

# IPHC 21 Days of Prayer

## January 10-31, 2016

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### IPHC Core Value emphasis – We prayerfully value Holiness

Psalm 96:9 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> *Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.*

#### Week 1 – God is holy

**1 Samuel 2:2** *“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.*

**Isaiah 6:3** *And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

#### Day 1 – The holiness of God

God is unlike any other; nothing can compare to Him. God’s goodness, perfection, and “otherness” are the essence of holiness. His holiness pervades His entire being and shapes all His attributes. His love is holy. His anger is holy. His mercy is holy. He is wholly holy!

*The word ‘holy’ (hagios) means set apart, different, other-ness, undivided, whole, sound, complete in Himself. Ponder this. Then consider that this is the One who knows you, loves you, and longs to be with you.*

**Hosea 11:9b** *For I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you.*

**Psalm 99:9** *Extol the LORD, our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for holy is the LORD, our God.*

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#### Day 2 – What is God’s holiness?

Love, goodness, justice? It is not something easily defined. It is neither a demanding standard of life nor a threatening idea of perfection. In the Old Testament His holiness was something fearful; the destruction of Pharaoh’s army at the parting of the sea, the burning bush, the mountain of God that if anyone touched they would die, and being forbidden to touch the ark of the covenant for fear of death. Reverence and absolute obedience were required to approach the holiness of God. But God intended for His creation to experience His glory. God intended for each one of us to see and know and to reap the benefits of His holiness.

*Open my eyes, Lord, to the wonders of Your holiness in my own life!*

**Exodus 15:11**, Moses asks, “Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders.”

**Deuteronomy 7:6** For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

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### **Day 3** –The character and nature of a holy God

Man shares many of the attributes of God. We were created in His image and have the ability to display love, mercy, faithfulness, even if in a lesser degree than our Creator. Some of God’s attributes we will never be able to share – His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence. Holiness, also, is not an inherent part of man’s nature. God set man apart and calls him holy unto Him. In our relationship with Christ and with our Holy Father, He imputes to us His holiness. In relationship we strive to be like Him.

*Pray today for deeper relationship with Him and make knowing Him your greatest goal.*

**Isaiah 5:16** But the Lord of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

**Isaiah 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

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### **Day 4** – Our holy God hates sin because He is love

Psalm 5:4 makes clear that no evil or wickedness can have anything to do with a holy God. Sin separates us from Him. He is love and love is expressed in relationship. Our relationship with Him suffers when sin is present, so there is no better reason for God to hate sin. Sin caused Adam and Eve to run away and hide from God. Sin always separates, while love always demands restoration. Holiness sets man apart from sinfulness and all that would defile. Holiness sets man apart to a God who *is* love.

*Rejoice that our Father has set us apart for relationship with Him and for His purposes and holiness.*

**Psalm 5:4** For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

**Psalm 92:15** ...to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

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## **Day 5** – God is the source of holiness

In several passages of scripture we get the idea that “because He is, so can we be.” The understanding is that He is the originator and He is the very definition of the holiness He is requiring of us, so it is possible for us to be holy just because He says so. He is the source of all life. We have the choice to make every aspect of our lives to be shaped and directed toward God. He is the author and finisher of all we are.

*Lord, we choose You today. Shape us to Your specifications. We choose holiness!*

**Lev. 19:2** Be ye holy because I am holy

**Lev. 11:44** For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves ...

**Leviticus 20:7** Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God ...

**Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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## **Day 6** –The covenant and its relationship to our holiness

According to scripture, we are separated, set apart, and dedicated. We belong to God because we are people of the New Covenant. We have been invited through the shed blood of Jesus, and our covenant in that blood, to be partakers of God’s holy nature. It’s hard to fathom that as we choose to follow and receive His covenant promises, He imparts His holiness to us! That covenant is the very way to holiness.

*Pray today for understanding of the “Way of Holiness” and the application of that way in your life.*

**1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.

**2 Peter 1:4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**Isaiah 35:8-9** And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; ... but the redeemed shall walk there.

