

# GOD AS HIMSELF

## GOD IS HOLY

February 22, 2009

FBC Port A

Last week we looked at one of the two defining characteristics of God—love. Love is the characteristic trait that defines everything God does for us and in us. God-kind of love is called “agape” love. It is a sacrificial love and a love that believers are to exhibit on a daily basis.

Today we are looking at the other defining characteristic of God—holiness. Holy is defined as “being pure or consecrated; for a specific purpose”. The holiness of God has often been viewed as a “foggy” subject, one that is often hard to grasp.

**Rev 4:8 NIV** *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

**Psa 99:9 NIV** *Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.*

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The Old Testament writers would often refer to the holiness of God to help keep the Israelites from becoming polytheistic. They would emphasize the unique, distinct, and transcendent qualities of God as being “separated from” humanity. The New Testament writers, by the power of the Holy Spirit emphasized that believers are now to be like God, “separated to” Him.

1. God’s Holiness is **revealed** wherever God is .

**Isa 6:1-4 NIV** *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the*

*LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

2. God’s Holiness **reflects** our nature.

**Isa 6:5 NIV** *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

3. God’s Holiness **requires** atonement for sin.

**Isa 6:6-7 NIV** *Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

(**atonement**—satisfaction or reparation for a wrong)

4. God’s Holiness **rouses** us to action.

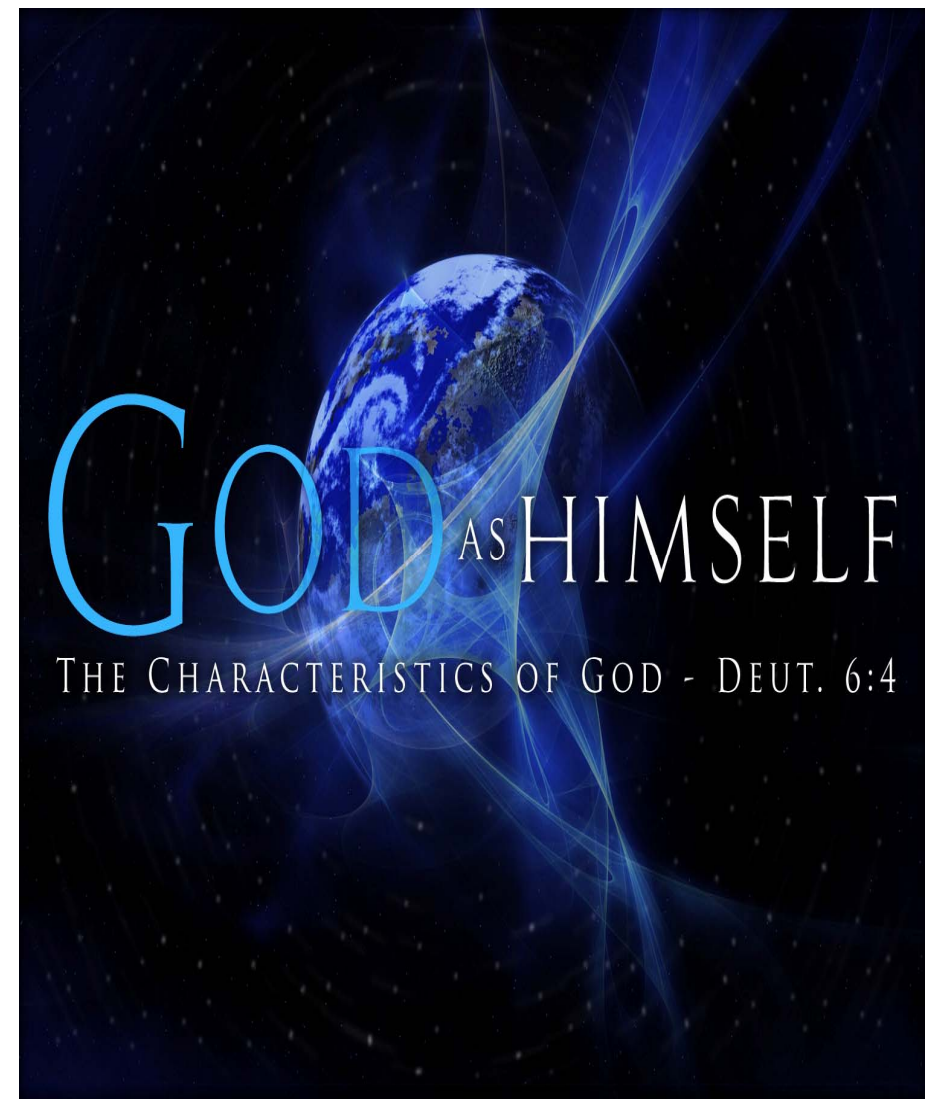
(Rouse—to bring out of a state of sleep, unconsciousness, inactivity, apathy, depression)

