

9. Sanctification (A Lifelong Journey)

For many of us the matter of changing our lives has been defined as being in recovery. This is a term used by our society that refers to someone who is coming out of a lifelong addiction. The problem with being in recovery is that it feeds into the illusion that addicts, alcoholics, or those who are in bondage to a compulsive behavior are different. Normal people, as they are referred to in the rooms of AA, will never understand or be able to help us in our struggles.

In reality all Christians are in the process of being changed from who they once were in the world into who God created them to be. We are fond of quoting Romans 8: 28 when we have various trials in this life. ***“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”***(Romans 8:28 NKJV) The problem is that we neglect to read on to discover what that purpose really is.

Romans 8:29 goes on to say, ***“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”*** (Romans 8:29 NKJV). God has saved us not merely for our own enjoyment which will certainly be a part of our new life, but to conform us into the image of His Son. This process is called sanctification. It is a process in which every Christian is involved, thus freeing us from our terminal uniqueness.

We need not be anxious about this process, as if we might not be good enough or even as good as other believers. It is only required of us that we surrender to God’s plan for our lives and allow Him to do in us what we could never accomplish ourselves. He doesn’t compare us to other believers, but instead teaches us and changes us at our own individual level of capability. The Bible says, ***“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust”*** (Psalms 103:14 NKJV). So we need not fear, but simply take His yoke upon us and allow Him to make us into the men and women that He desires us to become. And there is no time limit on this because we will only be made perfect in glory.

9. Sanctification

Meditation Passage for the week – 2 Peter 1

Sanctification - “The act of making holy. In an evangelical sense, the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world, and exalted to a supreme love to God.” Webster’s Dictionary

Sanctification:

1. **Begins** with **salvation**
 - A. Was **initiated** by God (**John 6:44**)
 - B. Is **accomplished** by God (**Ephesians 2:8-10** two parts)
 - C. **Continues** until this earthly life is finished (1 John 3:2)
2. Is Gods **will** or **purpose** for our lives
 - A. God is causing all things to work toward His **purpose** (Romans 8:28)
 - B. God’s purpose is to **conform** us to the image of Jesus (**Romans 8:29**)
 - C. God desires us to be **sanctified** or **pure** (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
3. God’s **Provision**
 - A. Divine **knowledge** (**2 Peter 1:1-2**)
 - B. Divine **power** (**2 Peter 1:3**)
 - C. Divine **nature** (**2 Peter 1:4**)
4. Our **responsibility**
 - A. **Apply** ourselves to the process (1 Peter 1:5)
 - B. **Continue** to bear the fruit of the Spirit (John 15:5)
 - C. Give the **glory** to God. (**Romans 4:20**)
5. We cannot **fail** if
 - A. We **apply** God’s counsel to our lives (**2 Peter 1:10**)
 - B. We **walk** in the victory He has given us (Romans 8:37)
 - C. We **remain** in his love (Romans 8:38-39)