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## **Day 7** – Can I become like God?

Life is full of choices; difficult and easy choices, life-changing and insignificant ones, even life or death choices. Can we choose to become like God? Every day we are faced with that choice – to walk in righteousness while making every effort to please Him or to “go with the flow”, choose whatever pleases my flesh, or to follow the crowd. What is interesting is that God chose us. He even calls us a

“chosen race”. He says we are His “chosen” people. We are created in His image, so we, obviously, can choose the righteous way, the way of holiness.

*Be grateful today that God chose you, as His own, and He trusts you to choose to become more like Him every day.*

**1 Peter 1:13-16** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,<sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**Numbers 16:7** “...and it shall be that the man whom the Lord does choose, he shall be holy...”

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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## Week 2 – Holiness in us

**Ephesians 1:4-5** ... just as [in His love] He chose us in Christ [actually selected us for Himself as His own] before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy [that is, consecrated, set apart for Him, purpose-driven] and blameless in His sight. In love<sup>5</sup> He predestined *and* lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention *and* good pleasure of His will—

**Day 8** – Transformed in the image of Christ.

Jesus is the unique revelation of God. We are united with Christ and in relationship with Him as we receive Him as our savior and strive to walk by faith in Him. We are changed in this process, transformed to His likeness. We are *in Christ*. What a concept, what a truth!

*Today pray about how that looks in your life and how you can become more aware of your ‘in Christ-ness.’ Look up the scriptures that include the words ‘in Christ’ in order to increase in understanding of who you are. This is transformation!*

**1 Corinthians 1:30** And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

**2 Corinthians 3:18** ... we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.

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## Day 9 – How can I be sanctified?

As a Christ follower I recognize immediately that I am set apart from the world. To be a Christian is much more than just *believing* in God. It means becoming one with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit. Colossians 3:3 says I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The fact is, by virtue of our receiving Christ as our Savior and determining to follow Him, we are united with God and participate in life with Him. We are sanctified, set apart, because we have invited Him to dwell in us.

*Pray for the deeper revelation of your sanctification and full understanding of what that means in your life today.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Rom 12:1** (Amp) Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, *which* is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

**Galatians 3:26** (Amp) For you [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified and] are all children of God [set apart for His purpose with full rights and privileges] through faith in Christ Jesus.

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## Day 10 – Consecration

Webster's Dictionary defines *consecrate* as: dedicated to a sacred purpose; separation with relationship to God.

Our part in consecration is to separate ourselves from sinful living. We do this through repentance and making righteous choices to discontinue the pursuit of carnal endeavors that may have been part of our former (pre-salvation) lives. As we apply our hearts and minds to the Word and prayer, we are turning away from earthly pursuits and actually 'drawing near to God.' As we do our part, God does His. He draws us more, cleanses us, washes us in the Word, renews our minds and prepares us for His use. Our steps toward Him are met with His cleansing and His presence. As we experience His presence we find that we are hungry for more! That is consecration.

*Draw near today. Pray about your part in the process of consecration and invite His presence as He does His part in consecrating to His purposes.*

**Leviticus 20:7** You shall consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am the Lord your God.

**Hebrews 12:1** (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**James 4:8** (TLB) And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him.

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### **Day 11** – Temptation - what if I fall?

Ricardo Sanchez, a Christian singer said, “The devil knows your name, but calls you by your sin. God knows your sin but calls you by your name.” A fresh start is always available with God! We repent and go again! Be aware that it is the enemy of our souls who constantly reminds us of our sins, and tempts us to return to the familiar past. God, as we continue to turn to Him, will constantly call us forward, to put more distance between our carnal past and the future that He is working in us. If we fall, we get up and move on. Repent, rinse, repeat.

*Are you being tempted by your past sins and mindsets or tempted to listen to the enemy's taunts? Repent. Draw in. Don't worry about the 'what if's.' God knows your sin but loves you for who you are!*

**1 John 1:9** (Amp) If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us *continually* from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].