**Isa 6:8 NIV** *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

**1Pe 1:15-16 NIV** *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

**1Pe 2:9 NIV** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

God’s admonition for His people to be holy is about His people moving to Godliness. It is not about His people straining and striving toward the unattainable. Holiness is attainable because we have God Himself inside us showing us what needs to be changed and rearranged. The whole purpose of God’s people being holy, like God, is to shine God’s light into the darkness. This will allow those in darkness to see that there is another way to live. That other way to live is a life in God.



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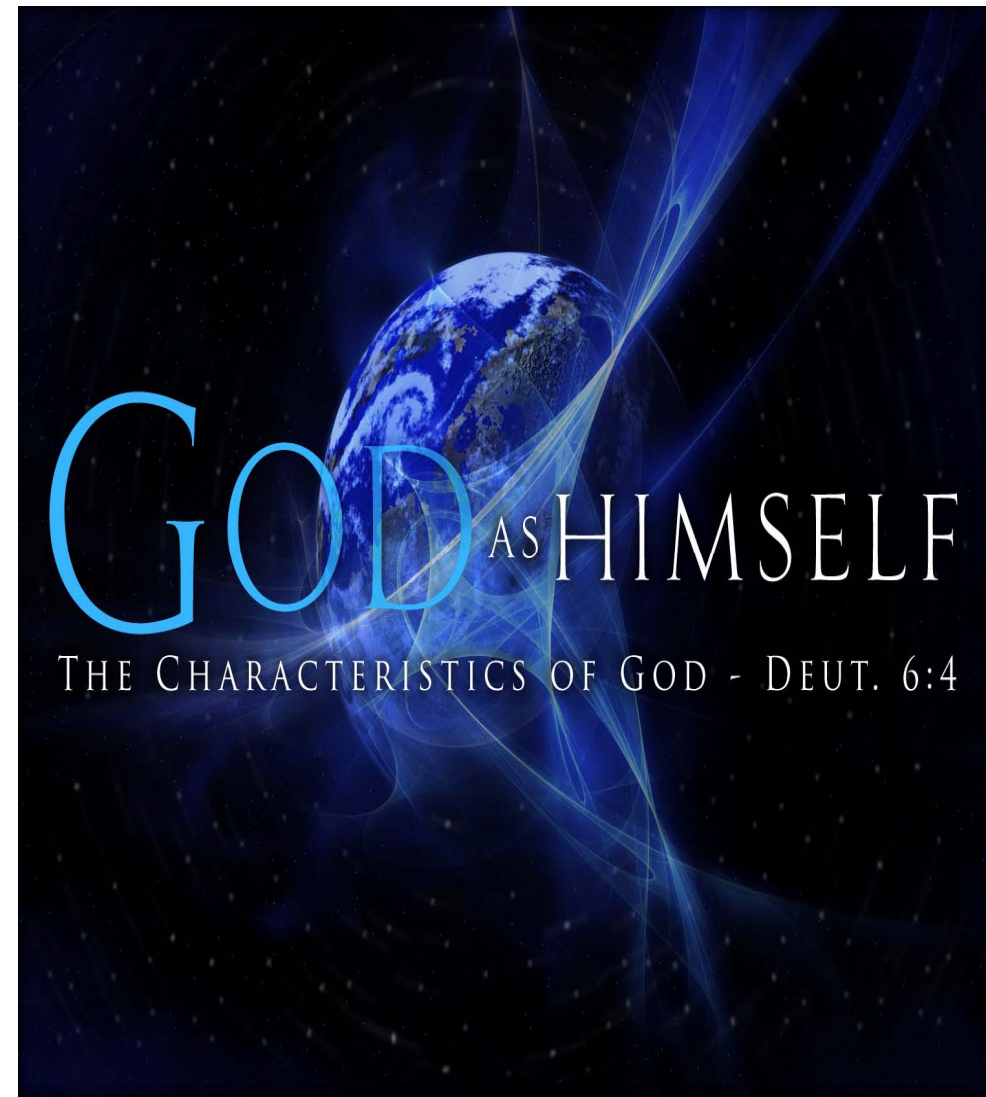
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Chuck Colson says it well, "Holiness is the everyday business of every Christian. It evidences itself in the decisions we make and the things we do, hour by hour, day by day." [Loving God p. 131]