

SANCTIFICATION IN THE LORD

From a Christian Perspective

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Sanctification

As you will see in the Scripture verses I will list in this article – God’s ultimate and highest aim for all of us is our sanctification in Him. God wants to make us more holy like Himself. He wants to transform us into the express image of His Son Jesus Christ. He wants to consecrate and set us apart unto Himself.

The wording in these verses is very intense. One of the verses will tell us that God wants to sanctify us completely in all three parts of our being – body, soul, and spirit. Jesus Himself tells us that He wants us to be perfect just like His Father in heaven is perfect.

When you first look at these verses, you wonder how anyone could ever begin to achieve any real state of holiness in the cursed and fallen world we all now live in. With all of the lusts of our flesh, and with all of the different types of temptations of this world, many Christians never even attempt to give God half a chance to start this sanctification process in their life. They feel this bar is simply too high to even begin to strive for in this life.

The Bible tells us that all men and women have sinned and have fallen way short of the glory of God. We are so far from the perfection that God is really wanting from each one of us, that we see no real way to be able to obtain it to any significant degree in this life. As a result, many Christians never ask or seek after God to get this sanctification process started in their life – and as a result, there is very little, if any true spiritual growth over the course of most of their lives.

However, if you will study the specific wording in some of these verses, God the Father is showing you very clearly how this sanctification process can start to occur in this life. You do not have to wait until you get to heaven to get this sanctification process started with Him.

One of the first verses I will list below is telling us that we get three specific things as a result of Jesus dying on the cross for all of our sins. We get **redemption, righteousness, and sanctification.**

Most Christians know about the first two – redemption and righteousness – but they either forget, or do not pick up on the third thing that we all have available to us – and that is our **sanctification in the Lord!**

This sanctification is a progressive process. It is not something that occurs instantaneously at our conversions. It is a progressive work done by the Holy Spirit over the course of our entire life.

The apostle Paul tells us that we have to "work out" our salvation with fear and trembling. He is telling us there are things that have to be worked out – and I believe one of those things is our sanctification in the Lord – the process where God the Father begins to set us apart unto Himself and to transform us into becoming more holy instruments of righteousness for His use.

The different Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries define the word **"sanctification"** as follows:

1. ***The state of growing in divine grace***
2. ***To set apart for holy purposes***
3. ***The process of being made holy resulting in a changed lifestyle for the believer***

Noted Bible scholar Jack Hayford, in his excellent book titled: " Hayford's Bible Handbook," defines sanctification as follows:

"The work of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness. Accomplished by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin. Sanctification is instantaneous before God through Christ and progressive before man through obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word."

To those of you who have never really sought after the Lord to release this kind of supernatural work in your life – study these verses very, very carefully. God is giving you an incredible spiritual secret that can dramatically change the quality of your life down here on this earth.

As I said at the top of this article, you do not have to wait until you get to heaven to have God start this sanctification-transformation process in your life. It can literally start right where you are at right now if you are willing to fully surrender your entire life over to the Lord and then ask Him to begin to start this sanctification process in your life.

Before I go to the actual Scripture verses on all of this, consider one last thing. Even though this sanctification process appears to be a major leap to be able to make in the Lord, realize that God will start you off with small baby steps to get this process worked into your life. Rome was not built overnight, and neither will your sanctification in the Lord.

Many in our society have no drawing towards the spiritual things of God. Their only goal in this life is to get as much of the material things in this life as they possibly can, not really caring who they hurt and run over in the process.

Many think that trying to become more holy in the Lord is “corny.” Many of these types of Christians have been labeled as being “not cool” and “goody two shoes” by their peers, by their classmates, or by some of their fellow workers in the workplace. Many of our teenagers are made fun of in their schools if they do not join the crowds in abusing alcohol, doing drugs, or engaging in premarital sex.

The ways of our God are not the ways of this world! This is why God tells us that we will become His enemies if we ever become too friendly with the things and ways of this world. This is why God is calling us and separating us unto Himself in this sanctification process that He wants to start with each and everyone of us.

To become more holy and more righteous in the Lord may not be cool with the rest of the world, but it is definitely cool with the Lord. And when everything is all finally said and done, and we have finally departed from this life and have to face God for our own personal judgments – the only thing that will really matter is what God thinks, not what the world thinks. We will all be judged by how God views things, not how the world or other people view things.