**Matthew 26:41** (NIV) Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

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### **Day 12** – Restoration

The promise of a fresh start! We realize that God's mercy is greater than any mistake we can make and more powerful than any bondage of the enemy. This is the basic concept of restoration: to cause to turn back, a returning, making whole again, to be made complete. Throughout the Old Testament we see Israel's disobedience, God's judgment upon them and then exile and separation from Him. In each instance as they returned to Him in repentance, God in His great mercy restored them to Him and even promised restoration of whatever was lost in exile. (Leviticus 26:40-45) We too are promised restoration as we return to Jesus whether from our own poor choices or the enemy's efforts to distract and destroy.

*Praise Him for the gift of repentance and restoration! Pray today for one you know who is in need of these great gifts.*

**Joel 2:12** Even now,” says the Lord, “Turn *and* come to Me with all your heart [in genuine repentance], With fasting and weeping and mourning [until every barrier is removed and the broken fellowship is restored];

**Joel 2:25** I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm.

**John 10:10** The thief comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

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### **Day 13** – Overcoming temptation

The Greek word that is most often translated ‘overcomer’ means “to carry off the victory.” The word implies a battle! Battles involve resisting the enemy, strategizing to outwit the enemy and standing firm in your place of righteous victory. In some cases you turn your back and walk away from temptation as in 2 Timothy 2:22. In other cases you hold fast in your resistance and you see the enemy flee from you! (James 4:7) The Lord has equipped you for the righteous response and for every battle.

*Today, praise Him for His provision for you to overcome temptation and to resist the enemy!*

**2 Timothy 2:22** Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** (Amp) No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken *or* enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

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### **Day 14** – Relationship with God

We often make the mistake of equating holiness with morality and purity. Holiness is first and foremost *relationship*. We are *set apart* or *dedicated* to God. We *belong* to Him. This relationship establishes our holiness because we are His. So, don’t reduce the concept of *holiness* to mere morality! Holiness is primarily about our union with God in Christ and sharing Christ’s holiness.

*Meditate on this powerful truth.*

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Colossians 3:3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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## Week 3 – Living Holy

**Ephesians 3:16-19** ...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,<sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### Day 15 – Reflecting the source

Jesus Christ is the “light of the world.” He tells us that as we follow Him, we will walk in His light. We are reflectors of His light. Our effort to light the path for others and draw non-believers to the light is strongest by our influence and our example. As we allow Jesus to love through us, we demonstrate His character and holiness.

*How can we purpose to shine today? Pray through your schedule asking God for opportunities to “let His light shine” through you.*

*Lord, we pray that our light will be bright as we reflect your love and power. Amen.*

**John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Matthew 5:14-16** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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### Day 16 – The love of God in us

Love expresses itself as a flow of compassion and mercy for others. This is not a natural response for carnal man. We find as we give our hearts to the Father and allow Jesus Christ to move through us, our perspective changes to reflect and pursue His purposes rather than our own. When we give our hearts to Christ and take Him as Savior and Redeemer, the central driving force of our being becomes His love, His compassion, His mercy, His holiness. We open the floodgate of His love to flow to our hurting world.

*Lord, our prayer today is that You will flow freely through our lives. Break down any barriers that keep us from allowing Your love to be expressed. Be the center of our lives as we serve You. Amen.*

**John 13:35** By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love *and* unselfish concern for one another.”



**1 John 4:9** By this the love of God was displayed in us, in that God has sent His [One and] only begotten Son [the One who is truly unique, the only One of His kind] into the world so that we might live through Him.

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And may the Lord cause you to increase and excel *and* overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;

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### **Day 17** – Resulting in good works

Good works are the result of saving faith. Never the other way around! It is the love of God manifested in us, flowing out in righteous and holy actions that demonstrate the purpose of The Church. Those actions prick the curiosity of others to want to know about the Savior we serve. Good works, the overflow of a grateful heart for what the Lord has done for us, serve as a call to a world seeking meaning, as well as contribute to the betterment of those in need.

