

What It Means to Walk in Sanctification

Roger Kendall—December 8, 2018

Greetings everyone! It certainly is a joy and a pleasure to be here this evening and this fabulous wonderful Go To Meeting that we have set up here. Greetings to everyone around this great planet. To those in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, those are listening, and so it's good morning, good evening, good afternoon.

So it's really incredible, that in real time that we can meet together on the Sabbath and rejoice and worship God together, fellowshiping and really rejoicing in the day. Greetings from snowy Vermont.

Brethren, just how great it is that we have been called by God, and that's He's given us His Holy Spirit. He has actually given us membership—family ties—that we can now be related to Him in a very personal way. We've been called and given His Holy Spirit so that we might worship and serve God in love.

It's just incredible that we've been given this calling, and yet, with that calling comes responsibility. I'm going to be talking about one of those this evening: *the need to walk in sanctification!*

Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ; according as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will” (vs 3-5).

Notice that this is a *personal* calling, it's not a random. *It is a specific calling that God has called you and me into His Family!* What a glorious thing that is. What a magnificent thing it is that we have this opportunity. He's called us to be firstfruits, but also as it says, ‘to be Holy and blameless before Him.’ ***We have a responsibility:***

- to love God
- to keep His Word
- to strive for righteousness
- you strive for Holiness

We are being prepared for an incredible future in the Kingdom; that's what God is doing now. This is the *School of Eternal Life* that we're in now. Here we are in the flesh on the planet Earth and we are now striving for the Kingdom of God; to be with God and Christ and to serve under Them.

Verse 9: “Having made known to us the mystery of His own will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.”

He has revealed the mystery of God's plan to us. We know and understand through the Holy Spirit and through His Word. What a magnificent thing that is that we might be *to the praise of His glory*, who first trusted in Christ.

Verse 10: “That in *the Divine* plan for the fulfilling of *the* times, He might bring all things together in Christ, both the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth; *yes*, in Him, in Whom we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestinated according to His purpose, Who is working out all things according to the counsel of His own will” (vs 10-11).

So, as God's people we have been called out of this world to be separate and Holy before Him and to walk in righteousness. He's preparing us to be kings and priests in the coming Kingdom in the Millennium. We certainly learned more about that at the Feast this past year. We're very thankful for that.

1-Peter 2:9: “But you *are* a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for a possession *of God*, that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

This is what God has done for us. He brought us into a personal loving relationship, and now we know Truth and have understanding. We're no longer in the dark, but we're in the light.

Verse 10: “Who once *were* not a people, but now *are the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy. Beloved, I exhort *you*, as strangers and sojourners, to restrain yourselves from fleshly lusts which war against the soul; having your way of life honest among the Gentiles so that although they speak against you as evil doers, through having witnessed *your* good works, they may glorify God in *the* day of visitation” (vs 10-12).

We are to set the example before the world and have Holy conduct. Even though that they look upon us as being evil, because we're not with them, it will set the example for when Christ returns that they will then know that we are the people of God. In order to become God's Holy people, we need to recognize that we are obligated to fight against the flesh. God gives us that strength through His Holy Spirit, to fight against:

- the flesh

- this world
- the god of this world

which wars against the Spirit!

We are to take on the very character and the very righteousness of Jesus Christ. As part of our calling under the covenant that we are under, we are to commit our lives to overcoming all sin. Yes, that's the commitment that we've made to God when we were baptized. Is not this the lesson of the Days of Unleavened Bread? *Yes, it is!* That we are to rid ourselves of sin, to take on the very nature of Jesus Christ and His righteousness, His Truth, His way of life.

We're to pursue righteousness. Matt. 6:33 is a very familiar Scripture we all know what says; we are to 'seek first, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness'; two parts to that. The Greek infers that this is something that we are *to seek and keep on seeking*.

In other words, it's a continual effort, to strive to seek the Kingdom, to walking in Holiness and in righteousness. This is something that we are obligated to do. We're to make it a first priority, that God comes first in our lives in all things, that we do, think and say in our life in all that we express guided with a zeal and determination and with commitment. We're to come before God daily and to seek:

- His way
- His life
- His Truth

How do we achieve righteousness in our lives? Many, many sermons could be mentioned on this, but I just want to say that it's through *the power of the Holy Spirit in us and by walking in sanctification*. I hope to be able to cover in greater detail the meaning of sanctification, how we can achieve it, and specifically how we are to walk in sanctification.

