



December 11, 2016

Psalm 15

*“Showing Reverence for God”*

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Pastor Gary teaches from Psalm 15, and he explores two important questions that David asked regarding how it would be possible for unholy people to be accepted by a holy God. These questions came from a tragic incident that happened seven years into David’s reign as king. In this message Pastor Gary helps us learn more about showing reverence for and being accepted by God.

### God Exists

1. **Psalm 15:1** - *“LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?”*
2. Pastor Gary commented on the fact that David made the assumption that it would be understood that God exists.
3. The number of people in the U.S. who identify themselves as being an atheist or an agnostic has almost doubled in the last nine years.
  - a. In 2007 the number was 4.0%, and in 2016 the number is 7.1%.
4. **Psalm 14:1** - *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ ”*
5. It’s foolish to deny the existence of God!
  - a. The atheist denies the evidence of God in creation.
    - i. **Romans 1:20** - *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

- b. The atheist denies a moral absolute, and a standard of right and wrong.
- c. The atheist denies personal accountability.

### God Is Holy (And We Are Not)

- 6. Pastor Gary commented on the fact that David made the assumption that it would be understood that God is holy.
- 7. The word holy means sacred, consecrated, pure, and perfect.
- 8. Everything about God is perfect and pure.
- 9. The Bible speaks about God's holiness in terms of his name, his throne, and his temple/dwelling, all being holy.
- 10. God declares that he is holy.
  - a. **Isaiah 43:15** - *"I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King."*
- 11. The only word in the Bible that is used to describe God in triplicate is the word holy.
  - a. **Isaiah 6:3** - *"... 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' "*
  - b. **Revelation 4:8** - *"... 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.' "*
- 12. The obvious distinction between a holy God and us is that we are not holy.

### A Tragic Incident

- 13. God told David that he would not be the one to build the Temple, however, David wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem with great celebration, because he wanted Mt. Zion to be God's Holy Hill, and be the place where the people worshiped God until the time came for the Temple to be built.
- 14. **2 Samuel 6:1-11** - *"David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of*

*Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God. Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, 'How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?' He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him inside the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household."*<sup>1</sup>

- a. Abinadab's house was about eight miles west of to Jerusalem.
  - b. In [Exodus 25:10-22](#), we read about God's instructions to Moses on how to build the Ark.
15. Jewish tradition maintains that during the three months the ark was at the home of Obed-Edom, David was trying to figure out what went wrong, and it was during this time that he wrote [Psalm 15](#).
  16. David was full emotions, including fear and anger, concerning the fact that his attempt to do a God-honoring thing resulted in tragedy and death.
  17. David came to understand that transporting the Ark of the Covenant on a cart drawn by oxen was not God's prescribed method!
  18. The Ark was to be transported by four priests, who carried the Ark on poles on their shoulders.
  19. God's way was a perfect visual of lifting God up and worshiping him!
  20. The cart and oxen was a visual of dragging God along by farm animals!
  21. When Uzzah, an unholy man, came into contact with a holy God, he was stricken dead.
  22. In [1 Chronicles 15](#) we read the account of David and the Levites following God's way of transporting the Ark of the Covenant.

---

<sup>1</sup> Perez Uzzah means, outbreak against Uzzah.

- a. **1 Chronicles 15:10-15** - *“Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. He said to them, ‘You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.’ So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD.”*

### Showing Reverence For God - Our Walk

23. **Psalms 15:2** - *“He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous...”*
24. God demands right living from us, which is different from perfection.
25. The Hebrew word for blameless is tamim, which means having moral integrity.
26. When we will live this way, both publicly and privately, we will live a life of moral integrity.
27. **1 John 2:6** - *“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”*
28. **Proverbs 14:2** - *“He whose walk is upright fears the LORD, but he whose ways are devious despises him.”*
29. When we first come to faith in Christ, we need to remember that it takes time to learn to walk uprightly.
30. **Colossians 3:7-10** - *“You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”*

## Showing Reverence For God – Our Words

31. The person who shows reverence for God is the person:
  - a. **Psalm 15:2** – *“who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue...”*
  - b. **Psalm 15:3** – *“[who] casts no slur on his fellow man...”*
  - c. **Psalm 15:4** – *“who keeps his oath, even when it hurts...”*
32. God hears every word we speak, and every word we think!
33. Words matter!
34. **Titus 3:1-2** – *“Remind the people... to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.”*
35. **1 Peter 2:1** – *“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.”*
36. We should never shame or disgrace others.
37. We should never say things that are racist or prejudicial.
38. We should avoid gossip.
39. The person who wants to honor God should keep his or her promises.
40. **Matthew 5:37** – *“[Jesus said,] Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’: anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”*
41. **Psalm 19:14** – *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

## Showing Reverence For God – Our Ways

42. The person who shows reverence for God is the person:
  - a. **Psalm 15:3** – *“who does his neighbor no wrong...”*
  - b. **Psalm 15:4** – *“who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD...”*
  - c. **Psalm 15:5** – *“who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent.”*

## The Sanctuary And The Holy Hill Of The Lord

43. In the context of [Psalm 15](#), David was writing of Mt. Zion in Jerusalem.
44. The Temple of God is no longer in Jerusalem, having been destroyed by the Romans in 70AD.
45. All that David wrote about in [Psalm 15](#) speaks to us of a greater sanctuary, and greater holy hill.
46. [Hebrews 8:5](#) - *"[The priests] serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and a shadow of what is in heaven."*
47. [Isaiah 66:1a](#) - *"This is what the LORD says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.' "*
48. [Acts 17:24](#) - *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands."*
49. We can approach God's sanctuary and holy hill by faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross!
50. [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) - *"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."*
51. [Jude 24-25](#) - *"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."*

### Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Psalm 15](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Why do you think there are more atheists and agnostics today?
4. Read and discuss [Psalm 14:1](#) and [Romans 1:20](#).

5. Allow the people in your group to share their thoughts about the holiness of God and what that should mean to Christians.
6. Read and discuss [2 Samuel 6:1-11](#).
7. Do you think Uzzah deserved to die?
8. How does this incident make you feel about God?
9. Spend time talking about the God-prescribed way of transporting the Ark of the Covenant and the visual that it provides concerning lifting God up and worshiping him.
10. What are some of the ways you are lifting up the Lord and worshiping him?
11. What are some of the ways people demonstrate a form of godliness or a “religious” life, but the reality is they are just “dragging God along” in a man-made way or tradition?
  - a. [2 Timothy 3:5](#) - *“... having a form of godliness but denying its power.”*
12. Read and discuss [Colossians 3:7-10](#).
13. Share examples of the ways the Holy Spirit is changing you from the inside out, and in the process causing you to grow in your faith.
14. How are you using your words to be a blessing to others?
15. Read and discuss [Psalm 19:14](#).
16. Read and discuss [Jude 24-25](#).
17. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).