

WISDOM for the FATHERLESS

Volume 4

Why Follow Holiness?

The Bible states,

“But as he who has called you is holy, so you also be holy in all manner of conversation;

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be holy; for I am holy” 1Pet 1:¹⁵⁻¹⁶

“I will be treated as holy... Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy” Leviticus 10:3, 19:2.

Holiness is not for some far, distant past “Saint” who was so-named by an organization; we are all called to holiness. God knows who are His. We can all overcome sin in His strength.

This is the man to whom I will look, he that is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word . . . Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at his word. Is 66:2,5

Evil does exist. It has a hierarchy of authority. Our life is a test of whether we will follow good or evil. Holiness is good; wickedness is evil.

Holiness is the opposite of sin. Pride and evil are closely related. Humbleness and holiness are closely related. Pride and Evil vs. Humbleness and Holiness. What is our choice? To be holy, we must be humble! Our first action is to be humble. What is humbleness? It is giving Him all the credit for anything good in our lives.

Think about any award we have been given. Was that award because of some talent that included our brain and body working together? Did we make even a single nerve cell (neuron) in our brain? How many are there? There are trillions of cells in our bodies! If all non-blood cells were to make up our entire body (and they do), they/we would be as good as dead without a blood supply. Did we provide that blood supply? No, we did not. Can we take credit for the blood being there? No! Did we create our heart and blood vessels to feed those cells? No. Can we take credit? No! If we are alive from the blood supply, how would the cells communicate without some linking/firing mechanism? They would not. They would just be a bunch of living cells without function. How long would they function without the blood being regenerated? They would not, unless there was a respiratory system to feed oxygen and release carbon dioxide through lungs we did not create, we would not be alive. Did we create our lungs and the amazing process of attaching oxygen to red blood cells for exchange and release of carbon dioxide in an out of tubes from outside and inside of these bodies? Can we take credit? No! How would these nerve cells send signals to our body to move without a spinal cord and nerves going down your arms and legs? They would not. Did we create the spinal cord or our arms or legs? No. Can we take credit? No! These arms and legs are made of muscles served by nerves and supported by bones. Did we make any of that? Can we take credit? No! Even if all of that were there and functioning, it would only be a tiny part (a fraction) of what it would take for us to do what was done to get an award. How would any of it move if there were not joints? It would not. Can we

take credit for those joints? No. Isn't it amazing that those joints have what is called cartilage over the moving points and supplied with special lubricating fluids and specifically grooved, covered and lubricated? Can we take credit? No! Even if all of this was amazingly in place (which it is in almost all of us), it is still just a small part of what it takes for us to get an award. What about a casing for all of those neurons in our heads? We have a skull that just happens to have holes in it in all the right places. Can we take credit? No! Would some skin on this whole structure be nice so that viruses and bacteria don't quickly eat us away? Sure. Have some skin. Can we take credit? No! Now what if that skin gets torn? Have we ever bled? What would have happened if the blood did not have a special way of knowing it is leaking and allow in that one spot special cells to seal up the cut. Our blood would just all leak out and none of the cells would live. We would die. Such a small thing we can take for granted. Can we take credit for the little cells called platelets? No! What if the platelets are there, but there's not enough or they don't know what to do? Same thing, we die. What if all of that was in place, but we have no immune system to fight the bacteria that came into the cut. Unchecked infection in our body would kill us, but the literal armies inside of us fight to keep us alive. Can we take credit? No! This is still just a tiny portion of our getting that award. Were our eyes used in the process of getting that award? Probably? How did our eyes get connected to our brain and set in place just right so we could see? They have the most active cells in the body and include ways to see black and white, color, automatic focusing features and even specialized muscles to help them not only move, but move in the direction we choose for them to. What if everything was set in place perfectly, all 137 million cells in each eye and there was no clear glass-like window to see through? We would be as good as blind. Isn't it amazing that of all the cells and places on our body to have a window-like clear glass form of cells, they just happen to be at the front of our eyes so we can see? Can we take credit? No! There is what is called an autonomic (think automatic) neuro (nerve) muscular system that allows for us to blink without thinking about it. If we do not blink, we would go blind from not having the specialized fluid that is conveniently slowly released onto our eyes from special glands located in just the right spots to lubricate them and keep them from drying out.

