

“... those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them . . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Issue 2

**Goals and Motivations for Pursuing Holiness**

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**True Christians are granted the gift of holiness at the time they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior. Manifesting that gift in their lives is our daily pursuit. There are key goals and daily motivations to keep us on track.**

### Holiness Goals

**Goal: Pursuing holiness fulfils a command by our Holy God.**

*But because the God who called you is holy you must be holy in every aspect of your life. Scripture says, "Be holy, because I am holy." (1Peter 1:15, 16)*

**Goal: Pursuing holiness completes our true identity, answering any doubts about who we are supposed to be.**

*. . . just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love . . . (Ephesians 1:4)*

**Goal: Pursuing holiness satisfies our Heavenly Father's objective that we obtain the character of His Son, Jesus Christ.**

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)*  
*. . . and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)*

**Goal: Pursuing holiness is an important way of honoring our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, confirming that pouring out His love and life for us turns us from defeat and loss to hope and security.**

*Beloved, now we are children of God . . . we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1John 3:2, 3)*

### Holiness Motivations

**All Three Persons of the Godhead aid us in our daily pursuit of holiness (sanctification). So, putting God first in our lives is needed if we are to succeed. Putting God first in life involves loving and revering (fearing) Him above everyone and everything else.**

**Daily Loyal Love and Devotion for God:**

*"And **you shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)*

*. . . that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **whom having not seen you love.** (1Peter 1:7, 8)*

*I have this against you, that **you have left your first love.** (Revelation 2:4)*

*If **anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ**, let him be accursed. (1Corinthians 16:22)*

**Daily Reverence for God:**

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** (2Corinthians 7:1)*

*because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**" And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;** (1Peter 1:16, 17)*

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which **we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.** For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28, 29)*

**Loyal, devoted love for God and respectful, honoring reverence for Him are two sides of the same coin – that is, of always putting God first in life.**

### **How Does Revering (Fearing) God Work?**

**God is the most Benevolent Person in the Universe, always meeting our needs and providing a path for our ultimate, eternal joy with Him. Revering a benevolent leader like God is learned and includes:**

- ✓ Respecting Him as our Benefactor, Trainer and Disciplinarian.
- ✓ Honoring Him in our thoughts, words and actions while receiving His benefits.
- ✓ Daily walking with Him in life, relating to Him and welcoming Him in our lives.
- ✓ Listening to Him by studying His Word & following Him by applying His perfect, Scriptural principles.
- ✓ Listening to other wise Christians whom He sends into our lives to share insights of His truths.
- ✓ Dreading to malign, wrong or offend Him.
- ✓ Never needing to cower or flee from Him.

**Not revering God upsets Him greatly. The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, sums up a root error that caused many of the problems His followers experienced as documented in the Old Testament records. Here's how He described that error.**

*"A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, **Where is My honor?** And if I am a Master, **Where is My reverence?**" (Malachi 1:6)*

*"And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien—**Because they do not fear Me,**" Says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:5)*

**In the same book, He records how pleased He is when His followers respect Him by putting Him first in their lives.**

*Then **those who feared the LORD** spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him **For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.** (Malachi 3:16)*

***But to you who fear My name** The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. (Malachi 4:2)*

**A deeper study of reverence for God should spur our motivation because it reveals that . . .**

### **. . . it is for our good**

*And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always. . . (Deuteronomy 6:24)*

*Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You . . . (Psalm 31:19)*

### **. . . it prevents us from sinning**

*. . . for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin. " (Exodus 20:20)*

### **. . . it leads God to honor us**

*" . . . for those who honor Me I will honor . . ." (1Samuel 2:30)*

### **. . . it leads to His protection**

*The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him . . . (Psalm 34:7)*

### **. . . it leads to His special attention**

*. . . the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him . . . (Psalm 33:18)*

### **. . . it leads to His mercy**

*. . . So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; (Psalm 103:11)*

### **. . . it leads to His compassion (pity)**

*. . . the LORD pities those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)*

### **. . . it leads to our acquiring the wisdom of life**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . . (Psalm 111:10)*

### **. . . it leads to His special blessings**

*He will bless those who fear the LORD . . . (Psalm 115:13)*

### **. . . it leads Him to meet our needs & good desires**

*He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him . . . (Psalm 145:19)*

### **. . . it triggers His pleasure in us**

*The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him . . . (Psalm 147:11)*

### **. . . it maximizes our lifespan**

*The fear of the LORD prolongs days . . . (Proverbs 10:27)*

### **. . . it leads us away from evil**

*. . . by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil. (Proverbs 16:6)*

### **. . . it leads to the answers of life while keeping us from the snares of harm and death**

*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. (Proverbs 14:27)*

By CS