

SANCTIFICATION- Baptism With Fire

I. **WHAT IS THE TWO FOLD MEANING OF SANCTIFICATION, (hagiasmos - Greek), OR HOLINESS?**

- A. Separation from evil. The first aspect of sanctification is to separate ourselves from all forms of personal sin.

"For this is the will of God, yoursanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality."

(1 Thess. 4:3)

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse our-selves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

(2 Cor.7:1)

- B. Dedication to God. We must not only be separated from evil but also devoted to the use and service of God. A house, a part of a field, the firstborn male child, and even Jesus Himself are described in Scripture as being sanctified or set apart unto the Lord. The word holy can also mean "totally". We are to be totally set apart for God's use.
(See Leviticus 27:14-16; Numbers 8:17; John 10:36.)

2.. When are we sanctified?

- A. When we come to Christ, we are instantly sanctified and holy before the Lord. Positionally in the sight of God we are instantly sanctified or holy. We will never be any more perfect in God's sight because our righteousness is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason all believers are designated "saints" in the New Testament, and Paul addresses the Corinthian believers who were far from perfect as "sanctified". **(1 Cor. 1:2.)**

"By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

(Heb. 10:10)

"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." **(Heb. 10:14)**

- B. Progressively. In practicality, we are becoming more holy as we grow in our knowledge of Christ. The old things of our lives are passing away and new things are coming. We learn what it is to walk and live in the holiness that God in Christ has declared is ours. Since sanctification is progressive, it is a process.
2 Cor. 3:18 shows how Christ operates in us through the Holy Spirit to transform us by degrees into His own glorious image.

"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

3. What are some of the ways God uses to accomplish His sanctification in

our lives?

A. The Holy Spirit. Jesus positionally sanctifies us but it is the Holy Spirit who causes it's manifestation. The Holy Spirit convicts us of the sin still in our lives and illumines the Word of God to us in order to sanctify us.

"According to the foreknowledge of God the Father,
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit." **1 Peter 1:2**

B.. Gods Word. In **John 17:17** Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy Word is truth." Prayerful study of the Bible and attentive listening to the messages from the Word of God by anointed servants of the Lord are designed as a means toward sanctification. **Ephesians 4:11-12** says the five-fold ministry was given for the purpose of the perfecting of the saints. **Ps. 119** is full of verses that talk about the Word of God as that which brings sanctification into our lives.

"How can a young man keep his was pure? By keeping it according to Thy word." (**Psalms 119:9**)

"Thy Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee." (**Psalms 119:11**)

C. Trials and tribulations. God uses trials, temptations, tribulations (pressures), troubles, and persecution to progressively separate us from the influence of the flesh, the world, and the devil.

"And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not." (**Deut. 8:2**)

The Bible says we reap what we sow. When we begin to see the crop that we have planted, we are caused to sanctify ourselves of such things in the future. We learn that it is not profitable to sow sin and we put it out of our lives. **2 Cor. 7:1** says we cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of sin.

D. Chastening. God also uses chastenings in this long process that may require many experiences.

"But He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness." (**Hebrews 12:10**)

II. WHAT IS THE POWER OF SANCTIFICATION?

No longer do we live, but Christ lives in us daily. No longer do we fight evil with evil, or carnality with carnal weapons. Instead, we overcome evil with good. We replace the old life with a new life in Christ. **1 John 4:4** says, "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." We don't have to put up with sin in our lives any longer. Instead, we can have faith in God. He is alive and ruling in our hearts now. "We can through Christ" becomes the motto of our new life.

What do we do with the bad in our lives? We overcome by replacing it with good. Since there is none good but God, we let God rule our lives. Sin doesn't have power over us anymore.

The Apostle Paul writes in **Rom. 6:11**, "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." This is your power.

III. WHAT IS THE NEW POTENTIAL OF SANCTIFICATION?

The new potential of sanctification in our lives is perfection. In **Matthew 5:48** Jesus said, "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Because of a new purpose and a new power, we can look forward to God's new potential in us. His perfection is possible to attain or He would not have commanded it of us. Our Father is perfect as only God can be perfect. He commands us to be perfect as only God's children can be perfect through His enabling grace.