



Holiness Within & Without

THE TRANSFORMATIVE
POWER OF THE HOLY
GHOST



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1. Introduction

In the journey of faith, the concept of holiness stands as a cornerstone of our relationship with God. Holiness is not merely an external practice but an

internal transformation brought about through the New Birth of water and Spirit. This booklet aims to explore the profound implications of holiness within and the fundamental doctrines that underpin our faith as Apostolic Pentecostals. We will delve into the scriptural foundation of holiness, the process of spiritual rebirth, and the vital role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

2. The New Birth: Water and Spirit

Jesus emphasizes the necessity of being born again in John 3:3-8. This new birth is essential for entering the Kingdom of God. It comprises two vital components: water baptism in Jesus' name and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). Acts 2:38 clearly outlines this process, calling for repentance, baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and the promise of receiving the Holy Ghost with the biblical witness of speaking in tongues. This dual experience is not just a theological concept; it is the gateway to a new life in Christ.

Baptism in Water in Jesus' Name: It is essential to understand that water baptism must be performed in the name of Jesus only. Acts 4:12 states that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Therefore, we must be

water baptized in Jesus' name, as there is no salvation in titles such as "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost"—these are not names at all. Jesus is the name of the Godhead bodily (Philippians 2:10; Ephesians 1:21). Matthew 28:18-19 clarifies that Jesus has all power and authority in heaven and earth, and the command to baptize is given in His name. The titles "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" are not names; they are titles that cannot save you. The Bible is clear that the only water baptism in the New Testament was done in Jesus' name. If you were baptized using the Trinity formula (Father, Son, Holy Ghost), you need to be rebaptized in Jesus' name to fulfill the biblical plan of salvation.

3. Repentance and Water Baptism

Repentance is the first step toward holiness. It signifies a turning away from sin and a commitment to follow Christ. Water baptism in the name of Jesus is not merely a ritual; it is a profound act of obedience that applies the blood of Christ to our lives, resulting in washing and regeneration through repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Both baptisms are essential for Bible salvation according to Acts 2:37-40. Repentance signifies death, baptism represents burial, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost

and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues is the Bible plan of salvation—an experience of death, burial, and resurrection (Galatians 2:20-22; Galatians 3:13-14; Galatians 4:4-7).

4. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Receiving the Holy Ghost is a transformative experience that empowers believers to live righteously. This baptism is evidenced by speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). The Holy Ghost, or the Spirit of Christ, dwells within us, igniting a fire that purges our sin nature and enables us to walk in holiness. This empowerment equips us to fulfill the Great Commission and live out our faith boldly.

5. The Sign of Sonship: Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in tongues is not only evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling but also a sign of our sonship (Galatians 4:4-7). It is the outward manifestation of the inward work of grace, affirming our identity as children of God. This divine connection allows us to commune with the Father—who is the Lord Jesus Christ. John 14:6-20 explains that Jesus is the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—only one God and only one name, and His name is Jesus (Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:21-23). This unique and powerful relationship facilitates a deeper communion with Him and

enhances our spiritual growth.

6. The Nature of God:

Understanding the Holy Spirit

God is a spirit, and His undivided Spirit is the Lord Jesus Christ. Scriptures such as John 14:17-20, Matthew 18:18-20, and 2 Corinthians 3:17 affirm this truth. Zechariah 14:5-10 and Isaiah 9:6 further reveal the nature of God. Jesus is the great “I Am” of the Old Testament (John 8:24-58). He is the one and only God seated upon the throne (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:2-8; Revelation 5:1-10). Jesus embodies both the lion and the lamb simultaneously (Colossians 2:8-10; Revelation 7:14; Revelation 19:1-6; Revelation 21; Revelation 22). He is the true God upon the throne (Revelation 1:1-18) and is called the Almighty, the Alpha, and the Omega.

7. Holiness Manifested:

The Inward and Outward Work

Holiness begins within and should manifest outwardly in our actions and lifestyles (Ephesians 2:22). The work of the Holy Spirit regenerates us daily as we continually repent and seek His presence. This inward transformation leads to a life that reflects the character of Christ, demonstrating love, joy, peace, and righteousness in our interactions with others.

