

Gospel and Holiness of God — 2

(Hallowed be Your Name)

Outline

1. Gospel and Hallowed be Your Name
2. Meaning and Importance of Hallowed be Your Name
3. Lord's Prayer and Hallowed be Your Name

1. Gospel and Hallowed be Your Name

The O. T. Hebrew word for holy is “**qadash**”, and the N. T. Greek is “**hagias**”. Both mean to be cut and separated far above. When the Bible says God is holy, it means God is far above and beyond anything in creation, including man, whom He created in His image. The Bible says, “His Name is holy” (Isa 57:15, Luke 1:49). None is comparable to Him. We may have a list of holy people or angels we respect. God is not on that list because He is far above and beyond the list of any created being. No one exists in His category. (1 Sam 2:2 “*There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you*”).

When you think God is so far above and beyond sinful man, how can we be reconciled to Him and draw near? **We cannot**. But the good news, **the gospel**, is that the Son of God came down to earth in Jesus Christ to pay our penalty for sin and reconcile us to God—by His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

When Jesus knew His hour for His death was drawing near, He prayed in *John 12:27-29* “*Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.*” ²⁸ **Father, glorify your Name!**” Then a voice came from heaven, “*I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.*” ²⁹ *The crowd there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.*

We know, “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*” (1 Tim 1:15). But what does our salvation ultimately mean? To save us from hell and go to heaven? Is that all? It means as Jesus said in John 12:27-28, “*It was for this very reason I came to this hour.*” **Father, glorify your name!**” We will study this more in the next paragraph.

2. Meaning of Hallowed be Your Name.

The Greek word **hagiazō**, used for “**hallowed**”, is translated almost everywhere in the New Testament as **sanctified**. “**Sanctified be Your Name**”. We will better understand its meaning when we refer to the other places in the Bible that use the word “sanctified” concerning God.

- i. *Num 20:12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy (sanctified) in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”* (concerning Moses striking the rock instead of speaking to it as God commanded him). So, **trust or believe the Lord** will honour His Name as holy (sanctified). Do our lives demonstrate that we trust God in good times and in bad? Or do worry, frustration, complaining, and arguing dominate our lives?
- ii. *Isa 8:12-13 Do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. 13 The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy (sanctified); he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.* **Fear of the**

Lord, more than fear of what man says, will honour God as holy (sanctified). Are we more concerned about what people will say or what God will say when we make choices in our life?

- iii. Lev 22:31-32 *"Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord. 32 Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites"*. **Obedience** to God's commands will acknowledge God as holy (sanctified). A life of obedience will always glorify God.
- iv. Lev 10:1-3 *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'"*. We can see that **sanctified (hallowed) is the same as glorified**.

"Father, glorify Your Name" means the same as *"Father, hallowed be Your Name"*. This prayer is the principle that Jesus lived by and died by. (John 7:18 *Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him....* John 8:29 *The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.*).

Our principle in life should also be to live and die for the Father's Name to be hallowed (glorified). To glorify God means to feel, think, speak and act in ways that reflect and give evidence of God's holiness, greatness, mercy, love and all His perfections. Our heart and entire life must be like a mirror that reflects the Father's glory to God and the world. Of course, to start with, we must be born again. And then increasingly yield to the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through reading the Bible, prayer and church relationships. But the main idea is to *"watch and guard your heart for everything you do flows from it"* (Prov 4:23). No worship, adoration, or obedience can flow from a heart that has no regard for God's Name. And how we respect His Name accurately indicates the state of our heart concerning our attitude towards God.

PRAYER: *Father, cause Your holy Name to be hallowed (glorified) in Your Church and my life, worthy of our trust, worthy of our obedience, treated with reverence and fear, and glorified by the way we live and die, reflecting Your greatness and the beauty of Your holiness.*

3. Lord's Prayer and Hallowed be Your Name

Our Father in heaven—is calling upon God as our Father. Though God created all human beings in His image, we all have turned away from Him. But those that turned to God in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord can call God "Father" (John 1:12-13). Jesus says others are children of the devil (John 8:41-44). Believers in Jesus are saved from God's wrath (John 3:36) and have access to our Father's tender, loving kindness (1 John 3:1, John 17:26).