*We are grateful, Lord! Open our eyes and hearts to see the ways You want our gratefulness to overflow to those in need.*

**2 Corinthians 9:10** Now He who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed for sowing [that is, your resources] and increase the harvest of your righteousness [which shows itself in active goodness, kindness, and love].

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

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### **Day 18** – Influencing community

Each of us represents something and we each influence those with whom we are in contact. Whether we realize it or not, our lives impact those around us for good or bad. When we profess faith in Jesus Christ, people who are looking for answers to difficult questions will be influenced by you. On a larger scale we influence our community by how we get involved. Uniting with other believers to accomplish a community project can greatly impact a community for the kingdom.

*Lord, who am I influencing? Who is my life impacting? Is my faith overflowing in good works toward those in need? Lead me to express my unity with Christ in impactful love!*

**James 2:14-18 (NKJV)** What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? {15} If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? {17} Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is

dead. {18} But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

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### **Day 19** – connecting with others of faith

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know older Christians who can help you grow in your faith? To connect with Christians who listen to your doubts, who understand your problems? To rub shoulders with those who model a walk of faith and dependence on God? When you began your relationship with Jesus Christ you also began a relationship with other Christians. You are part of God's family! God's intent is that we live and interact as a community of believers, interrelated with each other and part of something much bigger than themselves. Our faith in Christ is walked out in our relationships with others.

*Today I choose to unite with others of like faith – in prayer and through sharing the goodness of our Lord and celebrating our unity with Christ.*

**Ephesians 4:13** ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

**Ephesians 3:6** [it is this:] that the Gentiles are now joint heirs [with the Jews] and members of the same body, and joint partakers [sharing] in the [same divine] promise in Christ Jesus through [their faith in] the good news [of salvation].

**1 Corinthians 1:10** But I urge you, believers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in full agreement in what you say, and that there be no divisions *or* factions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your way of thinking and in your judgment [about matters of the faith].

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### **Day 20** – touching needs

As our walk with Christ deepens and grows, and the attributes of Christ begin to flow, we begin to minister to the needs of those around us. Luke 3:11 expresses that truth as he says, “...the man with two tunics should share ... the one with food should do the same.” Even as Jesus increased the fish and the bread when the multitudes were fed, as we step out in faith to touch others, He multiplies our faith, compassion and mercy toward those in need.

*Lord, I will reach out in faith to my community. Increase in me your compassion, mercy and creativity for ministry to the needs of those around me.*

**Rom 12:13 NIV** "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

**2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (AMP)** <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service (offering) is not only supplying the needs of the saints (God's people), but is also overflowing through many expressions of thanksgiving to God.

<sup>13</sup> Because of this act of ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to the gospel of Christ which you confess, as well as for your generous participation [in this gift] for them and for all [the other believers in need],

**Isaiah 58:7-8** “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not to hide yourself from [the needs of] your own flesh *and* blood? <sup>8</sup> “Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your healing (restoration, new life) will quickly spring forth; Your righteousness will go before you [leading you to peace and prosperity], The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

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**Day 21** – expanding the kingdom

Luke 12:32 states “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” He has given us the kingdom. The church is given the responsibility to rule His kingdom on earth. He has given us the authority to maintain and expand the kingdom of God. Our vision is stretched beyond our daily world to encompass the community, our nation and the earth. “His kingdom come, His will be done on earth as in heaven” has become our assignment. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel” is our mandate. Even though we start where we are, God’s holiness in us gives us the motivation to reach further, to influence more, to embrace the world and increase the kingdom to His glory.

*Holy Father, move through me to establish Your kingdom on earth. Send me, Lord, to those next door or on the other side of the globe to release the Truth of Jesus Christ and Your great love! May Your holiness prevail for Your purposes in my life! Amen.*

**John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

**Mark 16:15** He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

**Mark 4:30-32** Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; 32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”