

# *The* *Holiness* *of God*



an ebook by  
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Last fall, we had a problem with our television picture. Both sets transmitted a lot of fuzz. I had someone look into it, and the repairman told me we had a reception problem. Our antenna and wiring were just not doing the job. I almost went into cardiac arrest when the repairman told me what it was going to cost for the rewiring we needed to get good reception. So every time I watch TV, the focus is not that clear. It's not sharp. It's somewhat distorted, and I'm sure you know how irritating that can be.

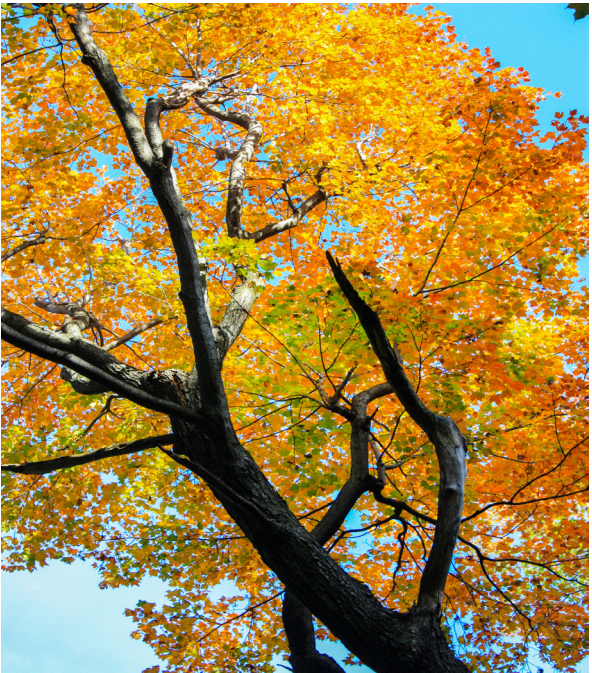
That's what may happen when you try to study God's Word. If your antenna is not working right, you won't get a clear picture. God won't come in clear. He won't be sharp, not because something is wrong with Him, but because something has gone wrong with your receiver.

Since Adam's fall, our ability to pick up the "God channel" has been greatly disturbed. As a result, we stare into the picture of the "Holy Other," our great God, but somehow He just doesn't come into clear focus. Even after you are saved, tuning in to God can be quite difficult because He is unlike anyone you will ever come into relationship or contact with in all of your life.

Of all the things about God that are hard for us to focus on, one of the most difficult is His

holiness. Holiness is one of those uncomfortable attributes because it reminds us how much we are unlike God. The holiness of God is His intrinsic and transcendent purity. It is His separateness from His creation as well as His standard of righteousness to which the whole universe must conform.

God does not conform to any standard created by others. He is the standard. Therefore, He demands that His creation conform to His standard. Some atheists say there could not be a God, given the existence and prevalence of evil. Actually, the opposite is true. You can call evil “evil” only if there is a God against whose



standard you can measure evil.

Bad wouldn't be bad unless you had a standard that made it bad. You can only call something evil because you have a standard—a good and holy God.

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Holiness is the centerpiece of God's attributes. Exodus 15 shows a great picture of God's holiness as Moses and the "sons of Israel" sing about their deliverance from Pharaoh and his army.

In verse 8, the singers begin reciting what we might call poetic anthropomorphisms—figures of speech that ascribe human characteristics to God to help us understand who He is and how He works. Moses says, "At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up," describing the parting of the Red Sea. God doesn't have nostrils, of course. Moses was saying in a poetic fashion that when God blew, when He snorted, so to speak, the waters parted.

Verse 10 also uses this language to picture the great deliverance Israel had experienced: "You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters."

Having recited Israel's great deliverance, Moses then says, "Who is like You among the gods,

O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?” Moses says that if you want to understand the majesty, the distinctiveness, the uniqueness of God, you have to understand it in concert with His holiness.

God’s holiness unlocks the door to understanding of everything else about Him. This attribute influences all the other attributes. His love is holy love. His omniscience is holy omniscience. His omnipresence is holy omnipresence. This defining attribute of God called holiness has influenced everything.



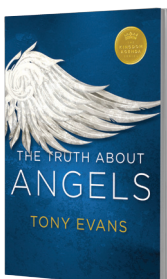
God even calls himself by that name. Throughout the Old and New Testaments He is called “The Holy One.” When Mary was reciting her praise to God at the news that she would be the mother of the Savior, she said in Luke 1:49: “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name.”

God’s holiness is central to understanding who and what He is. Nowhere in Scripture is God called “love, love, love,” “eternal, eternal, eternal,” or “truth, truth, truth.” He is never emphatically called by any name except one: “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts” (**Isaiah 6:3**). Whenever you see three words like this, you are reading an emphatic statement meaning that this is the centerpiece, this is key, this is something you don’t want to miss. Holiness is at the heart of who God is.



## GO DEEPER

If you enjoyed this, you may also be interested in other Tony Evans' teachings.

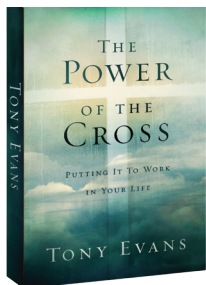


### The Truth About Angels

Few supernatural beings are of more speculation than angels. In art we see them depicted as chubby babies and fierce, radiant warriors. Sometimes they wield swords; other times a bow and arrow surrounded by floating hearts. Some have halos; some do not. Clearly we're confused.

In *The Truth About Angels*, Tony Evans goes to the Scriptures to set the record straight. He clearly and simply explains who angels are, what they do, and what it all means for the everyday lives of believers.

A short, practical, and engaging book, *The Truth About Angels* is a one-stop guide to the role of angels in the world and eternity. It will help you fight the good fight of faith, knowing that the heavenly hosts are waging war on your behalf.



## The Power of the Cross

The cross is an historical event that can bring us to heaven... And a current event bringing heaven to bear on us.

In *The Power of the Cross*, Tony Evans applies Christ's work to life today.

In three parts, he systematically and pastorally explains three aspects of the cross:

Its Person: What makes Christ unique, and how He is the center of salvation history

Its Purpose: What was accomplished on it, and how it is to be the centerpiece of our lives

Its Power: The stability and deliverance it provides in our everyday living

We wear crosses around our necks, but do we apply it to our lives? Jesus' work holds incredible power for us. It's time we embrace it, for God's glory and our joy. Read *The Power of the Cross* to find out how.



# THE URBAN ALTERNATIVE

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The Urban Alternative (TUA) is a Christian broadcast ministry founded over 30 years ago by Dr. Tony Evans. At TUA, we seek to promote a kingdom agenda philosophy designed to enable people to live all of life underneath the comprehensive rule of God. This is accomplished through a variety of means, including media, resources, clergy ministries and community impact training. The Urban Alternative's daily radio broadcast airs on over 1,000 radio outlets in America and in over 100 countries worldwide. Find us online at [TonyEvans.org](http://TonyEvans.org).

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Dr. Tony Evans is the founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national ministry dedicated to restoring hope and transforming lives through the proclamation and application of God's Word. For over three decades, Dr. Evans has also served as senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He is a prolific author of numerous books, including the best-selling Kingdom Man. His radio program, "The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans," is heard daily on over 1,000 radio outlets. Dr. Evans is also the chaplain for the Dallas Mavericks and former chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys.



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