



Sharing

## Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

[www.buildingfathershouse.org](http://www.buildingfathershouse.org)

**Building Fathers House**

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become a instrument of authority)

### Workshop no.5 : Considering our Father – Holy be Thou Name.

**Exodus 3:5** And He said, Do not come near here. Pull off your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand *is* holy ground.

**Purpose of workshop** : To considering our Father and His Holiness in a lifestyle of prayer.

**Intended Goal**: To understand the secret of “**Holy be Thou name**” as a principal of answered prayer. Remember we said true prayer is to spend time in the presence of God.

**Scripture readings** : In reading the following scripture, consider the Holiness of God as His character and our response/responsibility in relation to His holiness.

**Exodus 15:11** Who *is* like You, O Jehovah, among the gods? **Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?**

**1Ch 16:29** Give to Jehovah the **glory of His name**; bring an offering and come before Him. **Worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness**

**Psalm 29:2** Give to Jehovah the glory due to His name; **worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness.**

**Psalm 47:8** God reigns over the nations, **God sits on the throne of His holiness.**

**Psalm 77:13** Your way, O God, *is* in holiness; who *is* so great a God as our God?

**Psalm 93:5** Your testimonies are very sure; **holiness becomes Your house forever**, O Jehovah.

**Psalm 96:9** O worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth.

**Isaiah 35:8** And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, **The Way of Holiness.** The unclean shall not pass over it. But He *shall be* with them; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *in it*.

**Ezekiel 28:22** And say, So says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I *am* against you, O Sidon, and I will be glorified in your midst. **And they shall know that I *am* Jehovah**, when I have executed judgements in her and **have revealed My holiness in her.**

**Romans 6:19** I speak in the manner of men because of the weakness of your flesh; for as you have yielded your members *as* slaves to uncleanness, and to lawless act unto lawless act, **even so now yield your members as slaves to righteousness unto holiness.**

**Romans 6:22** But now, being made free from sin, and having **become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness**, and the end everlasting life.

**2Corinthians 7:1** Then having these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilements of flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

**Ephesians 4:24** And you should put on the new man, who according to **God *was* created in righteousness and true holiness.**

**Hebrews 12:10** For truly they chastened *us* for a few days according to their own pleasure, **but He for our profit, that *we* might be partakers of His holiness.**

**Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all, and holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord;

**Exodus 20:25** And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stone. For if you lift up your tool upon it, you have defiled it.

**Food for thought** :When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray - He said that they should start by acknowledging Our Father, and His position. The second step is acknowledging the **character of our Father as being Holy.**

I would like you to consider Holiness as the character of God our Father. In saying “**Holy be Thou Name**” we express our desire, that **God himself, should be held everywhere in proper reverence.** In essence we make a **proclamation declaring God's character as being Holy** and therefore saying that holiness is the only acceptable standard as we worship Him. We further acknowledge that **as God is Holy so is His judgment and His provision** and therefore :

**GOD’S HOLINESS IS BEYOND COMPARISON** – nothing can compete or be compared to the Holiness of God.

**GOD’S HOLINESS IS OUR STANDARD FOR HOLY LIVING** – our standard for living cannot relate to anything but God. The TV or world leaders cannot be our guide for living, if we say we belong to God, then we must live by His standards -”be holy for I am Holy”(1 Peter 1:16)

**GOD CANNOT BE KNOWN APART FROM HIS HOLINESS** – as Holiness is God's character we know that anything that does not express holiness is not from God. There is a lot of good in the world, but good is not necessary God and good (according to humanism) is often the counterfeit for God's way and God's love!

**GOD’S HOLINESS CANNOT TOLERATE SIN** – holiness is separation from sin and cannot come into the presence of one another, if holiness enters sin goes, likewise if sin enters holiness goes.

Consider Moses and Joshua, both called as servants of God, both were asked to take off their sandals as the ground upon which they stand is Holy. Although Moses was called by God, he could not enter into the presence of God as he was, he had to remove his sandals in acknowledging the characteristic of Holiness that is always present in God but not in our works. The thing that stood

between Moses (as God's creation) and the Holy ground upon which He stood in the presence of God is the sandals (man's creation, sandals was made by the hands of man). Anything man made, cannot match the Holiness of God, man made articles or activities will always come short to the Holiness of God. "God is Spirit," therefore when we worship Him we worship from our hearts (in reverence of who He is – Holy) not in relation to ourselves and our achievements (activities, works).