Paul goes into this in some detail; 1-Thessalonians 4:1: "Now then, as for the rest, brethren, we are beseeching and exhorting you in the Lord Jesus, even as you received from us how **you are duty-bound to walk and to please God**, that you would abound *still* more." *So, we see admonition from Paul to really get involved in walking in God's way of life!*

Verse 2: "For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus." Including keeping:

- the commandments of God
- the laws of God
- His way
- ✓ to live it

- ✓ to make it a part of us

Verse 3: "Because this is the will of God—even your sanctification—that you abstain from fornication... [referring to that we must rid ourselves of sin] ...*And* that each of you understand *how* to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, (not in *the* passion of lust, even as the Gentiles who do not know God) *and* not to trespass and defraud his brother in this matter because the Lord *is the* avenger *in* all these matters, exactly as we also told you and fully testified before. **For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to sanctification**" (vs 3-7).

Here we can see that sanctification involves keeping our lives Holy and righteous before God. Let's discuss the meaning of sanctification in greater detail. Sanctification is translated from the Greek word 'hagiasmos' meaning *to be set apart for a Holy purpose!* Again, we can look at the fact that in the seventh day of creation, God sanctified the seventh day, set it aside for a Holy purpose. We see the word *sanctified* there in Genesis as an act of God setting this up, setting aside a whole day, the Sabbath, for a specific purpose, a Holy purpose.

But this word also means *to be made Holy through purification*, that is to be cleansed from sin. I looked in Webster's Dictionary, it does a fairly decent job in defining the word, to sanctify. We looked in there, and it said *to set apart as Holy, to consecrate!* So you heard the word consecration, it means *to set apart for a Holy purpose!*

But it also said in a second definition: *to make free from sin, to purify*. That's from Webster's International Dictionary. Now Vine's Dictionary of New Testament words, emphasizes another aspect of sanctification when it brought out the fact that it refers to and implies very strongly a separation to God.

Sanctification then involves separation of true Christians from the ways of this world and from the ways of sin, the way of evil. That we are to live by the pure Word of God, to walk into righteousness, and we can get a greater understanding of sanctification.

2-Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever?" (vs 14-15).

These Scriptures bring out very clearly that we are not to have one foot in the world and one foot in God's Church. It has to be all in according to

God's way. To be apart, totally committed to the way of God. That's what Paul is bringing out here.

Verse 16: "And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said: 'I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,' says *the* Lord, 'and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; and I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says *the* Lord Almighty" (vs 16-18).

This really ties into this whole aspect of sanctification.

2-Corinthians 7:1: "Now then, beloved, since we have these promises, we should purge ourselves from every defilement of *the* flesh and *the* spirit, perfecting Holiness in *the* fear of God."

This Scripture and these verses we just read, gives a very vivid overall view of sanctification. It brings out three points, if you go back and look at the Scriptures more closely.

1. It brings out that we are to be made Holy and righteous through God dwelling in us. God says, 'I dwell in you and we dwell in Him.'
2. to be separate from the world

Yes, we are to be separate from the world as he said; separation is not being involved with the things of the world or the evil of the world!

3. to be purified and to be cleansed from sin

So, these are the three aspects of sanctification that we can appreciate and better understand.

1-John 3:1: "Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him."

This is so true. Christ came to reveal the Father. The world does not know the Father and it did not accept Christ.

Verse 2: "Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is."

What an incredible verse this is! But notice v 3: *responsibility*. Something we need to be actively doing.

Verse 3: "And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure."

We see this aspect of purification and this is an element of walking in sanctification. We'll see

more about this as we continue on. We are the temple of the living God, yes, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. Therefore, just as the priests and Levites in the Old Testament had to sanctify the physical temple—that is to keep it cleansed and keep it truly purified—as we consider the fact that we are the temple of God, that *we are also obligated to keep our lives sanctified and purified before God!* So in other words, to keep it cleansed, to keep it purified. We are commanded to keep the temple, our temples sanctified before the Lord.

1-Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you understand that **you are God's temple**, and *that* the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?" Yes, indeed!

