

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

By Mike Burnham

Before we go on to our relationship to the holiness of God, let's look again at Proverbs 9:10. If we apply what we have learned about the holiness of God to our lives it will bring us into a proper relationship with our father in heaven.

Proverbs 9:10 (KJV) *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

What knowledge of the holy have we attained? First, God is transcendent in his very being. He is above and beyond the limitation of man in all of his attributes, characteristics, and morality. He is, in fact, above and beyond any limitation. His thoughts are not our thoughts, his ways are not our ways, but they are "right". That means ours are wrong. There is an infinite distance of separation and difference, he is infinitely superior to everything and everyone, higher than the world, exalted in majesty and greatness.

The holiness of God also means that he is absolutely morally pure, righteous in conduct, character, and thought. He is right in everything he thinks, does, and says. His holiness is the standard of right for man to follow in conduct, character, and thought and is what man falls short of.

This knowledge should cause us to "fear" to offend or displease one so lofty and holy. Not because of what he is able to do to us but because the difference between him and us is so awesome as to command our reverence, respect, special consideration, esteem, and trust, (Gen. 22:12).

Fear also implies submission on the part of the one fearing, like Abraham, no matter what the cost. It is also this kind of fear that causes us to turn away from sin, Proverbs 16:6; 14:16. This is the kind of relationship God is pleased with. One who recognizes who God is and acknowledges the difference by way he lives and treats

God, shows that he has understanding, Job 28:28.

To such a one God gives wisdom, Proverbs 2:5,6,9. Wisdom is the ability to use the knowledge and understanding of God and his word to please, honor, and glorify him in this life. It's the ability to make right choices, James 3:17.