

## **FAQ-Holiness – God's and Ours (Hal Hansen)**

**August 3, 2025**

### How is God's holiness described, and how does it relate to humanity?

God's holiness is described as His unique and "otherly" nature, being perfectly pure, unblemished, and unstained by sin. He is the ultimate standard of holiness, and His attributes are perfectly balanced. In contrast, humanity's primary essence before knowing Jesus is sinful. However, through faith in Jesus Christ, God transforms believers, making them holy and part of His holy family. This holiness is not earned but is a gift of God's grace, allowing believers to live in a new position of holiness despite ongoing struggles with sin.

### What is the role of the Bible in understanding and living a holy life?

The Bible is presented as God's "holy word," which is unique, pure, separate, and always true. It is the truth that God has given humanity to live successfully. Believers are encouraged to focus their lives on the Word of God and trust in its truths. By beholding the glory of the Lord in the Bible, believers are transformed into the image of Jesus, from glory to glory, through the work of the Holy Spirit. It serves as a guide for walking by faith, especially during difficult times.

### How do missionaries Hal and Beth Hansen exemplify walking by faith in uncertain circumstances?

Hal and Beth Hansen demonstrate walking by faith through their current season of uncertainty, not knowing where God is leading their ministry after a door closed in Thailand. They acknowledge feeling frustrated and tired of not knowing God's plan or their next steps. However, they consciously choose to "flex their spiritual muscle" by returning to the truth of God's sovereignty, His good plans (Jeremiah 29:11), and His knowledge of all things. They rest in the understanding that God knows when to reveal His plans and that the Holy Spirit empowers them to walk by faith, even when it's difficult.

### What is the significance of baptism in the Christian faith, as demonstrated in the service?

Baptism is presented as a public demonstration of obedience to Jesus Christ, not as a means of salvation itself. The individuals being baptized profess their belief that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior, that He died on the cross for their sins, was buried, and rose again, and now intercedes for them in heaven. The act of baptism symbolizes being "buried with Christ" and "raised to walk in newness of life," signifying a new identity and commitment to following Jesus.

### How is the Lord's Supper understood and practiced within this Christian community?

The Lord's Supper is presented as a remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice. The broken bread symbolizes His body, broken for believers, and the cup represents the new covenant established through His shed blood, which provides sufficient sacrifice for all mankind. The only requirement to partake is to be a "born-again believer," emphasizing that it is a participation for those who have already accepted Jesus as their Savior. It is a moment for reflection and meditation on the significance of Christ's sacrifice.

What is the distinction between feeling holy and being holy for a believer?

The sermon emphasizes that holiness for a believer is a position granted by God through Jesus Christ, not primarily a feeling. While believers may not always "feel holy" and will still struggle with temptation and sin, their identity in Christ is one of being made holy. The message challenges believers to shift their thinking from constantly identifying as "sinners" to embracing their divinely given holiness, which then motivates them to "walk in a holy way" by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How does the concept of God's "goodness running after" believers relate to His character?

The phrase "Your goodness is running after me" from the song "Goodness of God" highlights God's active pursuit of His people with kindness and blessings. It emphasizes that God's goodness is not passive but an energetic, persistent aspect of His character. This aligns with descriptions of God's attributes being perfectly pure and balanced, always working for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

What is the importance of compassion, even towards those who are spiritually astray?

The example of Jeremiah being "broken" for the false prophets, despite God's impending judgment upon them, is used to highlight the importance of compassion. The speaker challenges listeners to have a similar heart for false teachers and those who do not know Jesus, mirroring God's willingness that "none should perish" (John 3:16). This encourages believers to share God's word with their neighbors and friends, inviting them to experience the goodness of the Lord.