Through baptism and laying on of hands, God the Father truly begot us with His Holy Spirit. And through that very process, God the Father and Jesus Christ are dwelling in us. What a profound understanding. Therefore, we are Holy because Christ and the Father and the Holy Spirit dwells in us, which definitely you are.

Verse 17: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, **which temple you are.**"

An admonition to grow in Holiness, to grow in righteousness before God. How do we do this? *By coming out of the world!* We live in the world, but we are not a part of this world, that part of the world whose goals and aspirations it is trying to achieve through pride, lust, and all of the evil that is being perpetrated out there in the world.

We're not to partake of the ways of this world and its sins. We're told not to love the world. We are told to come out of the world and not love the world. And John brings this out in:

1-John 2:15: "Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"—*because this world is Satan's world!*

This world is filled with the elements of Satan's hands in all aspects of what's going on. When Christ returns, all of this is going to be taken away that's in the world. As I said, it's all going to be taken down to the parking lot. Everything is going to be taken down because it's all been polluted, perverted by Satan the devil, 'the god of this world.'

Verse 16: "Because everything that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (vs 16-17).

So, here we see, for those who are true followers of Jesus Christ, we are His disciples keeping His way, that we've been given the promise of eternal life. If we continue to walk in sanctification and do God's will and fulfill His purpose, then we shall be in His Kingdom as part of His Family forever. What a magnificent thing to really appreciate and understand.

As God desires to dwell in us, then we understand that we need to truly strive to overcome the flesh *and grow in the spirit of perfection*. We can remember the Scripture in Matt. 6:48, where Christ tells us that we are to become perfect as our Heavenly Father in heaven is perfect. That is an ongoing process that we need to grow in perfection and grow in the perfection of love, which is the key aspect of what God is.

You know, as we grow in sanctification we are being prepared to serve God now and to serve Him in His Kingdom. This is part of the goal, the very Divine purpose of why God has called us, that we might serve Him in sanctification.

2-Timothy 2:19: "Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands firm, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who calls upon the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness.' But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; and some *are* for honor; and some *are* for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone has purged himself from these, he will be a vessel for honor, having been sanctified and *made* serviceable to the Master... [to God] *...and* having been prepared for every good work" (vs 19-21).

This whole process of growing in righteousness is for a great purpose. That we're going to be ruling with Christ in the Kingdom of God under Christ, serving Him and continuing to bring:

- the Truth of God
- the Word of God
- salvation to the world

Therefore, we have to truly set the example now, to grow in sanctification, and to walk in love, peace and joy!

Verse 22: "But flee youthful lusts; and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace with those who are calling on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Calling out to God out of a pure heart. These are the fruits of the Spirit being listed here. As we grow in the fruits of God's Holy Spirit we are being made serviceable. We're being prepared to rule as

Christ would do, we would be truly, ruling with Christ as He would rule.

Walking in sanctification as we can see here, is a key to growing in the very character and the very near nature of Jesus Christ and to be growing in spiritual perfection. How do we become sanctified before God? Well, there are two aspects of sanctification, which I think we need to understand.

I. Conditional Sanctification:

Conditional sanctification is that which God grants to us by His grace when we enter into covenant with Him at baptism. At that time we receive God's Holy Spirit, and with that we also receive sanctification through the receipt of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:16: "In order that I [Paul] might be a minister of Jesus Christ unto the Gentiles to perform the Holy service of teaching the Gospel of God; so that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by *the* Holy Spirit."

I think we understand that when we went through 2-Cor. that by the in-dwelling of God's Spirit, then we are sanctified or made Holy, and also being prepared for a Holy purpose

We are also sanctified by both God the Father, and Jesus Christ who dwells in us, where it says that we're sanctified by the Father (Jude). We are sanctified by Jesus Christ (1-Cor. 1:2).

Therefore, every believer who repents and is baptized in the name of the Father, the name of Jesus Christ, receives both sanctification and justification before God at the time of baptism. We can see a very interesting Scripture that really puts this together.

1-Corinthians 6:9: "Don't you know that the unrighteous shall not inherit *the* Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers of themselves as women, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit *the* Kingdom of God. And such were some of you..." (vs 9-11).

Paul is pointing out to the Corinthians here that they probably fell into all of these different categories, but he goes on and points out something very, very profound.

"...but you were washed... [buried in baptism] ...you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (v 11).

