

If we're willing to be kept holy, in Christ, we'll be living in Heaven, in God

Ezek 44:23 ...**Teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.**

Ps 24:3-4 **Who may...stand in the holy place (in God)? Those who have clean hands and a pure heart (holy) who have not lifted up their soul (their will) to an idol (something or someone valued more than God), nor sworn deceitfully (lied).**

God is holy: Ps 99:9 ...**For the LORD our God is holy** (so we are only holy in Him).

God fills heaven: Jer 23:24 ...**Says the LORD; Do I not fill heaven...** (God is heaven)

Heaven is holy, is God: Ps 20:6 **The Lord...will answer him from His holy heaven...**

We are unholy: 1 Tim 1:9 ...**The law is...for sinners, for the unholy...**

We must be made holy: Heb 12:14...**Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

Since all of heaven is holy and nothing exists in heaven that is not holy – an unholy person, regardless of whether they are an unbeliever or have been born again, cannot enter a holy heaven or be in the presence of a holy God. And we can do absolutely nothing to make ourselves holy. From our standpoint this makes heaven and hence God totally inaccessible.

God's one solution to our un-holiness – a full salvation that imparts to us God's own holiness

2 Th 2:13 ...**Salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,**

What this says is that a full salvation, being much more than simple conversion to Christ, comes only through sanctification, meaning, through being made holy – how? **By the Holy Spirit** (when a person bows their will and submits to the control of God's Spirit) **and belief in the truth** (when a person's heart continues to be kept clean and holy through the ongoing entry into it, by faith, of God's holy word). Jesus summarized this process of sanctification – being made and kept holy – this way:

John 6:56 **Those who** (continue to) **eat My flesh** (word) **and drink My blood** (Spirit) **live in Me, and I in them** (and so by remaining one with Christ, in God, is kept holy).

Led by the Holy Spirit and holy, or knocked out of the Holy Spirit and into self, and unholy

When we are led by and our wills remain in submission to the Holy Spirit, in all things, we are God's holy sons and daughters, living in Christ. When we are knocked out of the Spirit, out of Christ, and into our human nature with our will now in submission to self, then we are unholy. This is the single worst thing that can happen to a Spirit-led Christian. Out of God's holy presence, out of His holy kingdom of heaven with all its blessings and protection, out of God, and now under the control of our base and fallen human nature – disastrous!

When we allow this to happen, do we know it? With both the loss of God's peace and of the assurance of His guiding presence, yes, we know it right away. But since now we are in the flesh, and not God ruled, where darkness and deception reign, we may lie about being

knocked out of the Spirit and claim we are still clean and holy. But this lie only makes matters worse and impedes any recovery, besides, it doesn't fool anyone who is still holy.

How do we get knocked out of the Spirit and become unholy?

I was being led in peace by God's Spirit and walking in the light of God's revealed words to my heart. I came to a certain decision or choice where I knew, by the voice of my spirit, my conscience, by God's Spirit and His word, what was right, of God and holy and also what was wrong, not of God and unholy. By a conscious deliberate act of my will, by word or by deed (or by a failure to speak or act – Jam. 4:17), I choose what I knew to be wrong and unholy. This doesn't apply in situations where I genuinely did not believe something to be wrong, only where I knew right from wrong, and God, of course, knows when I know the difference.

The actual scale of my unholy act or word (or my failure to act or speak) is irrelevant. It can be something as seemingly trivial as not saying no to a second piece of pie or something as significant as not, in God, witnessing Jesus to someone God wanted me to. Whether the issue is small or large, the result is the same. By my deliberate act of disobedience I have made myself unholy and shut out of a holy heaven no longer in God. And in some measure I have now made myself accessible to the wicked, harming forces of darkness, because Satan, who God says is the spirit who works in the disobedient (Eph. 2:2), now has something in me, part of my soul, my will, now belongs to him – who is the epitome of evil.

What exactly is evil? We need to know this because clever unbelievers often use flawed logic on this subject and attribute evil to God, causing weaker Christians to stumble in their faith. Jesus said "**Only God is good**" – Mk 10:18. Evil, the opposing of good, is simply the opposing of God. All evil is the exercise of a free will to oppose God's good will. It began with Satan and spread by him to the entire human race – Isa 53:6. All evil is sin; all sin is unrighteousness, which is the presence of sin, and un-holiness, and so, the absence of God.

