

**ABATT**  
**Humbled by Holiness**  
**Part 2**  
 Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

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**Humbled by Holiness**



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**Humbled by Holiness**

- Let us state a **working definition of what the "holiness" of God** is so that we are all on the same page.
- You cannot go to a verse and say, "here we have the scriptural definition of God's holiness" – it is not any one thing that He is, or does. **It is His total otherness, His total separateness.**
- The holiness of God is the sum total of all that He is and all that He does – He is altogether perfect and therefore **all that He is, and all that He does, comprises His holiness.**

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**Humbled by Holiness**

**Everyone in scripture who ever got close to God was changed.**

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- **Moses** – at the burning bush and on Mt Sinai.
- **Job** – after his testing he cries, “I heard of you before, but now I see you and repent in dust and ashes”.
- **Isaiah** – after seeing but a glimpse of God in glory curses himself and declares himself to be dirty.
- **Paul** – was blinded and converted in an instant.
- **John** – in Revelation 1 falls down as though dead.

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**Humbled by Holiness**

- I believe it would be fair to say it is impossible to get close enough to God to see His glory and NOT be changed.
- Even Lucifer and his fellow rebels were exposed and forever changed.
- For mankind, the more of God we see the more of us we see, **and it is uncomfortable.**

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Humbled by Holiness

- Until we see Him, we are merely groping in the dark and guessing what holiness is – when we see Him, suddenly we know holiness and it humbles us.
- There will be no bragging at the BEMA seat of all that we did for Him – for we will understand on that day just how ugly even our best works are. (ugly by comparison)
- Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, **And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. NASB

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Humbled by Holiness

- We are proud at times because we have small views of God – proud of our gifts, proud of our service, proud of other things that make us look **relatively righteous**.
- Please understand – it’s not that all of our service and accomplishments are totally sinful so much as it is that when compared to the one who is holy all that we have done just looks small.

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Humbled by Holiness

- There have probably been people you thought were important and accomplished that you when you actually met them and knew them close up disappointed you.
- That will never happen with God – when One is perfect, everything we learn about him will only add to the beauty and glory that we expected.
- Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.” NASB

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## Isaiah's Encounter With God

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- Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 **And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."** 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." NASB

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**Humbled by Holiness**

- The greatest prophet of ancient Israel sees God and he is reduced to calling for a curse on himself.
- King Uzziah was dead, the people were alarmed, and God gives Isaiah a message that will shake him to his core.
- **Isaiah is now fully aware that God is holy, and he is not.**

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Humbled by Holiness

- “I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.”
- Isaiah sees the Sovereign, He is on His throne, His throne is lofty and exalted, and He is of such great power and importance that the train of His robe fills the temple of Heaven.
- Furthermore, there are angels attending to the Sovereign of the Universe and when the Seraphim shout “holy, holy, holy” the very foundations of the temple quake. 13

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- Isaiah’s vision of God has to be among the most encouraging ones ever, and the most terrifying ever at the same time.
- In The Revelation of Jesus Christ we see some very impressive and holy revealings of God as well, but those visions are mostly visions of Jesus in judgment.
- John’s visions are terrifying, but in Isaiah’s vision he is completely undone due solely to the holiness of God – **God does not even speak, He just is!** 14

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- Notice Isaiah’s response – he has no casual “hi, God, good to see you” moment, but quite the contrary.
- Isaiah is not at all flippant as we so often see in today’s church – **flippant would be the last thing on our minds if we really saw God.**
- Isaiah, who was probably the most important prophet in Israel’s history sees now for the first time the God he has represented, worshipped, and spoken for. 15

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Humbled by Holiness

“For the first time in his life Isaiah really understood who God was. At the same instant, for the first time Isaiah really understood who Isaiah was.”

R.C. Sproul

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Humbled by Holiness

- Notice Isaiah’s response when he is given this vision of God in all of His glory on His throne.
- “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”
- So of all the things Isaiah could have cited as being unholy, he goes immediately to his lips. **Why?**

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Humbled by Holiness

• Matt 12:33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 **The good man brings out of his good treasure** what is good; and **the evil man brings out of his evil treasure** what is evil. 36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37 **For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**” NASB

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Humbled by Holiness

- Isaiah goes right to his mouth because in the light of God’s holiness it is somehow evident to him that he has a heart problem.
- While he was not privy to Matthew’s gospel, he would have surely known of Solomon’s proverbs.
- Prov 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. NASB

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Humbled by Holiness

- To pronounce a woe upon himself was to curse himself – He now sees himself not compared to other people, but compared to God and in his own words he is “undone”. (in the KJV)
- **This is why there is pride in the church** – because we see ourselves as relatively holy compared to other people we selectively choose to measure ourselves against.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 10:12 “but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are without understanding**”. NASB

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Humbled by Holiness

- Habakkuk had a similar experience as Isaiah – he all but demands that God answer his questions.
- He even ponders what he will say back to God when he doesn’t get the answer he wants from Him.
- Hab 2:1 **I will** stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and **I will** keep watch to see what He will speak to me, **and how I may reply when I am reproved.**

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Humbled by Holiness

- When God answers Habakkuk is in a much more humble (humiliated) state.
- Hab 3:1 God, I've heard what our ancestors say about you, and I'm stopped in my tracks, down on my knees. Do among us what you did among them. Work among us as you worked among them. And as you bring judgment, as you surely must, remember mercy. The Message
- Now instead of plotting his next move, he is praying for mercy.

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Humbled by Holiness

- That the world has little respect for God is seen by the way His name is treated. No honor, no reverence, and no awe before Him – just casualness at best.
- From today's texts it is more than obvious that **when God is seen and heard from, things happen in us** that are inhibited by our shallow thoughts and shallow worship.
- One day the "glass darkly" will become transparent and we will cry out, "holy, holy, holy".

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Humbled by Holiness

- We have professing Christians in our day referring to God as "the man upstairs", "our buddy", and other frames of reference that show our utter ignorance of Him.
- When we come into His presence we had better show respect, and we would be wise to come with fear and trembling – in fact we would if we really knew Him.
- Paul's summation of all that is wrong with mankind - Rom 3:18 "**There is no fear of God before their eyes.**" NASB

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### Humbled by Holiness

- Romans 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." <sup>13</sup> "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; <sup>14</sup> "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; <sup>15</sup> "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD," <sup>16</sup> DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS <sup>17</sup> AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." <sup>18</sup> "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." NASB

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### Humbled by Holiness

- Jordan Peterson, well known Canadian speaker and doctor of psychology who makes no claim to being a Christian, was recently accused by Dennis Prager of being "good".
- Mr. Peterson, addressed Dennis Prager's charge that he was a "good" person by saying it is not true.
- In fact, Mr. Peterson said, "I have been terrified by how terrible I and all of us can be. We are capable of the worst kinds of behavior and violence".

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### Humbled by Holiness

- Mark 4:39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 **They became very much afraid** and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" NASB



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### Humbled by Holiness

- When Jesus stilled the storm and brought His disciples out of their peril, they did not immediately thank Him and high five one another –
- On the contrary they became afraid – **no longer afraid of the storm, but now much more fearful of being in the presence of God.** (this is wisdom, Prov 1:7)
- To be so close to so much power and authority evokes in them a proper response – they became fearful in the good sense of the word, and were no doubt worshipful as well.

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### Humbled by Holiness

May God have mercy on us for every time we've failed to make much of Him.

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### Questions

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