The Bible says it is not by works that we can boast, it is by **faith in Jesus Christ**. Nothing we can do can ever make us enter into the presence of God. Thinking about Adam and Eve, they tried to cover their nakedness in the presence of God, but they were not successful. Our actions cannot match God's Holiness, Jesus Christ as the Son of God came so that through His righteousness we may be redeemed into a relationship with our Father in Heaven. This relationship is however not in the flesh as with Adam and Eve, **this relationship is in the Spirit** – therefore the Bible say that we should **build a dwelling place in the Spirit**. New Testament **worship must be in Spirit and in truth**. Since "God is Spirit," he must be worshipped in spirit.

Even in reference to an altar, made by the hand of man, God said if you build an altar do not cut it, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. **Exodus 20:25**

**profane** = châlal (*khaw-lal'*)

A primitive root (compare H2470); properly to *bore*, that is, (by implication) to *wound*, to *dissolve*; figuratively to *profane* (a person, place or thing), to *break* (one's word), to *begin* (as if by an opening-wedge); de-nominatively (from H2485) to *play* (the flute): - begin (X men began), defile, X break, defile, X eat (as common things), X first, X gather the grape thereof, X take inheritance, pipe, player on instruments, pollute, (cast as) profane (self), prostitute, slay (slain), sorrow, stain, wound.

## True Story:

**2Sa 6:1-7** Again David gathered every chosen one in Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people with him from beyond Baale of Judah, to bring up the ark of God from there, which is called *by* the Name, the Name of Jehovah of Hosts who dwells *above* the cherubs. And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab in Gibeah. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab at Gibeah, going with the ark of God. And Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel *were* dancing before Jehovah on all *instruments* of fir wood, with lyres and with harps, and with tambourines, and with sistra, and with cymbals. And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen upset *it*. And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Uzzah. And God struck him there for the error. And he died there by the ark of God. **Let the case of Uzza warn us, to take heed of presumption or thoughtfulness with regard to the holiness of God; and not to think, that a right intention will justify a wrong action.**

I was in Mozambique when God allowed me to see in a vision, the ark of the covenant behind a very light veil, I asked God if I could enter. He said yes, but if I enter I cannot return. I did not understand the essence of His message but after a while I got sick with malaria. I did not want to believe it and stayed on in Mozambique until I realized that I need to get medical attention and returned to South Africa by God's grace. Even though I received treatment my condition deteriorated, even the doctor said that there is no more they can do medically they can only pray, some pastors even came to greet me as they were of the opinion that I am going home (heaven). The Lord then reminded me of the vision and I said unto the Lord realizing that I cannot enter into the presence of God in my body, I need to die. I rejoiced in that, the Wednesday evening. However the Lord healed me by miracle within 3 days I was up and running 5 km. In medical terms an impossibility!!! - The lesson that I learned is that we cannot enter into the presence of God by the flesh, the flesh need to die – likewise the desires of the flesh, we need to surrender to the will of God.

## God's authority :

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth.

**Ephesians 5:26** that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

**Revelations 4:11** O Lord, You are to receive glory and honor and power, because **You created all things, and for Your will they are and were created.**

**Deuteronomy 23:14** For Jehovah your **God walks in the middle of your camp**, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you. **Therefore your camp shall be holy, so that He may see no unclean thing in you and turn away from you.**

**1Samuel 2:2** *There is none holy as Jehovah*, for there is none beside You. Neither *is there* any rock like our God.

**Exodus 19:21** And Jehovah said to Moses, Go down. Command the people, lest they break through to Jehovah **to gaze, and many of them perish.**

**Exodus 33:20** And He said, You cannot see My face. **For there no man can see Me and live.**

**Joshua 5:15** And the Commander of Jehovah's army said to Joshua, **Take your shoe off your foot, for the place on which you stand is holy.** And Joshua did so.

**Exodus 20:25** **And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stone. For if you lift up your tool upon it, you have defiled it.**

**Isaiah 33:14-15** The sinners in Zion are afraid; terror has surprised profane ones. Who among us shall dwell *with* the devouring fire? **Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly; he who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands free from holding bribes, who stops his ear from hearing of blood, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil;**

**Isaiah 64:6** For all of us have become **like one who is unclean**, And **all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

**Titus 3:4-7** But when the **kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but **according to His mercy He saved us**, through the **washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom **He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that being justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

**1Co 11:27-31** So that whoever shall eat this bread and drink *this cup of the Lord unworthily, he will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread and drink of that cup. **For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself**, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many among you *are* weak and sickly, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

**For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.** For we are *His* workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained** that we should walk in them.

Created = Word: ktizw (Pronounc: ktid'-zo)

Strong: #G2936

Orig: probably akin to 2932 (through the idea of proprietorship of the manufacturer); to fabricate, i.e. found (form originally):--create, Creator, make.

