

## Work Out Your Salvation

*Therefore, my beloved, ...continue to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you to will and to do according to his good purpose.*(PHI2:12-13) God gives a command of ongoing obedience for those already saved. It is for believers to make a continuing, sustained effort to work out to ultimate completion their salvation, which has been graciously granted to them by God through their faith in Jesus Christ. This statement implies a need to live out—to practice, demonstrate, exhibit—the salvation which believers have in Christ. The concept of fear and trembling related to obedience to the Lord—to love- affection for Him and for fellow believers. Christians ought to live holy and godly lives, considering all Christ was willing to do for them. We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the process of sanctification. What is the process of spiritual growth—sanctification? Salvation is a work of God. It is a work that continues till we are made into the image of Christ. It will end at death or at the rapture, whichever happens first.(ROM8:29-30) This sanctification, the daily process of growing unto Christ and being perfected in Him within the eternal journey of our spirit, soul, body. We must rely on grace and striving to be holy. *Have nothing to do with godless myths and old grandmothers' tales; rather, exercise yourself to godliness.*(1TI4:7) We are being sanctified progressively throughout our Christian life. “Are you so foolish? After beginning with God's Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort—the flesh?(GAL3:3) What is the proper way to progress in holiness—to work out our salvation? We must work alongside God in the process of our sanctification. He gives us the desires to grow in Christ and he works in us to do it. Paul said about in his own life: *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.*(1CO15:9-10) God's grace works in each one of us to grow spiritually. We must work with God in the process of allowing him to empower us to accomplish his will for our lives. We were saved in the past when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (justification). We are being saved as we grow in grace, day by day, become more like Christ (progressive sanctification). And one day in the future, our salvation will be finally completed - and we have a body like His glorious body (glorification). His work on the Cross is sufficient to justify, sanctify, glorify all. It is the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who yield to God's grace. In order to be sanctified, we must focus on our model—Jesus Christ: He is the best role model we all could ever choose because He is perfect in every way. Jesus said: *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*(MAT11:29) He is the person we must seek to study and to emulate.(HEB12:2-3) We must fix our eyes on Jesus, means keeping him as the focus of your life. It is putting Jesus above all things of this earth. It is turning to Jesus first in the face of trials. It's a way of living fully into your faith and knowing Jesus is the center of your life. It's through walking with Jesus in faith and reflect the light and love of Christ to others. Surely, we focus on him thru time in the Word, prayer, serving, devotion to God etc. In Mat.14:22-33, as long as peter focus was fixed on Christ, he could walk on the water. When he started to focus on the wind and the waves, he began to sink. We cannot grow in Christ if we are focused on anything other than him. Christ said: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”*(JOH15:5) If we make him our focus, then all good fruits, Love, joy, peace all come from an abiding relationship. In Phi.3:10-12: Paul said he wanted to know Christ and know his power and have fellowship with his sufferings—being like Christ in suffering. His focus is on becoming like him in death, He wants to die to the world of sin/temptation, so he can be fully transformed, in order to be like Christ. The next step in the process of sanctification is to know the love of God. Love is greatest motivation for spiritual growth. Paul said: *“For Christ's love compels us”*(2CO5:14) Love of Christ motivated him to suffer, serve, and preach the gospel. By doubting the love of God, Satan would be encouraged to sin. It was with Job. Satan, by bringing trials, was trying to get Job to sin. Job's reply to his trials was, *“Even if God slay me I will still trust him”*(JOB13:5) We must grow in obedience to God. A person is born again has a new nature. so, desires to practice righteousness. Practice of daily righteousness is a proof of salvation, when they failed, they repented, continued to practice obedience. Many are like the babes in Christ. they continued in infant stage without progression. They stay in the wilderness. Make your calling and your election sure. We must practice continuous discipline in order to be holy. Sanctification happens thru study of the Word of God.(JOH17:17) It equips man of God for all righteousness. How many of us stumble because we are not disciplined in our prayer lives? Pray for God's help in avoiding sin, *Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.* To deliberately disobey God is an act of rebellion, and it can bring God's chastening hand upon His children. Let our Christian fellowship be centered around spiritual growth. Jesus and his disciples—they grew up into their salvation and fulfilled God's calling on their lives. We must develop Perseverance. Laodiceans were in pitiful condition—they were lukewarm. They were blind/apathetic in their spiritual life. We must develop a reverence/worship God. There is protection/deliverance for those who revere God. In 2TI1:6-7, *stir up the gift of God.* For God has given us a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind. God has provided all we need for life and godliness. *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*(ROM12:11) God is working in us; therefore, we must work as well. A perfect Christian is one who has achieved spiritual maturity. *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.* Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live godly, righteous, moral lives. Entire sanctification or Christian perfection, will be completed by time of Christ's return, or attained in this life before death thru application work out your Salvation effort.