The theory of Darwinian Evolution states that everything came together by accident and blind chance; it just fell together from a big bang and mutations created better structures. Can we really look at the human body, and all else in nature and really believe that it all just fell together? That is one of the most ridiculous theories on earth, but people believe it, even colleges and universities try to teach it as a fact when it has been disproven by the incredibly complex information contained within DNA that could not have occurred by accident.

Now, even with all of the functions of the human body we have reviewed working together, it is only a very small part of your award. How would all of it function without an energy supply? It would not. The energy comes from food. We have a mouth with teeth to chew? Did we create that? We have what is called saliva that begins to digest food the moment it enters our mouth. Signals from cells in our mouth communicate to our stomach and other organs that we didn't create to begin making solutions to digest the very nutrients we put in our mouth, whether protein, carbohydrates or fats. There is a small muscular trap door that protects our wind pipe from having food or fluid go down it. It is set to close and open at just the right timing. The digestive tract has a tube going to our stomach that has convenient muscular flaps on the bottom and top to open and close, as needed, to churn and digest with hydrochloric acid. Other organs

like the pancreas and gall bladder secrete fluids to digest the food that goes through a long tube that amazingly pushes the food through to little tubes that allow nutrients into our blood stream to feed all of these cells so they will not die. This very amazing and incredible process is all just a tiny part of our award. There is so much more involved in other organs and processes that allow it all to work together, such as our liver and kidneys to detox and process fluids, thyroid gland to control metabolism and calcium levels, intricate communication systems to balance blood pressure and much more. Can we take credit? No! What if all this were possible, but with no nutrients or water? Who made the land you walk on that the fruit trees and vegetables grow on? Can we take credit? No! What about the the rain that waters these trees and absorbs our carbon dioxide and gives back oxygen for us? Did we make any of it? Can we take credit? No! Consider that the sun is just the right distance away so as not to burn us up or that we would be a frozen planet. The tilt of the earth to give us seasons, bees to give us honey from the beautiful flowers we enjoy. What about the talent itself, the learning. Much more complex is the intracellular DNA from our parents that we had nothing to do with. Who transferred this talent to us from their genes? Who else was involved in teaching us anything we gained in the process of learning to use this talent before getting this award? Who created the time, the space, the world we live in, the environment, our bodies, all of the cells and the talent/ability itself? Sure, we can take what we have been given and do something good with it, but who really deserves the credit for any compliment or award we receive?

The only One who has the right to be prideful would be God/YHWH Himself. In His own living and loving example to us, His Word walked in humility; He was humble.

When we receive a compliment, we should not receive the credit. We should try to find another; especially The Lord, to give credit to. We came into this world with nothing. We were given everything we have, including these bodies we found ourselves in as we came into awareness of this existence. We cannot make a single part of even a tiny cell, much less put them all together and breathe life into them. We are nothing without our Creator. The entire environment was created by Him, not us. We can only manipulate what is already there into different forms with the mind and body He gave to us. We cannot rightfully take credit for anything. When we do, it can be a form of pride.

Satan is called The Father of Pride. He wanted/wants to be like God. He wants to be worshipped like God. If he can deceive us into any twisted form of idolizing anything, including pridefully taking credit for our award/compliment as though we really deserve it, putting our trust in things other than the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/God of the Bible for some form of spiritual power, evil succeeds in its agenda. May we be humble, always giving credit where it is due.

Holiness through humbleness and honoring His righteousness ultimately brings life. Following pride and evil ultimately brings death. Things that are evil can give short-term satisfaction, but they also give long term disease, pain and death. Things that are holy can be just the opposite, that is, they can be very difficult and self-sacrificing in the short-term, but bring long term benefits/better health/life.

Some examples of following evil would be not loving, choosing sex outside of marriage with fornication or adultery (sexual diseases can occur; undesired pregnancy; fatherless children).

Choosing self-pleasures of gluttony (over-eating and/or drinking), especially combined with laziness can bring obesity which has a host of related diseases. Allowing addictions to alcohol, drugs, smoking or other pleasures can all have short-term pleasure yet all can bring long term pain and death from cirrhosis of the liver, kidney disease, lung cancer, brain malfunction, cardiovascular (heart and blood vessel) diseases, and more. The Bible instructs us that we should have moderation in all things. Even something as simple as putting on a whole lot of salt on our food to increase the volume of the taste of the food can harm our blood vessels when done over a long time.

