

**JOHN BEVERE**

**The**  
**Awe**  
**of**  
**God**

A 6-WEEK SERMON SERIES

**Lesson 3: Irresistible Holiness**

## Lesson 3: Irresistible Holiness

### Outline:

1. The Pursuit of Holiness
2. Positional vs. Behavioral Holiness
3. The Reward of Holiness
4. Close

## The Pursuit of Holiness

### 2 Corinthians 7:1 | NKJV

...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **fear of God**.

### Hebrews 12:14 | NKJV

Pursue...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

Holiness is not an end unto itself, rather it's a passageway into what's most important.

The word '**pursue**' is the Greek word which is defined, "to do something with intense effort and with definite purpose or goal."

- There's no question, this statement speaks of passionately chasing after holiness with the intent to apprehend it.

## Positional vs. Behavioral Holiness

Our first question should be,

Is this *positional* holiness or *behavioral* holiness?

### Positional

#### Ephesians 1:4 | NKJV

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that **we should be holy** and without blame before Him in love.

## Behavioral

### 1 Peter 1:15 | AMPC

But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also **be holy in all your conduct** *and* manner of living.

### Example of Marriage.

- Can you imagine a spouse saying to one of her close friends, “I’m chasing with intense effort to be my husband’s wife!”?
- They’d think she lost her mind. She already holds the position of wife.

### The consequence for ignoring this command is *not seeing the Lord*.

- How does this affect us in the here and now—on a daily, and even moment by moment, basis?
- If we lack godly fear, we lack the drive to pursue the holy behavior granting us the privilege of His manifest presence. Jesus says, “He who has My commandments and keeps them...I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21 NKJV).

### It's worth repeating: *no behavioral holiness, no seeing the Lord*.

- Why is this so critical?

**First**, if we don’t see Him, we’ll lack His manifest presence, and we can’t know Him intimately.

- Or worse, we deceived ourselves by creating a fictional Jesus.

**Second** reason is equally important.

- Without beholding Him—not being in His presence—we cannot be changed or transformed into His likeness.

## The Reward of Holiness

Those who *see the Lord*,

### 2 Corinthians 3:18 | ESV

“Are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”

The Apostle James is very strong with believers who take holiness lightly. He writes:

### James 4:3-4

Your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You *adulterers*! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?

James uses the word *adulterers*, a term used for the violation of a marriage covenant.

- God often uses marriage imagery to illustrate our covenant with Him. Jesus is called the Groom and we are the bride.
- Paul states a marriage between a man and woman is an example of the way Jesus Christ and the Church are united (see Ephesians 5:31-32).

## Two Main Reasons to Avoid Adultery

- The first and foremost is that **I fear God**. I made a covenant with God to love and nurture my wife, regardless of her response or behavior.
- The second reason is: **I don't want to lose intimacy** with my wife. I love that she confides in me, shares her innermost secrets, and heart longings. In essence, I love our closeness.

## It's no different with Jesus.

- The reason I passionately avoid committing adultery against Him is that I don't want to lose the intimacy we share together. I love the closeness of His presence and the intimate conversations we have together. I love it when He shares secrets with me that I've never known before.

Could it be why we are told:

**Psalm 25:14 | NKJV**

**The secret of the Lord** is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

- We are now just beginning to discover the irresistible aspect of holiness.

## Close

Without chasing after, with the intent to apprehend, behavioral holiness I cannot enter into the presence of the Lord. It's not when I arrive at the place of perfect holiness, rather when I make it my heart's pursuit.