Sanctification is an ongoing process, dependent on God's grace continuing action in the believer, whereby they are renewed in the man after the image of God, and are enabled more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. They will experience deliverances from sinful habits and victories in their battle with sin, forming in us Christlike character. Basic meaning of "sanctify" is to set apart to serve God. Israel were called out to worship God. Synonyms for sanctified are holy, consecrated. *Ye shall be holy unto Me.. I have separated you.*(LEV20:26) Sanctification includes own consecration to the Lord to be His. The blood was required to set things apart unto God. We are sprinkled with his blood.(1PE1:2) as temple of OT was sanctified for God's use, our bodies, temples of the Holy Spirit, are set apart for God's holy purposes. So glorify God in your body.

To become Sanctified, or Holy, one must do all that he can to live as Christ lived, according to the teachings of Christ. The purpose of God for our lives is for us to be sanctified—by His grace to become more like the image of His Son, Jesus (ROM8:29) His spirit is helping us do His will. *"I am the Lord who sanctifies you,*(LEV22:31) Sanctification is vital for a thriving Christian life, motive for believers' working out their sanctification is understanding the consequences of sin. Sanctification is the cooperative work of God and believers by which ongoing transformation into Christlikeness occurs "to present you before his glorious presence without fault"(JUD24) "without stain or wrinkle, or any other blemish"(EPH5:27) Sanctification is separation from sin/defilement and dedication to God. It is fellowship with God and His dwelling in us.

Sanctification is God's will for us. *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*(1TH4:3) Sanctification is related to the word saint; words have to do with holiness. Lord says, *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world"* and this is before His request: *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"* (JOH17:16-17) Jesus suffered that He might sanctify His people with His own blood.(HEB13:12) *in sanctification of the Spirit,* (1PE1:2) *that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.*(EPH1:4) Sanctification comes from God working in us. *"you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness, sanctification, redemption"* (1CO1:30) Having the mind of Christ means being made renew in the attitude/purifying of your mind by purging erroneous concepts from your mind with the truth. *not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* The more you talk, the more you will sin. Make reconciliation, Sanctify ourselves before partake Lord's table.

Progressive sanctification, is the effect of obedience to the Word of God in one's life. It is same as growing in the Lord. or spiritual maturity.(2PE3:18) God started the work of making us like Christ, He is continuing it. Christ's love, humility and patience are a supreme standard for Christians. This type of sanctification is to be pursued by the believer earnestly. Sanctification has in view the setting apart of believers for the purpose for which they are sent into the world:(JOH17:18) Our Lord's sanctification is pattern for our own. On this account we are called saints. Now our behavior should bear witness to our standing before God in separation from the world. Little by little, every day, we becoming more like Christ. Therefore, sanctification refers to the state or process of being set apart, i.e. made holy, as a vessel, full of the Holy Spirit.

In what ways does God work in us to give us his will? Sanctification is the Holy Spirit's work of making us holy. God works in us to will by convicting us of sin. By the Holy Spirit's convicting work in our heart, he enables us to hate/despise our sin. To be filled by Spirit continues and walk in the Spirit is to fulfill your ultimate potential of your life and bears the Spirit's fruit. God gives us holy goals—desires to be more like him, to fulfill his will. Paul desired to press to be more like Christ. *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*(PHI3:14) One of the ways he works in us to will is by the Holy Spirit reminding us of coming judgment—the second coming of Christ.

Sanctification is a journey. It is an on-going labor, a work in progress. In Rom 12.2, describes transformation toward holiness as metamorphosis caterpillar to butterfly. For us as Christians it is our vocation, our purpose, and our calling. To be pursuing sanctification is to submit our will to the Lord's. He began this good work in us; He will continue bringing us toward perfection until the day we see Christ. There is ultimate sanctification. This is the same as glorification, final salvation takes place instantaneously when Christ returns for his saints at the resurrection. Sanctification required for us to enter into God's presence *"May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"*(1TH5:23) This glorified state will be our separation from sin. *"We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is"*(1JO3:2) Jesus will appear, believers will see Him, receive a glorified body, and be with the Lord forever. *let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*(2CO7:1) When is full sanctification accomplished? Well, that depends on who you ask.

God is holy and calls his children to be holy. Holiness is attribute of God. Holiness free from unclean spirits, having Christ formed in us. God has called us to be separate from the world; to be members of a holy priesthood who offer holy praise to the Lord, lifting up clean hands in adoration. We have been chosen out to be holy to the Lord. Holiness unto the Lord. What does it mean to be a witness of Christ? It means to think, speak, and act as Jesus Christ is thinking, speaking, and acting, at all times, every moment of day. We are called to be witnesses for Christ who present a testimony about the truth.

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your Word and Promises. You are faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We submit you to sanctify us by the blood of Jesus, by the word of God, by the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name