

# A Call For Holiness

A couple of years ago, I got the opportunity to go to a shop and observe a potter design a vase. When I initially walked in the shop, I was amazed at the prices of the vases he had on display (very expensive). I watched him design two vases and was in awe with the outcome. All of a sudden, he threw one of the vases in the garbage. I asked him why did he toss the vase in the garbage. To me it was beautiful! It looked like nothing was wrong with it. The potter pulled the vase out of the garbage and said look at it again and I couldn't see anything wrong. He explained to me that one was made of genuine material and the other one fake material.

I am no longer amazed when I see or hear that people who acknowledge themselves as Christians, but habitually act contrary to the teachings of our Lord and Savior. People imitate others because they are not genuine themselves. At times some of the preachers or teachers of the gospel speak on prosperity (whether spiritual or monetary) and they will dilute the message because they don't want to lose that popularity with the people (See 1 Timothy 4:3-4). The answer to our issue is simply obedience to God. My brothers and sisters, [God is calling His children to Holiness](#). If Jesus was to open our closet doors, we could see who was not genuine and we might go into a shock! Everybody in the pulpit, on the audio team, on the praise and worship ministry, on the hospitality ministry, on the deaconess, elder, usher, or ministry board has not accepted the call to Holiness. Please keep this in mind, we must be delivered from watching others. Yes, God will reveal it to us, but we must remember it is a self-examination. We must ask our Lord if He is pleased with our behavior. If He is not pleased and we continue to be disobedient, we will find ourselves thinking we are genuine, when actually we are not! Remember God sees and knows everything. We must quickly come to that conclusion that we must stop talking and (pretending) as well.

**ISAIAH 29:13-16 NLT** – (13) And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote. (14) Because of this, I will once again astound these [hypocrites](#) with amazing wonders. The wisdom of the wise will pass away, and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear." (15) What sorrow awaits those who try to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their evil deeds in the dark! "The LORD can't see us," they say. "He doesn't know what's going on!" (16) How foolish can you be? He is the Potter, and he is certainly greater than you, the clay! Should the created thing say of the one who made it, "He didn't make me"? Does a jar ever say, "The potter who made me is stupid"?

**EZEKIEL 33:31-33 NLT** – (31) So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say. Their mouths are full of lustful words, and their hearts seek only after money. (32) You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument. They hear what you say, but they don't act on it! (33) But when all these terrible things happen to them—as they certainly will—then they will know a prophet has been among them."

**MATTHEW 15:7-9 NLT** – (7) You [hypocrites!](#) Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, (8) 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. (9) Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'

A "[hypocrite](#)" (in classical greek) is an actor on a stage; someone who is assuming a part, and (therefore) "pretending to be something they are not." In fact, early on, the actors would literally wear masks (of perhaps, a smile or a frown) to portray the character. So an actor (in real life) could be the most foul and rotten person but once they put on that "smiling mask", they become someone or something else to the people watching! So we can see how the term "hypocrite" came to be used of anyone who was pretending to be what they are not!

People pretend to be many things....but God sees the heart, so if our professed love for God doesn't produce the obedience to Him described in His written word (the bible), then we too are pretending and wearing a mask....."claiming" love for God while our actions consistently demonstrate rebellion as we disobey God. Even when we do what appears right on the outside we do it with a wrong heart (one that deviates from what God has clearly said and what we think is best.) It doesn't matter how educated we are. It doesn't matter how wise we claim to be. It doesn't matter what your position is, if we are not Holy, our anointing will not be from God! Instead **man acknowledges us.**

Let us all examine ourselves in the light of God's word and ask Him to change anything He finds to be hypocritical. It can be done and it must be done. God has told us to be "[Holy because He is Holy](#)". To be Holy means to [set yourself apart](#) from [all](#) worldly standards! It can be done, for hope is only in the believer.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**ACTS 9:15-19**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**Who are you listening to for wisdom, knowledge and understanding? God or god?**