I will leave you with one last thought before going into the actual Scripture verses on this topic: If you really watch and study people – what is the one thing that most people are really searching for and seeking after these days?

Why is it that so many people are tempted to enter a life of drugs or alcohol abuse? Why are so many people committing adultery behind their spouse’s back? Why are so many business-minded people chasing after their one and only all-personal god – the almighty dollar? Why are so many people engaging with other alternative forms of spirituality, such as delving into the occult and the many facets of the New Age movement?

If you really bottom-line all of the seeking that is occurring in these areas – they are all looking for one thing – and that one thing is an incredible sense of **well-being**. They are all looking for that “**high**” that will make them “**feel good.**”

To those who are seeking after the almighty dollar, they are looking for that high that will give them a sense of approval and a sense of accomplishment. They are looking for all the material things that this money can buy them, thinking that all of these material things will make them feel good on the inside and completely fill the emptiness and void that is on the inside of each one of them.

To those chasing after drugs, alcohol, or illicit sexual encounters – they are looking for immediate gratification of physical, mental, or sexual pleasures. They want to feel good right now, and they will do anything they can to try and get that next high.

However, as we all know, all of the free sex, drugs, and alcohol, and all of the money in this world, and all of the material things this money can buy us, will never buy us that true state of inner happiness, that true state of well-being that we are all really searching for.

All of the material things that we can buy in this life will only keep us high for a very short period of time. Then once that high starts to wear off, we have to find something else we can buy, thinking that the next new purchase will make us feel good for a longer period of time. And then it happens again. That high starts to wane, and then we are once more looking for that next new material thing, that next new adventure that will make us feel good about ourselves.

Many people are constantly chasing the wind, but never really being able to reach it or grab a hold of it – thus always continuing to fall short of being able to reach that elusive state of well-being that will give them the [love](#), joy, and peace they are really searching for.

Even many Christians are missing the mark on all of this. Too many Christians have become more attached to the things of this world rather than to God and the things that He wants us to get involved in. As a result, there are many Christians who are not happy and no more fulfilled with their lives than many nonbelievers are.

Once you become saved and born again by accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior – this is just the beginning. Now God wants to start to build you up in Him and all of His ways for your life.

The first thing that God will want you to do is to be willing to enter into a full surrender with Him so He can then set you up on the divine path that He will want you to follow in this life. The next thing God will want from you is that you attempt to establish a close personal relationship with Him.

However, this will now lead us right into the next big step. Many Christians have already done both of these things, but they still feel there is something missing in their lives.

They are following God's perfect will and plan for their lives. They know how to be led by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis to accomplish what needs to be accomplished. They have established very good personal relationships with the Lord – but yet there still seems to be something missing in their lives and they cannot seem put their finger on it.

4. **Where is that feeling of well-being that I should be having more of?**
5. **Where is that love, joy, and peace of mind I should be having more of?**
6. **Why is it that at times I am no more happier and no more fulfilled than many nonbelievers are?**

I personally believe that the missing ingredient in many believer's life is this sanctification process. This sanctification process is a deeper work in the Lord, and many have not entered into it either because they have never been shown how to properly enter into it, or they really do not want to go this far with the Lord.

Once you enter into this sanctification process with the Lord, it can be a bit painful at times, since God will be working with you to fully expose and prune out all of the negative qualities that He will not want have operating in your personality.

I will be doing additional articles in the Sanctification Section of our site, giving you all of the main verses that will give you the specifics on what it is you should be seeking after in order to be able to work with the Lord in this sanctification process. As you will see in some of the verses listed below, it is the Holy Spirit who will really be the One to sanctify you and help you to become more holy in the eyes of the Lord.

However, you will still have to do your part in all of this. As I said in another article in this section titled, "[Mindset: Being Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind,](#)" you will have to be the one to attempt to "**put on**" the positive qualities that God will want to instill in your personality, and "**put away**" all of the negative qualities that He will not want operating in your personality.

You will have to really work with the Holy Spirit in order to be able to get God to move you into this deeper realm of making you to become more holy. But for those of you who are willing to let the Lord take this next extra step with you – you will find and obtain what everyone is really searching for and cannot find these days – an incredible sense of well-being that all of the money, material possessions, drugs, alcohol, and sex will never be able to bring you in this life.

