

Now That We Have This New Nature, What Are We to Do with It? – Part 1

The Process of Salvation: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification

1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We dove into our union with Christ. But the one who is united and joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him: 1 Cor. 6:17 (AMP). His Spirit being joined with our spirit: Rom. 8:16 (NLT). - Joined - kollaó = Glue - to glue, unite. To bond (cleave), adhere to (literally, "glued together"); to cleave, join to; (figuratively) intimately connected in a soul-knit friendship.
- We talked about God's Spirit having His permanent dwelling in us who believe; "[to be at home in us, collectively as a church and also individually]." **1 Cor. 3:16 (NKJV/AMPC)** and about being the temple of God **1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NLT/AMPC)** and honoring God with our bodies by being a living sacrifice **Rom. 12:1-2 (KJV/AMPC)**.
- We also talked about us being a spirit who has a soul that lives in a body. **We want His Spirit which is one with our (the believer's) spirit to flood our body and soul.** I believe this is the "Christ being formed in you" part, The ongoing sanctification which we are going to be talking about in this study. **Gal. 4:19 (NKJV)** "*until Christ is formed in you.*"

2. Walking Out This Newness of Life

The last 18 Bible studies we have gone through had to do with "receiving" what God has done for us. About what we "received" when we believed in Christ. Now we are heading into the "doing", what we (believers) are to be doing with all that we have received?

Here is a short list of what we (believers) should be doing with all that we have received, then we will dive into the scripture to find treasure that will help as walk in this newness of life.

- We are told to be: Sober-minded, watchful, alert, vigilant and self-disciplined.
(1 Pet. 1:13, 4:7, 5:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:13-14; Col. 4:2; Lk. 21:36; Mat. 24:4-6; Eph. 6:10-18)
- We are told to: Resist the enemy, to stand firm in our faith and to continue in the faith.
- We are told to: Live as children of the light, walk in the light, walk in love, shine brightly and walk in newness of life.
- We are told to: Love one another but to not love this world.
- We are told to: Put on our new nature, put on Christ and put on the full armor of God.
- We are told to: Clothe ourselves with Christ and humility.
- We are told to: Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
- We are told to: Strip off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us.
- We are told to: Not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A renewed mind is a mind acting under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- We are told to: Look away from all that will distract us, to focus our eyes on Jesus and run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus and to daily fixing our gaze, attention and thoughts on God.

These are some of the hard ones:

- We are told to: Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.'
- We are told to: Rejoice at all times, to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances.
- We are told to: be anxious for nothing, are told to not worry about our life and should cast all our cares on Him because He cares for us. – How much do we trust Jesus with our lives and our families?
- We are told to: Go and make disciples and be ministers of the New Covenant.
- We are told to: Make every effort to enter into His rest. Much of what is listed above can come out of this rest.

3. This is going to lead us into the process of salvation:

Justification, Sanctification & Glorification

- a) Before we dive into how we are to be walking, living, and shining, I would like to start with a paragraph from a previous study where we talked about the new nature of the believer:

*"What is the "new nature" of the believer? Scripture says those who believe in Christ through faith have been renewed, regenerated, born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed and sanctified], **Gal. 3:26 (NKJV/AMP)**, Note: The believer has been sanctified and is also being sanctified throughout their entire life, an ongoing process. **Heb. 12:14 (NKJV/AMP)**, have become a new creation **2 Cor. 5:17**, have become a child of God through faith **Gal. 3:26-29** and are now in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit **Rom. 8:16-17 (NLT)**; **1 Cor. 2:11-12, 6:17 (NKJV/AMPC)**; **Gal. 2:20 (NKJV/AMPC)**; **Eph. 3:17**; **Col. 1:27**. The believer "receives" a washing away their sins **Heb. 10:10**, giving them a new birth and a new life through the Holy Spirit **Rom. 6:1**; **1 Pet. 1:3-5, 23**; **Jn. 3:1-5**. This is a new nature that replaces the old nature and this happened the moment you believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior."*

I want to focus on "have been sanctified (set apart) and are being sanctified. An ongoing progressive process."

