

Holy or Human?

Can a person be both Holy and human? Knowing with certainty that all humans do sin, is it possible for *any* of us to also be Holy? If we think holiness on this earth is possible, is it restricted to apply to only the most religious or righteous person we know? Can *we* possibly be holy? We only see the pious person when they are at their best and we know our own many faults. After all, the Bible says, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*. We tend to confuse holiness with perfection. Perfection is impossible for any of us on this side of heaven but holiness is within reach for all of us if it is inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that God wants us to be Holy. In 1 Peter 1:15-16 we read, *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."*

Holy means to be "set apart" with a life dedicated to doing God's Will. It is not a measurement of morality. It describes a *relationship* with God and willingness for the Will of God to show through us. It requires a humble heart to listen to and obey God. We may think that "we are not good enough" to be Holy, but if we are doing the Will of God, we can be. The apostle Paul is a great example of giving his life over to God. He wrote *"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" Galatians 2:20*.



In his book, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*, New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly introduces the concept of "Holy Moments." He says, "A Holy Moment is a moment when you are being the person God created you to be, and you are doing what you believe God is calling you to do in that moment." Kelly says, it is a time when "You set aside self-interest, personal desire ... and embrace what you believe will bring the most good to the most people in that moment."

There will be people who bring up times when our actions do not reflect God's Will. That is being human, as none of us are perfect. Kelly says, "The heroes, champions, and saints who have exemplified Christian living for two thousand years did not live holy lives." They were prone to temptation and made choices not aligned with God's will. But they also had God's Grace and Mercy to draw them back to holiness. Kelly also said, "Holy is not a measurement of how good we are, but how good God is." Some of the most notable people are Paul (who persecuted Jesus as Saul) and King David. Their Holy Moments changed people's lives and, as a result, the course of human history.

You don't have to be famous to have Holy Moments. Open yourself to God. Set aside what you feel like doing in that moment and simply do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do. Start with a goal of doing one Holy Moment on a particular day. The next day do two and then more the following day. Let it become a habit that describes your heart. Holiness becomes a daily discipline of walking in obedience to God's direction. Holy Moments are not busy-work to make us feel better but God's work to show our faith in action. They don't need to be big things – just acts of kindness and service from God's heart through your heart. Max Lucado stated it simply, "Daily do a deed for which you cannot be repaid." You have nothing to gain but it will be a blessing to someone else. It may be received as a life-changing blessing. Oswald Chambers said, "Our lives must be a Holy example of the reality of our message." We walk the talk.

As Christians we are the best hope the world has to change for the better, one person and one moment at a time. The world needs many Holy Moments for it to get back on track. It is not complicated. We can "transform the simple moments of our everyday lives into moments that transform us and other people to make it a better world." We can't do it alone, but together with God, we can make a difference (read Philippians 4:13). Seek a closer relationship with God so that our Holy Moments become a way of life, as we try to live as Holy a life as is humanly possible.

Question: What can you, with the help of God, do to change the world around you, through Holy Moments?

The Bible Says:

- *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).*
- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16).*
- *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!" (Isaiah 6:8).*
- *The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17).*

Prayer: Lord. We pray that we will become the person You intended us to be, by seeking Holy Moments as we try to make a difference in this world. Amen.

Thanks to YMCA friend Larry Whittlesey for consultation on the theology of this devotion.