

SANCTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION is cleansing from all inherited sin. It takes out the root of sin and all carnality, and the Adamic nature is absolutely destroyed. It makes us pure and "whiter than snow." The Lord Jesus says: "Blessed are the pure in heart", (Matthew 5:8). Sanctification makes us pure in heart. We are made "perfect in love" (I John 4:18). We are washed in the Blood of the Lamb, cleansed from all inbred sin (I John 1:7).

Two Works of Grace

There is a definite work of justification whereby every transgression is forgiven and blotted out, and one becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. And there is a second, definite work of grace, sanctification, whereby the sin one inherited from his forefathers is taken out and destroyed.

One must be born of God and free from the law of sin before he is eligible for the great work of sanctification. When one is really saved, sin is taken out of his life. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (I John 3:9). Then, being justified by His grace, we go on in faith for the removing of the inbred sin that we inherited from our father Adam. The Blood takes out the root of bitterness and carnality.

Inherited Sin

For the inheritance of our depravity we are not responsible. We never committed it and cannot repent of being so born, or seek pardon for it. God's remedy is cleansing, called sanctification, holiness, perfect love.

Every child is born with inherited sin in his heart. The nature of sin is there. When a sinner comes to God and is born again, the fruits of sin are cut off and the fruits of the Spirit at once appear. But the root of the old nature of sin is still there and will give trouble. It must be eradicated, and destroyed. After we have been saved, we present our life again to God and consecrate our heart to Him afresh for thorough purging and cleansing from all original or Adamic sin.

All Believers Hunger for It

Everyone who is free from sin (and you are not a child of God unless you are free from sin) has a hunger for a clean heart and the fire of God in the soul. When you are saved the old root or nature of sin in your heart gets such a blow that it does not show its head for a long time. But later on it begins to manifest itself, and you long for a deeper work of grace down in your heart.

Every soul who has a Bible standard of regeneration wants the Bible standard of sanctification. He finds something in his heart that wars against the Spirit and wants to manifest some fruit other than the fruit of the Spirit. Everyone who is living the justified life rejoices to know that there is power in the Blood to remove inbred sin, the disposition and tendency and nature of sin, out of the soul. Jesus purchased this for us. It is freely given us by His grace. He will cleanse that soul till not one spot remains, all through His grace.

David prayed for a clean heart, as we read in Psalm 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." The Spirit puts this hunger into every justified soul, a desire for a holy heart with Jesus reigning supreme within.

This Is the Will of God

Jesus prayed for our sanctification before He suffered: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:15-17).

He suffered for the sanctification of His church. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

God says again, in I Thessalonians 4:3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." So it is His will for every soul to be saved from sin, actual and original. The carnal mind is the result of the bruise of the fall, and it has to be destroyed and removed by the power and virtue of the Blood of Jesus. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8).

Jesus prayed for your sanctification. He gave His life that you might be sanctified. It is the will of God, even your sanctification, and He will sanctify you if you will make the consecration and go down before Him, and pay every price to obtain it.

Consecrate Your Life

Make an absolute consecration of your life to God and the Blood of Jesus will sanctify you wholly, and you will be filled with perfect love. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

On our part it is absolute surrender and faith; on God's part, it is the application of the cleansing Blood. We consecrate; God sanctifies. We pray at the altar; the Blood cleanses. God says: "I am the LORD which sanctify you" (Leviticus 20:8). "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly" (I Thessalonians 5:23). "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). The consecrating is our part; the cleansing and making holy is His. Consecration is putting ourselves in readiness for God to sanctify us. Then the fire falls upon our sacrifice and the precious Blood washes away the inbred sin and takes it out.

The Sanctified Life

In your justified life God gave you power to live without sin; but when the inward foe is cast out and your soul is delivered, you have more overcoming power. Sanctification brings overcoming power. Seekers are urged to pray for sanctification as soon as possible.

It is a blessed experience to be sanctified wholly and have that mighty power upon the soul day by day. The sanctified person wants only the will of God in his life, for the carnal mind is destroyed and the Spirit has free course in his life.

People may smite you on the one cheek and on the other, and it does not move you. It is easy to live this life after you get it. It lives itself. It is not hard to keep the old nature down, because it is out. It is so wonderful to know that it is taken out, root and branch, and you stand before God a living witness that the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all sin.