- b) This leads us into the process of salvation: **Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.**
- c) **Justification (past tense, has happened for the believer)** - Saved, made right in God's sight. Righteousness through faith in Christ. Christ's righteousness imputed to all believers. Pronounced righteous, by trusting in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This happened at salvation. You were made right when you believed in Jesus Christ. Saved by grace through faith, not by works but by faith alone. A legal standing. We are sanctified (set apart positionally); that is, we are saved from the ultimate penalty of sin. Then begins progressive sanctification. (*We have gone over this in detail in previous studies.*)

d) **Sanctification** - (past tense and is ongoing, it has happened for the believer and is happening; an ongoing process) - The scriptures refer to believers as having been sanctified, set apart at salvation and points to us being sanctified, an ongoing process, a continual event. The continual process of God helping us (**by the Holy Spirit and through His word**) become Holy and transformed into His image. One example: "*For you are becoming progressively acquainted with and recognizing more strongly and clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ*" **2 Cor. 8:9 (AMPC)**.
I say "by the Holy Spirit and through His word" because the Holy Spirit helps us understand the word. The Holy Spirit who is our helper and who will teach us all things and guide us into all truth. Continually being transformed by the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus. The sanctifying work of the Spirit as mentioned in **1 Pet. 1:2 (NIV)** "...through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ..." (KJV) "...through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience..."

e) I see the concept of "are being sanctified" as maturing and growing in Christ and the knowledge of God. (**2 Pet. 3:17-18**) So, there is sanctification (started at salvation) and progressive sanctification (ongoing through our entire life). (*see scriptures below*)

f) **Glorification** - (Future, will happen for the believer) - In Heaven with glorified bodies. Our mortal bodies transformed into immortal bodies. (*This will be a future study*). Those dead "in Christ" (those who believed prior to death, will rise first, then all those alive next to meet the Lord in the air. Believers go on into Heaven and receive their new glorified bodies, unbelievers will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence]).

g) **Sanctification differs from justification in several ways**. One commentary puts it this way: "*Justification is a one-time work of God, resulting in a declaration of "not guilty" before Him because of the work of Christ on the cross. Sanctification is a process, beginning with justification and continuing throughout life. Justification is the starting point of the line that represents one's Christian life; sanctification is the line itself.*"

h) That said, there are scripture that say "we (the believer) have been sanctified". There are also many that refer to the process of being sanctified. We have been made holy and are being made holy. This is not a contradiction, they are intertwined. Let's dig into some of these scriptures:

i) **Rom. 3:22-23, 5:1 (NKJV/AMPC)** - Believer has been justified, made right with God. Christ's righteousness imputed to all believers. (* See *Rom. 3:22 commentary below*)

j) **1 Cor. 1:2 (NKJV)** - Who are/have been sanctified.

k) **1 Cor. 1:2 (BibleRef Commentary)** – “Paul says he is writing to Christians, those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus. The word “sanctified” refers to something that has been “set apart” for special purposes. Every person who is a Christian has been marked by God, as His own possession, set apart from the rest of humanity for His own purposes. Christians are not hoping, by good behavior, to become sanctified someday. By God's grace through faith in Christ, that has already happened.” – Then there is the process of sanctification as noted above: “The continual process of God helping us by the Holy Spirit and through His word to become Holy and transformed into His image.”

l) **Heb. 10:10 (NKJV/AMP)** - Believers have been made holy (consecrated and sanctified) through the offering made once for all of the body of Christ. The “for all” in NKJV is referring to the church, to all believers. (* See Heb. 10:10 commentary below.)

m) This is also contrasted by **Heb. 10:14 (AMP)** “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified [bringing each believer to spiritual completion and maturity].” – So, Sanctification is the process of bringing the believer to spiritual completion and maturity, to that which has already been made perfect. We spend a life time becoming what we already are; Just, righteous, perfect and holy through our union with Jesus Christ. **NKJV/NLT/AMP/ESV:** Are being sanctified. **KJV/NASB:** Are sanctified.