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

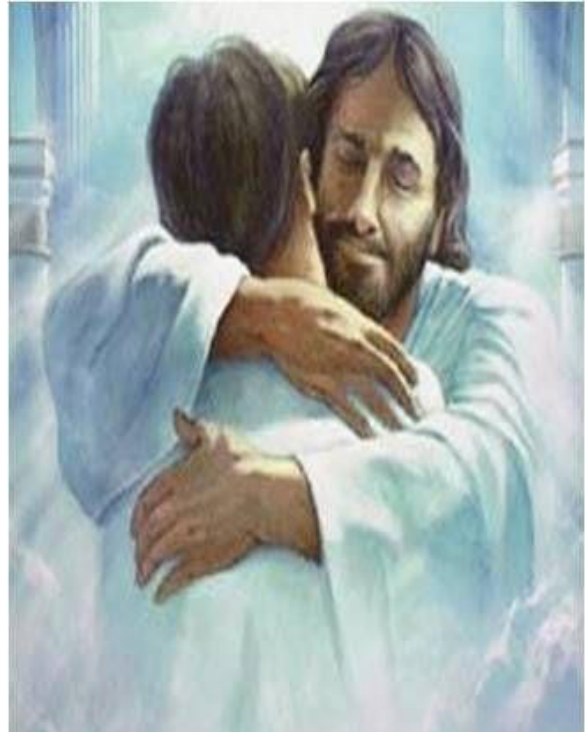
John 8:41-44 You are doing the works of your own father." *"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."* ⁴² *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires.*

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The world does not know us because it did not know him.

John 17:26 [Jesus says to the Father] I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Below are two pictures—one of a person who doesn't believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord and faces God's wrath (John 3:36) and the other, a believer in Jesus, living in God's tender loving mercy, kindness and goodness (John 3:1, 17:26). We must start our prayer with the picture on the right. God is our Father in heaven who loves us dearly.



Once we have addressed God as Father and spent time in His presence and enjoying His love, thanking and praising Him, we pray to Him, two sets of prayers (the following analysis comes from John Piper):.

The first set of prayers

- Hallowed be your Name. (Note that it is not addressing God but praying to God)
- Your kingdom come.
- Your will be done.

The second set of prayers

- Give us this day our daily bread.
- Forgive our sins, as we also forgive those who sin against us.
- Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The second set of prayers is my personal daily needs.

- a. I need daily bread, so I ask for it.
- b. I need forgiveness for my sins because I'm a sinner, so I ask for it.
- c. I need guidance and protection from temptation and Satan, so I ask for it.

And then with (a) fed by bread, (b) forgiven my sins, (c) protected from my sinfulness and the evil one—

then I can throw myself into the glorious work of

1. Hallowing God's Name (as it is done in heaven),
2. Seeking and Spreading God's kingdom, and
3. Doing His will as it is done in heaven.

"Hallowed be Your Name!" — is not just one of three. It's different from the other two in the first group. If we cannot have high regard for God's Name, we will not be interested in seeking and spreading His Kingdom or doing His will.

"God's Holy Name is God Himself (My Name is holy) is the supreme and absolute treasure in the universe." If you put God's holy Name on the balance of a scale on one side and the whole universe and all it contains on the other side, the latter will go up like air! Because His Name is a treasure that beats all other treasures. His Name is incomparable.

Of course, all the other five prayers are essential for this to happen the way God wants it to happen.

- If His kingdom does not come, His Name will not be hallowed.
- If His will is not done, His Name will not be hallowed.
- If we don't have food to keep us alive, we cannot hallow His Name on earth.
- If God does not forgive us our sins, we perish in hell, where nobody hallows God's Name.
- And if God does not protect us from the evil one, we will join in hating God's Name, not hallowing it.

They are all essential. But they are all secondary prayers, not the primary ones. They are all means, not the end. There is one ultimate end.

- God delivers us from evil for the hallowing of God's Name.
- God forgives our sins for the hallowing of God's Name.
- God gives bread to live for the hallowing of God's Name.
- We do the will of God for the hallowing of God's Name.
- And we submit to God's kingly rule for the hallowing of God's Name.

Jesus pushes us up from the secondary aims of God to the ultimate objective of God. All other purposes of God serve this ultimate objective of God: the hallowing, the treasuring, the loving, the glorifying of God's Name — that is, God himself.

Nothing must be more precise and unshakable to us than the purpose of the whole universe is for the hallowing (glorifying) of God's Name. "The hallowing of God's name is the end, the final goal, of all things."

Make that the purpose of your life.

NOTE: There will be many times when one or more personal needs (bread, forgiveness, deliverance from evil habits) become very important to us. We may get stuck in our praying repeatedly and fervently for these needs. That's OK. Because our heavenly Father is concerned and will answer those prayers. But keeping our focus on the ultimate prayer of hallowing God's Name will give us stability in the long run.