

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
(I Peter 1:1-16)

Any outward expression of holiness comes only from the inner reality of sharing in the Life of our Holy, Holy, Holy God. If “Holy” is the most divine descriptor for God’s character in the Bible, then there should be something consistently Holy about God’s people. Both the Old Testament (Lev 11:44ff) and the New Testament (I Pet 1:15-16) recognize and declare this truth, “You shall be Holy, as I am Holy.”

It would be a serious mistake to try and make any (Christian) sense out of this directive by skipping I Peter 1:1-12. If I Peter 1:13-16 is salvation in its expression, I Peter 1:1-12 is salvation in its completion! Listen carefully:

- ...we reside in this world as “aliens” (with a “Life” not of this world) – I Pet 1:1
- ...we are who we are “by the sanctifying (holifying) work of the Spirit” – I Pet 1:2
- ...we are “born again/anew/from above” ... through the resurrection of the living Christ – I Pet 1:3
- ...we have an “imperishable and undefilable” inheritance from Holy God – I Pet 1:4
- ...we are “protected by the power of God” (our born-againness is untouchable) – I Pet 1:5
- ...we are partakers in “the Holy Spirit sent from heaven” – I Pet 1:12

This is salvation, sanctification in its completion. If so, God is never calling out of us – “be holy” – anything He has not already graced to us. Allow this holy reality to invade and spread through every aspect of your life: The standard of holiness and its expression is not less for man than for God – “as I am holy!” (Selah!) Therefore, we do not need to remain conformed to the unholy (common, ungodlike) urges and compelling of our former lives (I Pet 1:14). By fixing our minds on Christ and all that is ours in Him, we will never find ourselves in any contingency without a holy option. Being holy is not about the improvement of my character... IT IS ABOUT THE RELEASE, THE EXPRESSION OF HIS HOLY, HOLY, HOLY CHARACTER!

Do you see a pattern here? “Forgive...as I have forgiven you” (Eph 4:32). “Accept... as I have accepted you” (Ero 15:7). “Love... as I have loved you” (Jo 15:12). What God has done for us and given to us, He expects to see in us and out of us. (Matt 10:8; Eph 4:1) What He has written in and upon our hearts, He wants the world to be able to read in the story of our (holy!) lives. What kind of things? Sanctifying... born from above... hopeful...unprofaneable... powerful... joyful things! (I Pet 1:1-12) Uncommon things! Holy things! His things!!!

Holiness is not some “thing” God puts in us. He puts Himself in us... His Holy Self in us. “I, the Holy, Holy, Holy One... am in you in all My holiness (Col 2:9). Now, be holy! Let Me be mediated and radiated through you. Abide in Me for all the holiness you need. Abandon to Me, and discover My holiness is enough... enough holiness for both of us!”

Being Holy is never about a spotless performance... it is always about mediating the Sacred Person... our Holy, Holy, Holy God.



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Greetings

People frequently ask me how to look up the "OIC" website. My answer, "You can't!" "Why not?", they ask. "Because there isn't one," I reply. They often respond, "But that's not possible. How do you market your brand? Put yourself out there? How do you get places to speak... ask for financial support... build a viable ministry?" And I say, "I don't, but, He does!"

Our approach at *OIC* is not better or more godly than any other - it's just the way He has directed us to do things. Yes, you are reading a newsletter, but for 35 years it has only been sent to people who requested it (you might be surprised how small that number is after speaking to thousands of people!).

And we do have a "message site" that contains both this monthly newsletter and messages from our conferences and local churches. (I'm told it is there - I've never had the need to listen to myself talk!) And that's the point... to thank those of you who've been faithful all these years to archive and make available decades of teaching about "Christ in you, the hope of glory" - Lynn and Suzanne Groce, Stephen Yeung, Jim and Janet Lake, John Dorough, and currently Ryan and Char Hajdaj (and I'm sure others as well!) If, like me, you haven't visited www.stevepettitmessages.com, you might want to check it out, refer it to a friend, or even use these in your small groups as some do. And finally, a new set of teachings have just been posted from Tyler, Texas (February 2026). Long time recorder

Oliver Hollenshead and fellow witness to the Truth Glenda Lauter made this possible. A special thanks as well to Larry Robbins and Colonial Hills Baptist Church!

Calendar

MARCH

- 10 Alachua Study
- 26 Heritage Community Church, Fruitland Park, FL
(352-431-3935)
- 29 Heritage Community Church, Fruitland Park, FL
(352-431-3935)
- 31 Ocala Study


APRIL


- 10-12 Binghamton, NY (607-341-6062)

MAY


- 17-20 Anderson, SC (864-226-1789)

Praise & Prayer

 The Holy One abiding in us

 Salvation in its completion

 To live out what God has placed within

 Salvation in its expression