

SANCTIFICATION, THE SECOND WORK OF GRACE

WE RECEIVE sanctification, a second, definite work of grace, through the Blood of Jesus Christ. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). It is the Blood that cleanses and makes holy. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

The Word of God teaches the twofold nature of sin, actual sin and indwelling sin. The terms "blot out," "forgive," and "pardon" refer to actual sins; while the terms "purge," "cleanse," "purify," and "sanctify" refer to indwelling sin.

Regeneration

You cannot sin and repent, and sin and repent, and call that salvation. That is conviction. When you are really saved, sin is taken out of your life.

At conversion, or regeneration, all actual sins are forgiven; we are justified, born of God, adopted into the family of God, and we become a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:4). We have the witness of the Spirit in our heart. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Corinthians 2:12).

If you say, "When I am sanctified, I shall be able to live without sin," instead of sanctification, you need justification. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (I John 3:9). When you are really saved, sin is taken out of your life. When you are born of God, you will not give way to anger. You may feel at times an uprising within, but you will have power to resist the enemy.

Inherited Depravity

The sins that we have committed in our life Jesus pardons and blots out; but the inherited sin, the inbred sin, is cleansed away, destroyed by the second work of grace. We are not responsible for the sin nature until we receive the light, for we could not repent of a sin that we did not commit. Our first parents fell, and sold their birthright; and, through disobedience to God, brought the sin nature, the fallen nature, upon the human race.

When a sinner comes to Christ and is saved, the fruits of sin are cut off, and the fruits of the Spirit appear; but the root, or nature of sin, still remains in the heart, and will sooner or later give trouble. After he is saved he still needs to go to God and have the old root, the Adamic nature, eradicated. He will then have a pure heart.

David saw his need of sanctification, of cleansing, when he prayed, "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:2,5,7).

The Sanctified Life

Sanctification means a life of constant victory and fellowship with Jesus Christ. There is a sacred oneness between your soul and God. "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one"

(Hebrews 2:11). He reigns in your heart supreme — Christ, the Sanctifier, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace. He brings a sabbath of rest to your soul, for Christ reigns within, without a rival. You enter into rest in God. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9).

Sanctification puts you on the highway of holiness, that undefiled, clean, holy walk with God. It makes other souls hungry when they see sanctification lived out day after day, under every circumstance and condition. Heaven dwells in your soul, and your life measures to the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians.

Evidences of Carnality

If there are uprisings in your heart — fretfulness, peevishness — you are not sanctified. If you get offended under provocation, if you contend for your opinion, your own way, you are not sanctified. You know whether there are uprisings of an unholy nature in your heart; and if there are, you should seek at once for sanctification.

How does your experience work, feel, and love, under test and trial? Examine the issues of your heart, and you will know whether you are sanctified. When you have the experience, there is no doubt in your heart, for you have the witness within and the life without, which make it possible for you to know that you have the experience of entire sanctification. If you do not know whether you are sanctified, it is sufficient proof that you have not the experience.

How to Obtain Sanctification

Consecrate your life; give God your all. Put everything on the altar. Make your consecration according to the Word of God. Present your body a living sacrifice, which is your reasonable service. Go down before Him with all your soul and life, and say, "God, I forever yield myself to Thee; I lay my life at Thy feet."

The moment any soul will make a complete consecration, God will cleanse the heart. That moment faith brings the Blood, and the Spirit witnesses to the heart that the work is done. The root of sin is destroyed through the perfect offering of Jesus Christ. The very nature of sin is eradicated, destroyed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Thousands Have Proved It

David received sanctification when he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10). Jacob received sanctification when he wrestled with the Angel and prevailed. Isaiah was sanctified when the fire from off the altar touched his lips.

It was this blessed experience that took the martyrs through the fire, praising God when the flames were leaping around them. God has wrought the same work in the hearts of millions who have gone on before, and many more are entering into that holy experience.

There are hundreds of witnesses today who once had the uprising within, the inbred sin; but the Blood has taken it out, root and branch. God is truly sanctifying many today by a second, definite work of grace. Hundreds throughout the world are testifying to and living the experience of entire sanctification. It means much to have that mighty power on the soul, day by day, having no mind or will contrary to Christ, but always seeking His will.

All Believers Hunger for It

If you would be a true Bible Christian and live a wholly sanctified life, you will confess your need of the precious Blood. You will hunger and seek for sanctification with all your heart. God has the experience for every hungry soul. All that He requires is an honest, hungry heart. Pray from the heart, "God, I hunger and

thirst after righteousness"; and God will answer back, "You shall be filled." Pay the price; give up all; lay it on the altar of sacrifice and God will send the fire, the old-time Bible experience.

God has provided an experience even more marvellous than sanctification, in this dispensation of the Holy Ghost — the Latter Rain outpouring. He has sent the Comforter, the Third Person of the Trinity, into the earth, that we might be anointed from Heaven to do the work God has called us to do. It is the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire — the same that fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

If you would receive the mighty baptism Holy Ghost and fire, you must follow Jesus to the end. Follow Him in the regeneration, the new birth; follow Him in sanctification, bearing His reproach, as He suffered without the gate; follow Him to the ascension, and obey His command, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"— (Acts 1:8).