Our lives become a testimony of God's grace and power.

8. The Blood, Water, and Spirit

The triad of blood, water, and Spirit is essential to our salvation (1 John 5:6). The blood of Jesus cleanses us, the water of baptism applies that cleansing, and the Spirit empowers us to live holy lives. Understanding this triad is vital for grasping the fullness of the salvation experience. Each element plays a critical role in our redemption and ongoing sanctification.

9. The Essentiality of Holiness

Holiness is not optional; it is essential for salvation (1 Peter 1:18-23). The call to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16) is a directive for every believer. As we submit to the work of the Holy Spirit, we become vessels of His grace, reflecting His light in a dark world. Our pursuit of holiness is a response to God's love and a testament to our commitment to Him.

10. Metaphorical and Poetic Insights on Holiness

Metaphorical Meaning: Holiness can be likened to a garden nurtured by the Spirit. Just as a garden requires sunlight, water, and care to flourish, our spiritual lives need the light of God's Word, the water

of the Spirit, and the nurturing of our obedience to grow in holiness. The fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace—are the blossoms that testify to a life transformed.

Poetic Meaning: In the quiet of the heart, where the Spirit dwells, A whisper of grace through the silence swells. With every breath, a promise renewed, In holiness woven, our souls are imbued. From ashes to beauty, His light shines through, A tapestry woven, our lives made anew.

11. Scriptural References on Holiness

Call to Holiness Within:

- Ephesians 4:24: “And that you put on the new man, which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”
- 1 Peter 1:15-16: “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”
- Romans 12:1-2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Call to Holiness Without:

- 2 Corinthians 7:1: “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”
- James 1:27: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

12. Insights from Sages and Rabbis

- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel: “Holiness is not a quality of God, but the quality of our relationship with God. It is the awareness of the divine presence in our lives.”
- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: “To be holy is to be aware of the sacred in the everyday; it is to see the divine in the mundane.”
- Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson: “Holiness is not a retreat from the world but a commitment to bring the divine into the world.”

13. Apostolic Pentecostal Theologians on Holiness

1. David Bernard:

- Quote: “Holiness is not merely a set of rules; it is

the result of a relationship with God that transforms us from the inside out.”

2. G.T. Haywood:

- Quote: “The holiness of God demands a response from us; we must pursue holiness as a reflection of His character.”

3. J. Delano Ellis:

- Quote: “Our separation from the world is not an act of isolation but a declaration of our identity in Christ.”

4. William H. Murphy Jr.:

- Quote: “Holiness is the essence of our faith; it is the manifestation of God’s presence in our lives.”

14. Conclusion

In conclusion, holiness is a divine work that begins within us and manifests outwardly. Through the New Birth, we receive the Holy Spirit, empowering us to live lives that honor God. As Apostolic Pentecostals, we embrace the truth of one God—Jesus Christ—who calls us to a life of holiness and separation from the world. The call to holiness is not just a command; it is an invitation to experience the fullness of life in Christ. May we continually seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance, allowing Him to transform us into His image, reflecting His holiness in all we do.

This booklet serves as a guide for understanding the transformative power of holiness through the New Birth experience. May it inspire and equip believers to pursue a deeper relationship with God and a life marked by His holiness. Let us embrace the call to holiness and allow the Holy Spirit to work within us, manifesting His power and grace in our lives.

Emphasis on Water Baptism in Jesus' Name

It is crucial to reiterate that water baptism must be performed in the name of Jesus only. This is not a mere formality; it is the biblical mandate that aligns with the teachings of the apostles. The invocation of the name of Jesus during baptism is essential for the remission of sins and the fulfillment of God's plan for salvation. Every believer must ensure that their baptism adheres to this doctrine, as it reflects the authority of Jesus and the significance of His name in our lives.

By understanding the importance of water baptism in Jesus' name, we can fully appreciate the transformative power of the Holy Spirit working within us, guiding us toward a life of holiness and righteousness.