III Jo 1:11 **...Those that do good are of God: but those that do evil have not seen God.**

1 Jo 3:5-6 **...In Christ there is no sin. Whoever lives in Him (now holy) does not sin...**

How are we tempted to evil and yield to its power? - God's only solution, a full salvation:

Jam 1:14 **But each one is tempted when they are drawn away by their own desires...**

These desires may be physical, mental or visual, representing the lusts of the flesh, of the mind and of the eyes. Often these desires are deliberately stimulated by an evil spirit, who knows from my past what my weaknesses are, by either directly giving me a thought or through the words of someone over which it has some influence. (Eph 6:12 & 1 John 5:19).

Let's notice that the starting point in all this temptation to evil is the desire or lust of my own body, my own natural mind or my own eyes – my human nature, where God says nothing good exists (Rom 7:18). For there to be a real possibility that I might act on any of these desires I, that is, my will, must still be alive to those desires and not crucified to them.

God's solution to this problem of evil having dominion over a Christian, with the horrendous consequence of making that Christian unholy, now becomes obvious: For

there to be no starting point for me to be tempted to sin, my will, that is me, for where my will is I am, must be dead to my fallen human nature. I must be dead to a self nature that once governed my will in proud independence from God. God has provided but one way from me to be actually dead to my sin craving human nature and its voice – that is, by my knowing that my old “derived from Adam” nature was crucified with Christ on His cross.

Rom 6:6 **Knowing this, that our old (outer) person was crucified with Christ...**

When do I know this? Just as soon as I choose with my heart to believe what this and many other scriptures say is so, to in fact be so. This is a full salvation because when I believe my flesh to have been crucified with Christ I am now saved (meaning to be made safe) from all three of my enemies – from my flesh (obviously) and from the devil and the world. Since the latter two depend on me, my will, remaining alive to my flesh, with my will willing to act on its desires, in order to have any influence over me.

My full salvation comes only therefore through sanctification – separation from sin and my sin nature through death, and separation to God in a living holy union with Him, by my being full of His Spirit, and by my believing the truth of His words on sanctification, on holiness.

To remain holy I must stay dead, in Christ, every day to my old unholy nature:

Because of the immense importance to God, to me and to everyone my life touches, of my being fully saved, dead to self and holy, God wants it to be permanent. Since it came about, in the first place, by my simply believing I am crucified with Christ, to be so (Gal 2:20), it will continue to be so as long as I continue to believe that it is so! It is for this very crucial purpose that Jesus said in Luke 9:23 **“Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me”** Meaning, each day I am to re-affirm my belief that when Christ died to His sinful flesh on the cross, I likewise, now being in Him, died to my sinful flesh, and when He arose, I likewise, now being in Him, arose with Him in resurrection life, and am alive to God.

If I neglect to continue to believe this cornerstone salvation truth, my enemies will entice me to evil by yielding my will to a wrong physical, mental or visual desire. If I, by my will, consent to the temptation, by word or by deed, not only will I now be unholy but I am now alive again to my corrupt human nature – what a tragic denial of what Christ did at Calvary.

Because now, once again, I have two masters, Christ and my old self or flesh. It will therefore be impossible for me to live consistently in Christ and be led by the Holy Spirit. I will at best experience an “in and out of the Spirit” lifestyle, with the very real possibility, if I do not quickly choose to believe again that I am crucified with Christ, that my flesh, the world and the devil will assert increasing dominance over my will. The longer this prevails the harder it will be for me to find my way back to Christ to the point where my will, being progressively deceived, won’t want to return to holiness. Now my hope of eternity is in great jeopardy for “without holiness no one will see the Lord”, since “eternal life is solely the result of holiness” (Heb 12:14 and Rom 6:22). Can we now understand why God implores us:-

1 Peter 1:16 **“Be holy, for I am holy.”** (He has provided for us the way to be kept holy:)

1 Cor 1:2 **...Holy in Christ Jesus** (in God)...**saints** (we’re kept holy as we live in Him).