Praise God for that deeper faith and confidence that comes at sanctification! You enter into absolute rest in God. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9). You have entered into His rest. You have that tenderness, gentleness meekness, and childlike simplicity of faith that marks every sanctified soul. The Blood takes out everything contrary to love and fills you with perfect love, and God shuts you in with Himself. Nothing but love can enter there, for He sits on the throne of your heart and your

delight is to obey His voice and do His will. It is the sanctifying power of the Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, in the soul. The Prince of Peace rules. Everything has become calm and there is no tempest or turmoil. The Blood has eradicated that inbred sin that manifested itself at times and you struggled against. The Blood has taken it out. Now the language of your heart is: "Not I, but Christ liveth in me." Your life is hid with Christ in God. There is something in your life that is hiding behind Jesus all the time. Praise God for the sanctifying Blood of Jesus!

You should seek for sanctification as soon as you are saved. Salvation is incomplete without it. God says: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). God commands us to be holy: "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). All truly converted people who retain their justification hunger for sanctification. Every Christian sooner or later feels the need of sanctification and suffers for the want of it until he obtains the experience.

You are sanctified by the Blood of Jesus, a second, definite work of grace. If you are not sure about your sanctification then you may be sure you do not have it. You know whether the root of bitterness is taken out of your heart. If something in you gets out of patience and stirred up against your neighbour, or those in your own home, you know that root of bitterness is down in your heart still, and you are not sanctified.

The Witness of the Spirit

When God sanctifies you, He gives you a clear witness by the Holy Ghost in your soul that the work is done. You know you are sanctified; you have no doubt of it, for you have the witness in yourself. Christ abides. He sits enthroned. You get a real witness from the Throne of God that Christ reigns within.

The Spirit witnesses to your justification; He witnesses to sanctification; and He witnesses to the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. When your sins were forgiven and washed away by the Blood and you were born again, peace came into your heart and the Spirit of Christ witnessed to the forgiveness of your transgressions, bringing rest and joy into your soul. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

In your justified experience, at times the power of the Spirit will come upon you while praising God, or singing, or in prayer; but the blessing will lift and not remain. But after you are sanctified wholly, you will feel His manifest presence and power whenever you call upon Him, for Christ is enthroned and abides within. You have blessed fellowship with Him. "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11). You do not pray to Him as afar off, but you feel that He is right there present with you.

Then you can seek for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire which is not a work of grace but the gift of power. The Spirit witnesses in greater power upon the soul, and not only upon the soul but also in the manifestation of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the flesh. He comes down in mighty power and manifests Himself in speaking and singing through you in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4). The glory that falls upon you is unspeakable and indescribable and gives you power for service. We are now living in the last great outpouring of the Spirit when God is pouring out upon sanctified souls "rivers of living water" (John 7:38, 39). The soul that is sanctified longs for power for service; and God will endue the clean heart with power from on High to witness for Him (Acts 1:8).

We are living on the very verge of Jesus' coming. We are looking and longing for that day, and hastening out the Gospel, pleading with souls to humble themselves at the foot of the Cross that they might be channels and vessels through which God can work, that He can endue them with power from on High. But above all, we must remember that He is at the very door.

You cannot get along without the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Your work will fail unless you are equipped with the "whole armour of God" that He has prepared for you. He has given us an example in His Word. The disciples tarried and received the mighty baptism, the equipment for service, the crowning gift of power to witness for Christ. It gives faith and courage to stand in the battle. There is nothing that puts boldness and power into the soul to hold fast the truth and doctrine of Christ like the gift of the Holy Ghost.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

My heart was hungry for Jesus. God has satisfied my hungry soul. Oh, I was so hungry for God! I would often awake at night and say, "Oh, I am so hungry for God!" But He said He would satisfy the hungry soul, and pour water on the dry and thirsty land. He satisfied my soul. When I first saw the outpouring of the Spirit in Los Angeles, it put such a hunger in my soul that I could hardly eat or sleep. As I would take the Word, it was unfolded to me, and as I was on my face that hunger would seize my soul, and I wanted to take the Word and place it in my soul.

One day as I was at the mission the preacher stopped and said: "Somebody in this place wants something from God." I just pushed the chairs from in front of me and fell at the altar. God sanctified me!

If you have not tasted the sanctifying power of Christ, seek Him and He will come down with His power and sweep carnality forever out of your soul. If it ever does come back, you will know you have lost the sweetness out of your heart and will have to repent and get back under the Blood. Jesus saved my soul, and the same Christ took out all carnality. Oh, I praise Him for it!

That was not all. After I had lived in Canaan for about three days, my soul running over, I said, "There is something more I want." It was the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I sought for just three days, and one Friday afternoon as I sat in my chair in the mission, the Heavens were opened and the Holy Ghost came down and took possession of this clay and anointed and baptized me with Himself. He poured out His mighty power, and took my vocal organs and talked with them Himself. I used to look at the Chinese and long to tell them in their own language of this salvation, but little did I think He would let me talk in their tongue. But that day He took possession of my tongue, and began to speak in the Chinese language, glorifying God."

— F. L. C.