n) **1 Cor. 6:11 (NKJV/AMPC)** - You (the believer) were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified when you believed in Christ. ...you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. See also **Rom. 10:9-11 (AMP)** – Justified because of believing.

o) **Heb. 12:14 (AMPC/NASB 1995)** “Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness [sanctification] without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.”
 - Note: We were just reading that we have been consecrated, sanctified and made holy (past tense), however here in **Heb. 12:14** it is saying to “pursue that consecration and holiness [sanctification]”. **1 Cor. 6:11** “we have been sanctified”, **Heb. 12:14** is saying we are to “pursue holiness. We have been made Holy/Sanctified and we are to pursue it as well. **AMPC/ESV** - strive - “strive” - to make strenuous efforts toward any goal.
NLT - work at, **AMP** - Continually pursue, **NKJ** - Follow. Following holiness is an interesting thought/concept in this process of being sanctified. There is a theme here of: “making an effort” towards holiness. I believe this comes down to intentionality with our relationship with The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- A question came up during discussion regarding this verse **Heb. 12:14**. How do we “pursue holiness” without turning it into a work to earn that which we were made at salvation? Some responses to this: Being intentional with our relationship with Christ, putting Him first. Seek first the Kingdom. Continually surrendering to the Lord. Let Him do the work in us! Accept, receive and grab hold of what He has done for us. Believe what the word says about salvation, about what we have “received” when we believed and walk in it! Believe and continue to believe. **Col. 1:23** *“But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don’t drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.”*
- p) **1 Pet. 2:2-3 (AMPC)** *“Like newborn babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation,.”*
- q) **Phil. 3:12 (NKJV/AMPC)** *“Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own.”* - One commentary on **Phil. 3:12** puts it this way *“Paul was not yet perfectly conformed to Christ. The process was still going on, and Paul was deeply exercised that this work of God’s grace might continue and deepen.”*
- r) Another commentary has this to say about progressive sanctification: *“Sanctification is the process of becoming holy. It is the process of becoming who Christ has already declared us to be. It is the process of being transformed into His image (2 Cor. 3:18 AMP).”*
- s) Jesus praying for the disciples: **Jn. 17:17-19 (NKJV/AMP)** - *“Sanctify them by Your truth”*
- t) Paul’s final greeting in **1 Thes. 5:23 (ESV)** - *“May God sanctify you completely.”*

Sanctification is accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
We need to allow Him to do the work. We need to “let” Him do the work!

Now, after diving into Justification, Sanctification and Glorification, we can now move onto walking out this newness of life.

Next study we will be heading into the “doing”, what are we (believers) are to be doing with all that we have received.

Believer's Bible commentary on Rom. 3:22

*“Verse 21 told us that righteous salvation is not obtained on the basis of law-keeping. Now the apostle tells how it is obtained - **through faith in Jesus Christ**. Faith here means utter reliance on the living Lord Jesus Christ as one’s only savior from sin and one’s only hope for Heaven. It is based on the revelation of the person and work of Christ as found in the Bible.*

Faith is not a leap in the dark. It demands the surest evidence, and finds it in the infallible word of God.
Faith is not illogical or unreasonable. What is more reasonable than that the creature should trust his Creator? Faith is not a meritorious work by which a man earns or deserves salvation. A man cannot boast because he has believed the Lord; he would be a fool not to believe Him. Faith is not an attempt to earn salvation, but it is the simple acceptance of the salvation which God offers as a free gift.

Paul goes on to tell us that this salvation is **to all and on all who believe**. It is **to all** in the sense that it is available to all, offered to all, and sufficient for all. But it is only **on those who believe**; That is, it is effective only in the lives of those who accept the Lord Jesus by a definite act of faith. The pardon is for all, but it becomes valid in an individual's life only when he accepts it.

