediately obvious.

- Psalms 4:3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.
- Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- Psalms 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye SAINTS of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
- Psalms 31:23 O love the LORD, all ye his SAINTS

1 The letters H or G before a number indicate the Hebrew or Greek word as defined in Strong’s Concordance
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- Psalms 32:6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found...
- Psalms 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgement, and forsaketh not his SAINTS; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.
- Psalms 50:5 Gather my SAINTS together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.
- Psalms 85:8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his SAINTS: but let them not turn again to folly.
- Psalms 86:2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy...
- Psalms 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his SAINTS.
- Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his SAINTS.
- Psalms 132:9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy SAINTS shout for joy.
- Psalms 145:10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy SAINTS shall bless thee.

One of the significant adjectives applied to the word ‘saint’ in the above quotations is ‘Thy’. The saints belong to Jehovah, to Almighty God, and to no other. The saints are the property of God, and He cares for His property!

Daniel has much to say concerning saints and the future events in the church.

- Daniel 7:18 But the SAINTS of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.
- Daniel 7:21-22 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the SAINTS, and prevailed against them; until the Ancient of days came, and judgement was given to the SAINTS of the most High; and the time came that the SAINTS possessed the kingdom.

In the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament) the word used in Greek is ‘agios’ (αγιος G40), and its meaning and significance is explained under the heading ‘What is Holiness?’ In the New Testament, the Book of Acts opens up the use of this word for ‘saint’. The Gospels use ‘agios’, but more in the context of ‘holy’ as in – Holy Ghost, Holy One, holy angels etc. Yet, even in this use of the word, the concept of ‘being set apart’ is still apparent. From Acts onwards, there is regular reference to ‘saints’ as those who are disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ananias contended with the Lord concerning Saul of Tarsus, and how his reputation as a persecutor of the saints had preceded him into Damascus.

- Acts 9:13-14 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy SAINTS at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Here, again we have a definition of saints, as those who ‘call on thy name’, and again to whom these saints belong.
From this last verse, it can be seen that the ability to call upon the name of the Lord is only given by the Holy Ghost. Man cannot call upon the name of the Lord without this initial divine enabling. Obviously, the mere pronunciation of those specific words does not mean the same as indicated in the scriptures. A computer can sound out those words, but could never be called a ‘saint’

The Holy Spirit also has regard for the ‘saints’ and works on their behalf.

The 'holy ones', the saints are those who carry out Paul’s injunctions as given in the fifth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians. They carry out these instructions, not because of some dread of hell fire and damnation if they do not, but out of love for the Saviour who died for...
them, redeemed them, and brought them into eternal life. They are not commands to be feared, but instructions of advice to those who desire holy living. I encourage you to read and study this whole chapter.
When Does Holiness Begin?

Holiness comes from Almighty God. It is the state of being separated for His purposes. Therefore, holiness has its beginnings in the ‘calling’ of God to be separate. Those who are ‘called’, who are set apart for His purposes, will be endued with holiness, in order to fulfil these eternal purposes.

- Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; THOU ART MINE.
- John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I HAVE CHOSEN YOU, and ordained you...

That fruit is brought forth just as the seeds planted in the field also bring forth their fruit.

- Mark 4:8 And other fell on good ground and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

The fruit resulting from being chosen or called is holiness.

- Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a CHOSEN vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.
- Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the CALLED (G2822) of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the CALLED according to his purpose.
- Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath CHOSEN us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

Holiness cannot be achieved without this initial call from God. There is no purpose in holiness other than to fulfil the purposes and desires of Almighty God. Holiness is not an end in itself, but a requirement to see, and be in the presence of, Almighty God. Holiness itself is not the service to God, but the basic requirement to enable that service to take place.

- Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
- Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Therefore, because the believer is free from sin, holiness pervades, enabling the believer to become a servant of God. However, having the principle of holiness in one’s spirit is only the start, as holiness is a progressive state. Like the sanctuary for the Tabernacle in the wilderness, initial holiness can be likened to the outer curtain, which kept the whole of the sanctuary hidden from gazing eyes. Once inside, that separateness from the outside world was apparent, because the outer curtains were about two metres high. From there, there were two more stages. The first was the ‘Holy Place’, and then came the ‘Holy of Holies’ – each stage bringing you closer to God.

Therefore, in answer to the question ‘When does holiness begin’, holiness begins with Almighty God, when the principle of holiness is planted in the human spirit by the Holy Spirit at the time of ‘being born again’. From that point on, holiness is a growing fruit of the Holy Spirit, who leads each believer into increasing states of holiness.

- Romans 8:14 For as many as are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, they are the sons of God.
Why Is Holiness Necessary?

Holiness is necessary because the Sovereign God has decreed that without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

- Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

It is the state of being separated from evil and defilement that makes a person holy and thus acceptable to Almighty God. That this initial separation is, and must be, the work of the Holy Spirit, we have already looked into. Fallen man no more desires to be at peace with God, than Almighty God desires the company of the Devil.

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

- 2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

- 2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- Isaiah 51:1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Paul speaks of this desire of God for our sanctification, our holiness, in the following:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 For THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, even YOUR SANCTIFICATION, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For GOD HATH not CALLED US unto uncleanness, but UNTO HOLINESS.

The Lord Jesus, in His discourse on the Mount, also points the way to holiness. Purity in heart is absence from evil concupiscence and lusts.

- Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Conclusion

We have looked at:

* what holiness is,
* where it comes from,
* who is holy,
* when it begins, and
* why it is necessary.

All that remains to be said is:

- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.