

Exodus 3:5 - "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

I'm actually not commanding you to do something. This is our heavenly Father speaking, not I. He spoke these words to Moses, who was tending sheep in the wilderness near Mount Horeb. Moses heard his name being called from within a bush that was on fire but not burning up...and it was the voice of God calling him - calling him out of the wilderness to fulfill a heavenly purpose for his life.

Moses at first resisted the call of God, protesting that he was inadequate, could not speak well, was a nobody. But God said, "I will be with you." God worked with Moses, shaping him into a humble and holy man, one whom He would call His friend.

Today we are likewise standing on holy ground. This place is called Chapel Emmanuel, which means "God with us." As God promised Moses, "I will be with you," the same is true for us. God is right here, right now. And as He did with Moses, God is desiring that we be made holy vessels.

We are all aware that cleanliness is imperative in a hospital setting. Instruments are scrupulously sterilized, doctors and nurses scrub their hands raw and then put on gloves; even the patient must apply beforehand a special antiseptic solution and cover their hair so as to not contaminate the operating room. Everything possible is done to avoid infection.

In a spiritual sense, we come into this hospital chapel to meet with our holy God and to trust Him to heal us physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally. He allows us to come just as we are - but He desires to cleanse and purify us so that nothing will hinder His fellowship with us or block the prayers that we offer by faith. He tells us that He desires clean hands and pure hearts. He assures us that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

This is a place where heaven meets earth. Elizabeth Barrett Browning expressed this truth with her words: "Earth is crammed with Heaven, and every common bush afire with God; but only he who sees takes off his shoes." We, as believers in Jesus Christ, have the assurance that He not only sees us, but lives in us by the power of the Holy Spirit as He works with us to confirm His word.

Jesus is the living Word, the word that God sent forth to heal us, to reconcile spirit, soul and body. That Word is quick and powerful and

sharper than even a surgeon's scalpel. That Word is coming forth right here and now to heal you.

In John 15:7, Jesus tells His disciples, "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you." This also applies to you and me. If you abide in Him, if you make Jesus your dwelling place, He says that whatever you ask in His name, the Father will give you. Dare to take Him at His word. He who promised is faithful. If He said it, He will do it.