So, we're talking about this process of being called, of repenting and being baptized. Three elements here:

- 1) being washed baptized
- 2) being cleansed
- 3) receiving God's Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands

Sanctified, pronounced clean, purified and made Holy to be consecrated for a Holy purpose. But also to be justified through faith in Jesus Christ. A person is placed in right standing before God, as the righteousness of Christ is imputed to that person. So this all takes place at the time of baptism.

We can summarize this first aspect of sanctification. Conditional sanctification is what God does to us and for us, because of the special spiritual relationship that we have through faith in Jesus Christ at baptism.

II. Progressive Sanctification:

Progressive sanctification is not in the Scriptures. It's a word to show an ongoing process of sanctification. In other words we are to grow in sanctification as we:

- grow in conversion
- grow in the love of God
- grow into the very fruits of the Spirit

and become more like God is! Therefore, we are becoming more and more sanctified, in that sense if you understand.

This is part of the conversion process where the individual Christian then must continue to walk in sanctification. That is to walk in righteousness by growing *in Holy righteous character* and *by producing good fruits*, by producing the fruits of God's Holy Spirit. We can see this process is ongoing, so again we can see how important this is.

1-Peter 1:14: "As obedient children, do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, *as you did* in your ignorance. But according as He Who has called you *is* Holy, you yourselves also be Holy in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You be Holy because I am Holy'" (vs 14-16).

This also brings out that it is truly our efforts that we must put in to work and to develop the very mind of Christ, develop His very character so that we can:

- walk in the Truth
- we can obey the commandments of God more perfectly
- by following His very example that He gave to us in the Gospels

1-John 2:2: "And He [Christ] is *the* propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world. And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: **if** we keep

His commandments" (vs 2-3).

So much comes across here. But if we do know Christ, if we love Christ, we will be following His commandments and live by every word that He's given to us in the Scriptures.

Verse 4: "The one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him. On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him... [we certainly do dwell in Christ] ...is **obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked**" (vs 4-6).

Here we see two elements of what it means to walk in sanctification. To exemplify, to walk in the way that Christ lived. To study His examples of how He lived and obeyed God and did all that was pleasing in the Father's sight.

It is through the indwelling. Not only by Christ in us, but the indwelling of the power of the Holy Spirit that we must truly diligently pursue sanctification by keeping God's Word faithfully. Keeping God's Word faithfully is part of walking in sanctification.

John 17:14: "I have given them Your words, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

We see this element of not being part of this world. We must live in the world but not part of it.

Verse 15: "I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is the Truth" (vs 15-17).

Again His Word is Truth. His commandments are Truth. The very way of God is Truth in all things. *God's Truth sanctifies a person as he internalizes that!*

1-Thessalonians 5:21 [transcriber's correction]: "Prove all things. Hold fast to *that which* is good. Abstain from every form of wickedness" (vs 21-22).

That's an element of being sanctified by the Word of God, in that we are purifying ourselves by living by it by walking in the Truth, and being kept clean, free of sin and able to walk in righteousness.

An example this is in Psa. 119. David writes in this incredible Psalm that can be studied in so many different ways.

Psalm 119: 9: "With what shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With all my heart I have sought You; O let

me not wander from Your commandments. Your Word I have laid up in my heart, so that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches. I will meditate upon Your precepts and have respect to Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word” (vs 9-16).

So, as we study and apply God’s Word to our lives, then indeed we will surely show that we are walking in sanctification. This idea of letting the Word of God cleanse us and help us to grow in sanctification.

Ephesians 5:25: “Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it... [quite a commandment for husbands to keep in mind] ...so that He might sanctify it... [Christ might sanctify the Church] ...having cleansed *it* with the washing of the water by *the Word*” (vs 25-26).

Fred’s given several sermons on this whole aspect of being washed by the Word of God. We are being cleansed and therefore, purified and therefore, being sanctified. How all that comes together in understanding.

Verse 27: “That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame.”

That’s exactly what we read in Eph. 1:3, that we should come before God in Holiness and without blame. Christ is actively preparing the Church, purging us and cleansing us through His Word and helping us to walk in the Truth. We can be wholly perfected in His character. As we study the words of God—His Truth—and practice it, the way of God will be established in our lives and therefore, an example of how the Word of God help us to walk in sanctification.

2-Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete...” (vs 16-17).

