

# Flourishing in the Workplace – Part 3 Hallowing God’s Name

## Introduction

Last week we looked at how focusing on our Father in Heaven instead of the joys and challenges of our work gives a fresh perspective. We know that our Father in Heaven is holy, and with familiarity we can gloss over the words “Hallowed be your name” in the Lord’s prayer.

What are the implications of God’s holiness? How can you live in your workplace in a way that honor’s God’s holy name?

## 1. Praising God’s holiness

### Read

*Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. (Ps 30:4)*

*Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name. (Ps 97:12)*

*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. (Ps 103:1)*

*He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name. (Ps 111:9)*

*Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? (Ex 15:11)*

*The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin (Ex 34:6-7).*

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come (Rev 4:8)*

### Questions

- 1) These verses praise God for his holiness. What does it mean that God is holy?
- 2) Holiness belonged to God before creation and belongs to God for all eternity. Holiness is God’s essential identity which draws us near to him intimacy.
  - a) Does God holiness extend to his wisdom, mercy, justice, grace, love, righteousness? How does this influence how you do your work?
- 3) When we pray that God’s name would be hallowed, we are praising God that he is holy as creator, provider, judge, and elector of each person according to his sovereign will. We are making a commitment not to whittle God down to our size or to manipulate him. We are praying that God would be God in our lives.
  - a) Think of something that happened this week in your work - what are you praising God’s holiness for today?

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## 2. How do we respond to God’s holiness?

### Read - Isaiah 6:1-7

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

*<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

*<sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”*

### Questions

- 4) When Isaiah saw the holiness of the Lord he declared “Woe to me! ... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” (Isa 6:5). There is a paradox in this passage – rather than God’s holiness rendering us feeling unclean and unsafe, because of the blood of Christ, the holiness of God is the one place where we are clean and safe.
  - a) When you pray “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name” and you realize you are in the presence of our Holy God – what is your reaction?

## 3. Hallowing God’s name

### Read

*Isa 8:12-13 “Do not call conspiracy all that this people call conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall regard as holy (or hallow); let him be your fear, let him be your dread”.*

*Lev 22:31-33 <sup>31</sup> “Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord. <sup>32</sup> Do not profane my holy name, for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the Lord, who made you holy <sup>33</sup> and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the Lord.”*

*Ezek 36:23 – I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign Lord, then the nations will know that I am the Lord.*

*Psalm 115:1 Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness”*

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*Matt 6:9 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”*

## Questions

- 5) When we pray *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”* we are asking God to do what only God can do (see Ezek 36:23).
  - a) How could God work through you to reveal his holiness?
  - b) What is an example of what you are expecting God to do, when you pray *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”*?
- 6) How does God react to the brokenness, sin, and evil that you see around you as you do your work?
  - a) We can choose how we respond to the brokenness, sin, and evil around us in our workplace. What are some of our sinful responses?
  - b) How does knowing that God is holy eliminate fears or anxieties from our life (Isa 8:12-13)?
  - c) How can we respond in a way that hallows God’s name in our work? (some examples are in Isa 8:12-13; Lev 22:31-33)
- 7) What makes it easy in your workplace to honor God’s name?
- 8) What makes it challenging in your workplace to honor God’s name?
- 9) What do you do to remember God’s character and to honor God’s name at work?
- 10) How do the things that we pray for, flow out of praying *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”*?

## Summary

God’s holiness is a present reality and intrinsic to God’s character. There is nothing you can do, there is nothing that will occur at work today that will change God’s holiness.

You are hallowing God’s name when you choose to joyfully declare your trust in God in the midst of the joy, the excitement, the wonder, or the daily routine, or the uncertainty of your doubts and fears.

Because God is holy, you can have absolute confidence that God will keep every single one of his promises. God has promised to show the holiness of his great name among the nations. God has promised that when you prove he is Holy before the people you work with, that the nations will know that He is the Lord (Ez 36:23).

Whatever the situation you are facing at work today, when you pray *“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name”* you are asking God to set apart his holy name, and to reveal the holiness of every facet of his character in your workplace.

## Application

Share with a partner something that is going on in your work today. If God were to answer this sentence *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”* what might that look like in your workplace?

## **Flourishing in the Workplace – Part 3 Hallowing God’s Name**

Commit to pray for each other over the next week that God would perform this miracle in your workplace.