

Reading: Leviticus 20:1-8, 22-27

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (1 Thess 5:24)

The Book of Leviticus mentions the word “holiness” or its equivalent more than 80 times. It is from this book that apostle Peter quoted the curt commandment: “Be holy” (1 Pet 1:16; Lev 19:2). If God had stopped with this commandment, we would perish in guilt and condemnation. How can I, in a sinful earth, with a sinful nature, be holy like God who indwells in a sinless Heaven and who has not known sin? His expectation is lofty but not logical! That’s why He sent His Son in flesh and blood to give us a followable pattern for holiness.

Growth in holiness is comparable to the construction of a building. “It is neither by (our) might nor (our) power, but by God’s Spirit!” (Zech 4:6). Progress in holiness is comparable to a race. “It is not of him who desires, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy” (Rom 9:16). Ripening in holiness is comparable to cultivation. “He who plants is not anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the harvest” (1 Cor 3:6). God is more interested in making us holy than we are in becoming holy! All the three Persons of the Trinitarian Godhead are working together to change us into the image of Jesus the central Person in Godhead. The miracle of miracles happens, which is this: God takes an unholy man from an unholy world, makes him holy, puts him back in the unholy world, and keeps him holy! Glory!

The promises of God are as bright as God Himself! His “exceedingly great and precious promises” are just to make us “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pet 1:4). After listening to me preach on the theme, *Like Jesus*, a bank official with eyes full came running and asked me, “Brother, Do you really think a person like me can ever become like Jesus?” I instantly replied, “If an unseemly caterpillar can transform into an attractive butterfly, you surely can become like Jesus!” He is now a glowing Christian because of this faith.

Do not allow man or Satan to condemn you whether you stand or fall (Rom 8:31-34; 14:4). Keep on keeping on! God Himself will sanctify you completely; and your whole spirit and soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 5:23,24).

*Resting on the faithfulness of Christ our Lord,
Resting on the fulness of His own sure Word;
Resting on His wisdom, on His love and power,
Resting on His Covenant from hour to hour!*

(Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879)

Almighty God, we worship You because You are all-holy. "Holiness unto the Lord" is written all around You. Your Heaven is holy. Your arm is holy. Your hill is holy. Your promises are holy. Your works are holy. Your Covenant is holy. Your angels are holy. Your prophets are holy. Your Name is holy. Your Scriptures are holy. Your Son is holy. Your Spirit is holy. You are holy, holy, holy!

We rejoice that the holy God is our Father. We are unclean and sinful. Cleanse us by the blood of Your Son. Sanctify us by the power of Your Spirit. Clothe us with the beauty of holiness. We cannot build holy character without Your Spirit. We cannot run against odds without Your strength. We cannot cultivate fruits of righteousness without Your mercy. Sorry, Lord, we struggled too long with our own strength. Teach us restfulness in You. Lead us to total confidence on You. Help us look at Your promises instead of depending on our decisions. Remind us at the hour of temptation Your Word against the whisper of the wicked one. Turn our eyes to look Above instead of looking around. Our help comes from You who made heaven and earth. You are our Keeper. You would preserve us from all evil. You would preserve our going out and coming in. We are safe in Your hands as You carry us on Your shoulders.

Father God, we thank You because no one understands the struggles of us Your children like You. There's no one like Jesus who sympathises with our weaknesses because He Himself was tempted like us. There's no one like the indwelling Holy Spirit to comfort us when we fail. We pray for Your enablement to regulate our thoughts. We pray for Your help to control our tongue. We pray for Your protection to safeguard our wandering eyes. We pray for Your strength to stop our hands from touching the forbidden. We pray that You lead our feet in the paths of righteousness. We pray that You give us a heart of understanding to discern the tricks and schemes of Satan.

Dear Lord, oftentimes we forget Your promises to carry us through floods and flames. We forget Your abiding presence and feel miserable. We easily succumb to guilt as the enemy accuses us. We become more conscious of our adversary than our Advocate, Jesus. Forgive us for underestimating the power of fellowship of Your children in the hour of darkness. Let our love for righteousness and hatred for wickedness keep increasing all the time. We thank You that You would complete the work of sanctification in us as it is You who called us to holiness. In the Name of Your holy Child, Jesus, Amen!

(Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8; Zech 14:20,21; Psa 11:4;23:3; 47:8; 87:1; 98:1; 105:42; 121:1,2,5,8; Jonah 2:7; Hab 2:20; Lk 1:35,49,70; Mt 25:31; Jn 10:28,29; 17:11,17; 2 Tim 3:15; Phil 1:6,10,11; Heb 1:9; 2:18; 12:1,2)