The sin of others can effect/affect us, as well. Drinking alcohol is not a sin, but drinking in excess (gluttony of alcohol) can cause one to get drunk, which is a sin. If someone gets drunk, drives and crosses the median – killing an innocent oncoming driver, that is an example of how someone else's sin can hurt or even kill others. The sin of greed has caused corporations to make man-made pesticides and herbicides to increase their profits. These man-made (not God made) chemicals can cause our bodies much harm and disease. Sin can hurt the sinner and the innocent.

Concerning man-made pesticides and herbicides, we have a biblical example that can help to remove at least a portion of these harmful substances from our bodies. Coriander is a natural seed that yields cilantro, a green plant often used in salsa and other marinades. It is found in the Bible as describing the color of manna in the wilderness. The manna was called bread from heaven and represented Jesus/Y'shua, that is, God's Word from heaven feeding us freely. It has been discovered (revealed to?) this author that when some physical thing is used to describe or be in connection with God, it usually has healing properties. It has been discovered that cilantro is very cleansing to our bodies. Even heavy metals like mercury can be released from our bodies by consuming cilantro. Dandelion is believed to be the bitter herb used in Passover Seders and possibly the bitter herb given to Jesus/Y'shua on the cross. It is believed to have cleansing properties, especially for the blood. Olive oil is the anointing oil and used in the temple. It represents the Holy Spirit and is the only oil in the world known to this author at this time that can both increase good cholesterol and decrease the bad. Other biblical foods and herbs have very healing benefits. This is included in this volume not only for its practical application/relevance to the sin of greed leading to man-made pesticide/herbicide use, but also to encourage you that His ways are higher than our ways and following His ways of holiness are far better than following our ways of sin.

The word holy is found 611 times in the Bible. Most in the book of Leviticus; 77 times.

God is Love 1Jn 4:8

He is Holy and is surrounded by bands of angels that sing continually, holy, holy, holy or kodesh, kodesh, kodesh (in Hebrew). Love and holiness are clearly connected. There seems to be different levels of holiness just as there are different levels of love. Sanctification is a nuance (similar, but different) of holiness. Sanctification is a form of cleansing. A vessel needs to be sanctified/cleaned so it can be used for holiness. If we have allowed many kinds of sin in our bodies and we repent, many of us will find that levels of temptation in some areas still exist that are stronger than other areas. As we strive toward holiness and get to a point that our spirit clearly rules over our flesh in that area, we have moved closer to full sanctification. Another

nuance to love, holiness and sanctification, is our conscience. There is much to say in the New Testament about having a clear conscience. He shed His blood for us. If we accept that sacrifice, we are betrothed to Him, which means that we have entered into a marriage covenant. As with any husband/wife relationship, if one sins against the other, we should not only say we are sorry, but prove we are sorry by not doing it again. If we do it again, we say that we are sorry again and continue to have a relationship at least trying not to hurt the other person in our relationship. Can The Lord be grieved with us? Yes, He can, but He is very forgiving and full of mercy. A real and healthy relationship will be faithful, honest, truthful and continues to try to get along in love, regardless of the trials.

Words that have strong connection to holiness are:

Love * Mercy * Forgiveness * Sanctification * Holiness

Holiness in the Bible is used in connection to the most holy place in the temple, for ground, clothes, offerings, the wrapping/crown of a priests turban, meat from a sanctified and consecrated atonement, the altar, anointing oil, the Sabbath day, meetings/gatherings/feasts, a man's house, fields and substance given to The Lord/in the year of jubilee, things devoted to The Lord that cannot be bought or sold, water, one taking a Nazarite vow, wave offerings, occasional instruments of war, His chosen people, God's habitation, chambers of the priests, first fruits given to The Lord, Jerusalem and the mountain of Jerusalem, His Covenants, God's name, the temple, His Spirit, angels, His prophets, The Law, His Commandments, root, branches and fruit regarding Him, a kiss, apostles, scriptures, conversation, priesthood and a nation.

Understanding the wisdom in the Bible can help increase our faith. We have scientific, historic, archeologic and prophetic evidences in the Bible to show that it is not only true, but also divinely inspired. We need to have faith that the investment into our choice to follow holiness is greater than the investment to follow sin. One is a long-term investment and the other is short-term. If we choose to follow the short-term investment of immediate pleasures that are against The Lord's instructions and die, the results would be devastating. If we choose the long-term investment of repenting (turning) from sin, accepting His righteousness/shed blood to cover us and follows holiness, what would we lose when we die? Nothing. Past pleasures have no profit when we are dead. Past self-sacrifices in holiness may have great rewards.