This incredible sense of well-being can only be found in the process of allowing God to work His very divine nature into your own personality, thereby making you to become more holy. A perfect example of this is the 9 [fruits of the Holy Spirit](#). These 9 fruits are His fruits, not ours – such as love, joy, peace, self-control, kindness, etc.

This means that God will start to transmit and impart His love, His peace, and His kindness into our personalities. And once this kind of sanctification process starts to occur, this is when you will really be able to feel and experience the sense of well-being that God initially created all of us to have in Him.

It is only when the very life of God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, starts to enter into your mind, soul, and heart will you feel that high that everyone is really looking for these days.

And the only way that you can get the very life of God to start to enter into your mind, soul, and heart is by entering into this sanctification process with the Lord. There is no other way. There are no shortcuts to this process. I really believe this is one of the main missing ingredients in many believer's walks with the Lord.

Now I will go to the actual Scripture verses showing you that God really does want to start this sanctification process with each and everyone of us. I will then end this article giving you a simple 4 step process to get God to move you into this sanctification process if you are not afraid of it and are willing to work with Him on it.

1. We Are Now Sanctified in Christ Jesus

In the above definition from Jack Hayford on sanctification, you will note that he says that sanctification is **"instantaneous before God through Christ,"** but that it is **"progressive before man through obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word."**

As you will see in the first two Scripture verses I will list below, these verses are telling us that we are now **"sanctified in Christ Jesus,"** and that we now receive sanctification, along with redemption and righteousness, through the blood that Jesus has personally shed for all of us on the cross. This is what Mr. Hayford means by the first part of this definition in that our sanctification is instantaneous before God through Christ.

However, as you will see in several verses I will list in the second caption below, this sanctification is also progressive in nature as far as we are individually concerned. This means we have to go through a progressive process through the Holy Spirit and the Word in order to become more holy and sanctified in the Lord.

What I believe the Lord is trying to tell us in these first two verses is that we have already received His sanctification, like we have already received

His redemption and righteousness as a result of being saved and born again. Here are the two verses:

1. "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord ..." (1 Corinthians 1:2)
2. "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – **and righteousness and sanctification and redemption** ..." (1 Corinthians 1:30)

To think that God the Father has given us a full redemption and a full pardon for all of our sins – and then to add to this package the process of being able to be sanctified through the power of His Holy Spirit to become the saints that He wants us to become in Him – is enough to knock you right off the couch if you really stop and think what is in these three words:

Redemption, Righteousness, and Sanctification!

And to think that all of this is coming direct from the one and only Almighty God of the entire universe if we are willing to accept His free gift of eternal salvation through His Son Jesus and His sacrificial death on the cross.

It really does not get any better than this – that God and Jesus would go to this type of extreme length to bring us back to Themselves – and then allow us to become partakers in this sanctification process where God the Father can then start to mold, shape, and transform us into the express image of His Son Jesus Christ.

2. Sanctification is a Progressive Process

Now here are the two main verses that will show us that becoming sanctified in the Lord is a progressive process. The two key words in both of these verses are "**being sanctified.**"

If we were all instantaneously sanctified at the moment of our conversions with Jesus, then the Bible would not be using these two words of "**being sanctified.**" The word "**being**" is telling us that this is a progressive and ongoing process.

1. "For both He who sanctifies and those who are **being sanctified** are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren ..." (Hebrews 2:11)

2. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are **being sanctified.**" (*Hebrews 10:14*)

Again, with God the Father being willing to open up this sanctification process to each born-again believer – this is really an incredible privilege and the highest of all blessings that we can receive from the Lord.

3. God is Calling All of Us to Sanctification

As you will see in the next set of verses, God is calling all of us to this sanctification in Him. These verses are all very direct and straight-to-the-point. The first verse I will list below is telling us that God wants to sanctify us "**completely**" in all three parts of our being – body, soul, and spirit!

When God uses the word "**completely**" – He is using a maximum intense kind of word. He wants to take us all the way in this realm if we are willing to yield to it and work with Him during the process.

If you really study the wording in all of these verses, you can really feel the importance that God is placing on this sanctification process, and that this is something that He wants all of His children to become a part of, not just a few of His select saints.

