

January 25, 2021

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11 NIV

This is a very practical commandment. Within it, God gives specific illustrations on how to obey it in real life. The first three commandments talk about how important it is to keep God first and center in your life, and then, in His infinite wisdom, God realized that we needed a little direction on how to do that! So He reminds us about the Sabbath day. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

How does anything become Holy? We find a clue in the story of Moses at the Burning Bush. Moses was told to take off his shoes because “...*the place where you are standing is holy ground.*” What made the ground holy? Special dirt molecules? No – it was holy because Jesus was there! It was holy because Moses was in the presence of Jesus. That is how we can keep the Sabbath holy; by being in the presence of Jesus.

Kneel and bow in the presence of Jesus. Spend time with Jesus; acknowledge Him as Creator. Acknowledge His power, His mercy, His love, and His provision. What follows in the wake of such time spent with God is **love for God that transcends love for self**, and as our love for our Lord grows, fears that assault from the world lose their power.

Most of us understand the power of love. It’s invincible! Consider the love of a parent for a child, who longs for a meaningful relationship with that child no matter how far away that child may be, no matter if that child has spurned their love. Love is a powerful thing, which shouldn’t surprise us as love is the basis of God and His character. This fourth commandment is a gift from God, **a guide** to plug us into that strong, unassailable love.

We are benefitted by the love that streams from God to us, but when it starts flowing from us **back to God**, than it benefits us even more! It takes us to a place of safety and certainty and replaces it with invaluable peace. That kind of love is powerful, life changing, and **SAFE**.

That kind of love *casts out all fear. 1 John 4:18*