When Paul says that salvation is available for all, he includes the gentiles as well as the Jews, because now **there is no difference**. The Jew has no special privilege, and the gentile is at no disadvantage. i.e. the gentiles have been grafted in. **Rom. 11:17.**"

See also **Rom. 19:1-13** "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ...For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ... whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. ...For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Believer's Bible Commentary on Heb. 10:10:

"This is a positional sanctification, as is the case all through Hebrews with exception of 12:14 and is true of all believers (1 Cor. 6:11) and not merely of a few "advanced Christians." It is accomplished by the will of God and the sacrifice of Christ. We are set apart by God, to God, and for God. It is not to be confused with the progressive work of God's Spirit in the believer through the word. (Jn. 17:17-19; 1 Thess. 5:23).

Homework:

<https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/eng/ved/s/sanctification-sanctify.html>

Sanctification, Sanctify - Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words

A — 1: ἁγιασμός (Strong's #38 — Noun Masculine — hagiasmos — hag-ee-as-mos')

"**sanctification**," is used of (a) separation to God, 1Cor, 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2 (b) the course of life befitting those so separated, 1 Thessalonians 4:3,4,7; Romans 6:19,22; 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14 . "Sanctification is that relationship with God into which men enter by faith in Christ, Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11 , and to which their sole title is the death of Christ, Ephesians 5:25,26 : Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 10:10,29; 13:12 .

"Sanctification is also used in NT of the separation of the believer from evil things and ways. This sanctification is God's will for the believer, 1 Thessalonians 4:3 , and His purpose in calling him by the gospel, 1 Thessalonians 4:7; it must be learned from God, 1 Thessalonians 4:4 , as He teaches it by His Word, John 17:17,19; cp. Psalm 17:4; 119:9 , and it must be pursued by the believer, earnestly and undeviatingly, 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14 . For the holy character, hagiosune, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 , is not vicarious, i.e., it cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ, Matthew 11:29; John 13:15; Ephesians 4:20; Philippians 2:5 , in the power of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:13; Ephesians 3:16 .

"The Holy Spirit is the Agent in sanctification, Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; cp. 1 Corinthians 6:11 . . . The sanctification of the Spirit is associated with the choice, or election, of God; it is a Divine act preceding the acceptance of the Gospel by the individual." * [* From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, pp. 115,271.]

B — 1: ἁγιάζω (Strong's #37 — Verb — hagiazo — hag-ee-ad'-zo)

"**to sanctify**," "is used of (a) the gold adorning the Temple and of the gift laid on the altar, Matthew 23:17,19; (b) food, 1 Timothy 4:5; (c) the unbelieving spouse of a believer, 1 Corinthians 7:14; (d) the ceremonial cleansing of the Israelites, Hebrews 9:13; (e) the Father's Name, Luke 11:2; (f) the consecration of the Son by the Father, John 10:36; (g) the Lord Jesus devoting Himself to the redemption of His people, John 17:19; (h) the setting apart of the believer for God, Acts 20:32; cp. Romans 15:16; (i) the effect on the believer of the Death of Christ, Hebrews 10:10 , said of God, and 2:11; 13:12, said of the Lord Jesus; (j) the separation of the believer from the world in his behavior -- by the Father through the Word, John 17:17,19; (k) the believer who turns away from such things as dishonor God and His gospel, 2 Timothy 2:21; (l) the acknowledgment of the Lordship of Christ, 1 Peter 3:15 . "Since every believer is sanctified in Christ Jesus, 1 Corinthians 1:2 , cp. Hebrews 10:10 , a common NT designation of all believers is 'saints,' hagioi, i.e., 'sanctified' or 'holy ones.' Thus sainthood, or sanctification, is not an attainment, it is the state into which God, in grace, calls sinful men, and in which they begin their course as Christians, Colossians 3:12; Hebrews 3:1 ." * [* From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, pp. 113,114.]

Also: What is progressive sanctification? <https://www.gotquestions.org/progressive-sanctification.html>