1. "Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*)
2. "... **but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."** (*1 Peter 1:15*)
3. "**For this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality; **that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor**, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God ... **For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.**" (*1 Thessalonians 4:3,7*)
4. "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**" (*2 Corinthians 7:1*)
5. "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and *clay*, some for honor and some for dishonor. **Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the**

latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:20)

6. **“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)**
7. **“I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, *so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness* ... What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.” (Romans 6:19-22)**

When you first read the way these verses are worded, it is very easy to become dismayed and distraught. If you are really honest with yourself, you can really feel and sense how far of a gap there is between where you are at right now with the Lord in your present level of spiritual development and how far God would really like to take you in this realm.

Many Christians, when they first read these kinds of verses, realize they are simply too far away from this type of holiness in their present state of spiritual development and they thus throw in the towel – never even attempting to give God a chance to start this sanctification process through them in this life.

This will now lead us into the next section. These next set of verses will tell you exactly how God can get this sanctification process started in your life right in the middle of wherever your present level of spiritual development may be in Him – no matter how bad you think it may be.

4. Sanctification is Done By the Word and the Holy Spirit

Study these next set of verses very, very carefully. Trying to achieve the state of holiness that God the Father would like to bring us up into is completely impossible if we try to do it through our own flesh and through our own efforts.

Many Christians are trying to achieve this state of holiness without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit helping them out. You can easily spot those who are being properly sanctified through the Holy Spirit and those who are not.

The ones who are trying to achieve this sanctification out of their own efforts and out of their own flesh do not appear to be genuine. Their acts of holiness do not appear to be coming from the heart. You get the sense they are just trying to put on a show. There just seems to be something fake and plastic about them and the way they operate. Even most nonbelievers can see right through them. There is a sense of false piety about them that does not seem to ring true.

However, with the person who is being properly sanctified by the Holy Spirit, you can really tell there is something different about this type of person. This person does not flaunt his piety, goodness, or holiness. They are very humble about it. Everything they do comes from the heart and everything appears to be done very naturally. There is no pretentiousness or sense of false piety in their actions or attitudes.

This sense of real holiness they are projecting through their personalities literally has a drawing power to it. You find yourself gravitating to these types of people. You can almost sense or see a radiance or glow about them. The love of God just radiates from their countenance. You are very comfortable in being in their presence and talking with them. You can see that their holiness is genuine and that it really is coming from the heart of God Himself.

This is why these next set of verses are so specific on how this sanctification process is done in the Lord. Bottom line – sanctification in the Lord is done by the power of the Holy Spirit operating through the knowledge that the Word will give you. In other words – it is the Word and the Spirit working together that will cause this sanctification process to begin and occur in your life.

It really is the Holy Spirit who will be the One to cause this type of transformation to occur in your personality. However, the Holy Spirit will not work without the Word. Why? Because the Word of God will give you the knowledge that you will need in order to be able to work with the Holy Spirit in this process. You have to know exactly what it is that God wants to change about you before the Holy Spirit will move to cause some of these changes to start to take place in your personality.

Example – you have to learn from the Bible what some of the specific qualities are that God will want to impart into your personality. A good example of this are the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible will tell you exactly what these nine fruits are. Then once you know exactly what they are, then you can start to work with the Holy Spirit to get more of these fruits manifested and imparted into your

personality. But if you do not learn exactly what these specific fruits are to begin with by reading about them from the Bible, then the Holy Spirit will have nothing to work with and He thus may not do much with you in this realm.

All Christians have the Holy Spirit living on the inside of them. The Holy Spirit is only too anxious to get the ball rolling with you in every area of your life where you may need His help on, especially in the area of being sanctified in the Lord. However, many Christians have not spent much time in the Word and they are thus lacking the **"working knowledge"** they will need to work with the Holy Spirit in this deeper realm. As a result, there is very little, if any true spiritual growth over the course of most of their lives.

As you can tell by the way these verses are worded, this sanctification realm is for the real seekers. The real seekers will be diving into God and His Word to find out exactly what it is God wants to do with them, and then will only be too anxious to work with the Holy Spirit during this process – having no fear of doing it, and being willing to fully submit to the Lord with how He wants to handle all of it.

These verses in particular are giving you the **"key"** that will open up this door of sanctification to come into your life and change it forever.

7. "And such were some of you. But you were washed, **but you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and **by the Spirit of our God.**" (1 Corinthians 6:11)
8. "**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**" (2 Corinthians 3:18)
9. "... elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in sanctification of the Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace be multiplied." (1 Peter 1:2)
10. "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live." (Romans 8:13)
11. "Husbands, love your wives, just as 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

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