

may 2

can't touch this

"but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'you shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" gen 3:3

forgive me for even making the comparison, but today i was thinking about the holiness of God again and words from the mc hammer tune in the 90's kept coming to mind - "u can't touch this."

indeed, none of us can come near to the holiness of God. moses pleaded with God, "please, show me Your glory." exo 33:18 His glory would most definitely include His holiness. the definition i found for holy - spiritually whole or sound; of unimpaired innocence and virtue; free from sinful affections; pure in heart; godly; pious; irreproachable; guiltless; acceptable to God.

yes, it is acceptable to God. it is pleasing to God. it is God. HE IS HOLY! "be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." rom 12:2 i used to have a pastor who would say, "His will is good and perfect and that's the only thing acceptable to God."

we certainly will not attain perfection until we shed these tents and receive our new bodies. sin, imperfection and error, is now the "default setting" of these bodies. yes, they are being "restored", but

restorations often take pain-staking care and time.

i don't want to wander too far from the topic at hand - holiness. the point is, we can always look around us and our viewing will find some who are better and some who are worse than ourselves. they are not to be our goal or our gloat. the only person we need to be better than is the person we were yesterday.

i heard a preacher speak of the holiness of God yesterday with tears flowing from his eyes. he had an encounter and it had become "imprinted" - more than a memory. he had only caught a glancing glimpse (maybe 90 seconds) but was forever changed. i know my words could never convey his testimony.

he said in the mist of shaking and weeping it was hard to catch his breath. the holiness of God was so majestic. it was like the greatest royalty of any royalty one has ever experienced. (after all, He is the King of kings) the shame is, we have have lost our awe of royalty. we know them as only people like us, birth alone distinguishing them. "even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer." 2 cor 5:16 soon we shall know Him in His glory.

true royalty, true majesty brings one into fear and awe at the same time. (something dreadful and breathtaking at the same time - you want to look away but can't) knowing "all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." heb 4:13 it is a light and knowing that penetrates our innermost being. our righteousness quickly becomes "dung" in it's

presence. "woe is me, for i am undone! because i am a man of unclean lips, and i dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." isa 6:5

one becomes acutely aware that no act by us could hide the mess we have made of things. only the precious blood of Jesus fuels the ambition burning within us - to enter the holy of holies. only the blood can fulfill the desire that drives us - "that we may be partakers of His holiness." heb 12:10

our eyes must be steady on the prize - to be acceptable, to be like Him. there's nothing we can do in ourselves to attain that except, to submit and let Him have His way. if we do that to the "best" of our ability, Jesus will always make up the difference. if we slack off and coast on His grace; if we do not treasure the cost of that blood, then you should seriously consider whether you are "in the faith" or not. "when Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross, it was not the blood of a martyr; or the blood of one man for another; it was the life of God poured out to redeem the world." - Oswald Chambers

what can wash away my sin?  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
what can make me whole again?  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

o precious is the flow  
that makes me white as snow;  
no other fount i know;  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

no, we "can't touch this." but our reach should always exceed our grasp. "for the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head." mark 4:28 so it is in the spirit realm also. the growth may be gradual but it must be steady. "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." col 1:10

"i will see Your face in righteousness; i shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness." psa 17:15  
maranatha!