Perhaps the single most important thing we can do in following holiness is to be humble. It is only from a mindset of being humble that we can recognize how much we need a savior. Being humble is perhaps the first step in admitting our own faults and weaknesses, including our guilt and need for our Savior to save us. Whether someone believes in Darwinian evolution or creation, there is general agreement that it is estimated that there have been about 100 billion people who have lived on planet earth. Not a single one of these people have been able to save themselves from death (except one – Jesus/Y'shua). There is a deception in pride that there are people who somehow allow themselves to be deceived or have been deceived into thinking that they can somehow save themselves from death. In the last days, the Bible instructs us that deception will become very great and many will be deceivers and many will be deceived. What does this have to do with being holy? Perhaps the first step to true holiness is realizing that we need a Savior, being humble and accepting His Holy provision, His Holy shed blood to cover us

(spiritually). In Him and by His strength there is hope to overcome evil desires/temptations to walk in holiness. What is holiness in doing good things. Doing good things is not necessarily a form of holiness if the intent of our heart is not right. If we do things so that others will see what we do, that can possibly be a wrong motive. If we do good whether or not someone knows what we do, that is a holy act. There is an expression: Character is defined by what we do when no one is looking. Holiness can be done when people know what we are doing, but if we are doing it with the sole intent of people giving us credit, that is the wrong motive and not holy. In other words, holiness comes from inside, deep within the motives of the heart. What shows on the outside could be holy or not holy, depending on the intent that it came from.

God promises his Holy Spirit to those who qualify and genuinely ask. With the power of His Holy Spirit, we can overcome all sin.

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? Luke 11:13

His Holy Spirit in us gives us the strength we need to overcome sin:

²⁴ Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

²⁵ To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude 1:24-25.

Some might classify the word “pure” as the word “holy”, and it may have a connection to the language of Hebrew. Why is Hebrew important? Zephaniah 3:9 shares that The Lord will return a pure language to the earth. He himself announced his own name to Paul (on the road to Damascus) in the Hebrew language. He could have used Greek, Aramaic or Hebrew. Those are the languages we know Paul knew. Our Savior’s Word could have used any language, but He chose to announce His name to Paul (who wrote most of the New Testament) in Hebrew. Interestingly, Zephaniah 3:8, the verse immediately prior to Zephaniah 3:9, is the only verse in the entire Bible that not only has every Hebrew letter in the verse, but also has every vowel mark included.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a HOLY nation, a people for God’s own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1Pet 2:9

We are called to holiness. At least one major denomination seems to make it appear that only their leaders and one extremely rare individual among a huge number would be considered holy and/or a saint. According to the Bible, all believers are called to holiness and to be saints, i.e., to walk in holiness. Holiness is not as difficult as it has been made out to be. We do not walk around glowing white, healing everyone we touch and walking on water. In fact, being holy can seem quite the opposite because we are called to humbleness and servitude. Holiness is more akin to cleaning someone’s toilet who is disabled, washing another’s feet, and taking out a elderly widow’s trash when she cannot. Holiness is a choice. There is not one person on the earth

who has not and does not sin. We are all human/mortals in need of our Savior. However, when we repent, turn from our sin and are born again with His Holy Spirit in us, we have the power to overcome sin. Will we sin? Yes, but it is something that we should always repent of and try to do better in not sinning in that area again. We are called to aim for holiness, to strive for His righteousness. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. We are saved by His grace only and by His righteousness. However, that is not freedom to sin, but freedom not to be judged by the letter any more. If we are now judged by the spirit and not the letter, our focus in our heart, mind, and spirit should be toward holiness and righteousness; giving thanks always and being ready to pray always in our hearts toward the One we love.

1Jn. 4:¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.

Following sin can have immediate satisfaction, but with terrible consequences. Following holiness can have immediate trials, but with incredible reward. Whether one follows sin or holiness, both may have troubles and difficulties. One is a race toward a finish line that has a cliff that may have hatred to pull one down, while the other is a race toward a finish line that has love to lift us up.

*The word “Y’shua” is Jesus’ Hebrew name, which means “Salvation”; the word “Ha” is “the” and the word “Mashiac” is “Messiah”, or Christ, which means Anointed One. In Hebrew phonation, Y’shua Ha Mashiac is Jesus the Christ.