

THRESHOLDS

4- Is holiness possible?

All In- Holiness

9/6/24

Say this with me: *My motives will determine my motions.*

Threshold:

1. the sill of a doorway
2. any place or point of entering or beginning
3. the point at which a stimulus is of sufficient intensity to begin to produce an effect

Opposition:

- The world wants to control you...
- The enemy wants to corrupt you...
- You want to be the center of the universe...

Thresholds:

1. Belief: Is there a God?
2. Salvation: Can I be forgiven?
3. Surrender: Can I trust You?

Introduction:

The last threshold we talked about was the Threshold of Surrender. Trusting God in areas of our lives that He points out and learning to obey Him. This Threshold targets specific behaviors, characteristics, and actions that are not in line with God's Will for our lives. And remember, this is not a single threshold but a number of surrender thresholds that we are called to step over. Some are big, and many are small...yet all are important.

Today, we are talking about a very significant Threshold sometimes referred to as the Second Crisis of Faith. The first Crisis of faith is the acknowledgment of our sinfulness and our need for the forgiveness of Jesus.

This Second Crisis of Faith occurs when you have stepped over a number of Surrender Thresholds and have experienced God's incredible Grace and

Provision as a result. There's a moment when you begin to ask, "Is this really about specific behaviors, characteristics, and actions? Or is this really about me?" As in, there are still a number of wrestling matches between God and myself. **Am I ready to FULLY TRUST AND FULLY SURRENDER... EVERYTHING? Am I all in?**

Specifically: Am I ready to live a life holy and pleasing to the Lord?

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Romans 12:1 NASB)

So, there is this word in Christianity *Holy* or *Holiness*. Holiness is not a suggestion, but it IS both a commandment and the fully realized victory of Christ in us.

Here's a little theology for you:

Holiness: both the Hebrew word *qodesh* and the Greek word *hagios* mean *sacred*. Specifically it means *set apart for a sacred purpose*. It's the same meaning for the word *sanctification*.

- *Work at living in peace with everyone, and **work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.*** (Hebrews 12:14 NLT)

My motives will determine my motions.

If my motive is to live for my selfish ambition, my motions will ultimately seek to serve me. If my motive is to be liked, then my motions will be desperate efforts to gain your approval.

But if my motive is to bring glory to God and to please Him above all else, my motions change dramatically.

A beautiful analogy to our holiness is found in what we call **sympathetic vibrations**. All material objects have what is called a Resonant Frequency, which is the natural frequency at which it vibrates. Sympathetic vibrations occur when a sound wave at specific frequency affects another object that has the same resonant frequency. That object will now begin to vibrate and produce that same pitch. This is something we call *harmonics*.

Now...repeat after me: *I am created in the image of God.*

That means that **our resonant frequency was created to be a harmonic of God's**. That **when God sings our very souls were meant to sing in response**. This is our *sympathetic vibration* to God. But **things can inhibit that response**. **Sin creates discord with God**. **And like a piano, our pride and vanity is the padded hammer that rests on the string dampening its ability to respond to God's voice**.

We don't often use this passage in a talk about holiness, but listen to what it is saying in light of *sympathetic vibration*:

32 A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him. 33 Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. 34 Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" 35 Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly! (Mar 7:32-35 NLT)

We talk a lot more about *I once was blind but now I see*, but equally important is that I once was deaf to God but now I hear...and now I can respond. That's holiness.

We tend to think holiness is something we do...or don't do, but that's not the foundation of holiness. Rather, it's the result of holiness.

Let's examine the passage again...

- *33 Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone.*
 - This is personal, this is just you and Jesus
- *He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue.*
 - Sounds pretty invasive doesn't it?! How much do you trust Jesus? Will you let Him invade your space like this? Do you give Him authority and access into your life?
- *34 Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!"*
 - And in that commandment, *Ephphatha*, Jesus removed the dampers. The man could hear perfectly...and he could speak (or sing).

Stepping across this threshold isn't just about surrender, it's about submission. Submission to Jesus.

Can we submit to Jesus? Submission is a hard thing. Yes, we can. First, by His very position as the Son of God and the Lord of lords we should. But secondly, Jesus DESERVES our submission because of the cross.

9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.
(Heb 12:9-10 NLT)

...so that we might share in His holiness

- **So that we would have sympathetic vibrations with our God.**

Say this again: ***My motives will determine my motions.***

So if we are ever going to truly change our motions (my actions) then we need to address our motives (my purpose) This threshold of submission opens the door to our holiness.

You were created to be sacred. Set apart for a special relationship with God. When did we settle for anything less than that? When God commanded Israel to *be holy as I am holy*, I don't think it was a commandment but more of a calling. It was a reminder that we were *created* to be holy because we were created in the image of a holy God.

Are you ready to submit to Jesus today and cross this threshold of submission?