- 1) to make habitable, to people, a place, region, island
  - 1a) to found a city, colony, state
  - 2) to create
  - 2a) of God creating the worlds
- 2b) to form, shape, i.e. to completely change or transform

## Conclusion :

***"1Peter 1:13-16 Therefore girding up the loins of your mind, being sober, perfectly hope for the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ, as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but according to the Holy One who has called you, you also become holy in all conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."***

To understand, we need to consider holiness as the character of God. When we say "Holy be thy name" we :

- Declare the holiness of God. We accept that God is set apart from everything else—He is undefiled, unblemished, eternally good and His love endures forever. But we also say sin cannot exist in the presence of God, and so He must reject anything sinful.
- Approve the Holiness of God. We accept God's Holiness as the only standard by which to measure right and wrong, true and false, good and bad, light and darkness, acknowledging that there is no neutral ground.
- Want to be Holy as He is Holy. ***"Be holy, for I am holy."*** asking to make us holy so that we can enter into the fulness of the relationship as sons *Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be the First-born among many brothers.*
- We respond to His chastening. *Hebrews 12:5-10 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons, "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and He scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we gave them reverence. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For truly they chastened us for a few days according to their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.*

Sometimes we react out of our own understanding, according to our own thinking, forgetting the character of God, resulting in God's judgement, which can be severe - Unanswered prayer and even death of the flesh. God is not unrighteous but in His holiness He set boundaries, not to keep us away from Him, but to protect us from the results of entering into His presence when we can not, because of our sin. As we said holiness = set apart from sin. If we dare to enter without acknowledging God's character of holiness we will have to bear the consequences.

Looking at Uzza, he acted on the basis of his position, his reaction however caused his death, God did not kill him. Uzza got killed because he touched the holiness of God in an act of a man who touched with his hand the Holiness of God. There is numerous warnings in the Bible, making us aware of the dangers involved when we come into His presence unprepared or out of the flesh. God is Love, but God is Holy and holiness and the sin of man cannot come in the presence of one another.

When Jesus said in *Luke 22:15* “... *With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.*” He spoke not only on the basis of His relationship with the disciples but also on the basis of the relation that will be restored to the Father through the Holy Spirit. Reminding us of the words of Apostle John in *1John 1:3* *that which we have seen and heard we declare unto you, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

But although this desire exist, there is no compromise on the side of God relating to His Holiness. If we want to enter into this relationship, we must walk in obedience to the word as we acknowledge the Holiness of God. Referring to *John 17:17&19* Jesus said that He sanctified Himself so that we can be sanctified by the truth, we are to be made acceptable to God by His Word as the Bible say in *Ephesians 5:26* that it is the desire of our Lord Jesus (our bridegroom) to sanctify us by the washing of the Word. The Word is not man made it is God breathed (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).

Our best effort to be clean only justify our uncleanness. Nothing we can do, (man made achievement) can help us to enter into the presence of God, in fact it is the very thing that keep us from the presence of God. Looking at *Leviticus 13:10-13* *And the priest shall look. And, behold, if the rising is white in the skin, and it has turned the hair white and there is live raw flesh in the rising, it is an old leprosy in the skin of his flesh. And the priest shall pronounce him unclean, and shall not shut him up, for he is unclean. And if a leprosy breaks out greatly on the skin, and the leprosy covers all the skin of the one who has the plague from his head even to his foot, to all that appears to the eyes of the priest, then the priest shall look. And behold, if the leprosy has covered all his flesh, he shall pronounce the plague-spot clean. It has all turned white. He is clean.* When a man sees himself to be a sinful creature, all over covered with sin, and no part free, and disclaims all righteousness of his own to justify him before God, but wholly trusts to, and depends upon the grace of God for salvation, and the righteousness of Christ for his acceptance with God; he becomes clean through the grace of God and the blood and righteousness of Christ. And therefore can come in the presence of God.

*Luke 18:10-14* *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed within himself in this way: God, I thank You that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice on the Sabbath, I give tithes of all that I possess. And standing afar off, the tax-collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but struck on his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: For everyone who exalts himself shall be abased, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted.*

This does not mean that our sin is justified, no we must be holy for God is Holy, but the first step to holiness is to acknowledge your ungodliness in the presence of God as *Isaiah 6:5* *Then I said, Woe is me! For I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of Hosts.*

## Questions to be answered :

1. What does it mean when we say – Holy be Thou name?
2. What acts can result in unanswered pray?
3. How should we approach our Father?
4. Can we be transformed – if so, how can we become holy?
5. How can we practically implement the secret of “Holy be thou name” in our prayer life?