That is mature, *spiritually complete*. Filled with the love of God, filled with a very works of the Holy Spirit.

“...fully equipped for every good work” (v 17).

Here we can see then in summary, that sanctification is a process. It’s a joint effort between God and us, His saints. Notice the word *saints* actually is derived from the word to be to be

sanctified. It comes from that very derivation. Saints, sanctified people. God will do his part, but we must be committed to doing our part.

As Paul many times has admonish us in the Scriptures, to truly seek righteousness. It means that we need to focus on the Truth of God and practice it, to read and understand it. It’s our responsibility to keep our thoughts and our mind pure and clean, and conduct our lives according to God’s will and according to His Divine purpose.

As we’ve gone through this, there are three things that I want you to be sure to remember. As we continue to walk in sanctification, ***there are three key aspects*** that I think are very important here.

1) We must use the power of God’s Spirit to walk in Holiness and to overcome the works of the flesh

2-Timothy 1:6—Paul writes: “For this reason, I admonish you to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness” (vs 6-7).

God the Father and Jesus Christ have given us the very means to be able to overcome the struggle and the difficulties that we face not only in the world but within our own being, the flesh that we must fight. We are to pursue love, we are to use the power of God. But He has given us the power of ***sound mindedness***. And this is referring to the fact that sound mindedness comes from having the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.”

- that we can achieve the very righteousness of God that He is seeking in us
- that we can truly know the Truth
- that we can choose the Truth
- that we can live by the Truth

We have within us a nature that causes us to sin by yielding to wrong desires. Somehow, some way get fatigued and discouraged and down. We are weak in the flesh, yet, strong in the Spirit. Sometimes we fall and we do sin. Evil desires come into our mind and heart. Why? *Because of the influence of Satan the devil!* We live in this world and Satan is ‘the god of this world.’ He’s also ‘the prince of the power of the air’ and he knows that he can transmit thoughts and ideas into our mind.

I know that sometimes you can be walking along and some very wrong and evil thoughts can just come into your mind, sometimes without any provocation. Where did that come from? Other times we become vulnerable to going the way of sin

because of the human flesh, because of the carnal flesh that is in us. So, remember:

Jeremiah 7:9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Even though we were baptized and cleansed, we still struggle with that human flesh, the carnal flesh that is in us. We must fight against the lust of the flesh and wage *spiritual warfare*. Not only against the carnal flesh, but against the ways of the world and against the temptations of Satan the devil. We recognize that that kind of human nature of the flesh did not die in the watery grave at baptism.

But thankfully we can be very grateful that God has given us the very spiritual tools, the weapons if you will, that we can overcome the power of the flesh and be protected and guarded from Satan, and to also overcome the ways of the world. Of course, we know that it's through His Holy Spirit that I'm talking about.

Recognize that we are truly blessed being given God's Holy Spirit, we might win this battle against the flesh. But it takes effort, it takes work on our part to do so.

Galatians 5:16: “Now *this* I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these things are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do those things you wish to do. But if you are led by *the* Spirit, you are not under *works of law*” (vs 16-18).

It goes through and lists all of the attributes of the carnal flesh.

Verse 22: “But the fruits of the Spirit...” ***These are the weapons, the fruits!*** But they're also weapons that we can use against the carnal flesh, against this world, to achieve righteousness and Truth.

“...love, joy, peace... [patience] ...long suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. But those who *are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts” (vs 22-24).

The Scriptures truly recognize and give us the hope and the reality that we can fight against this flesh.

- we have to work at it
- we have to concentrate on it
- we have to keep working and doing God's will

Verse 25: If we live by *the* Spirit, we should also be walking... [in and]: ...by *the* Spirit.”

This is talking about sanctification! Walking in the power of God's Holy Spirit so that we might truly put to death the deeds of the body. Yes, we can put to death the deeds of the body, *but we have to put on Christ in the process!*

We can read here exactly what Paul continues to tell us about overcoming the flesh:

Colossians 3:5: “Therefore, put to death your members, which *are* on earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, among whom you also once walked, when you were living in these things. But now, you should also put off all *these* things: wrath, indignation, malice, blasphemy, *and* foul language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, *seeing that* you have put off the old man together with his deeds” (vs 5-9).

How do you do that? ***You replace it with Jesus Christ!***

Verse 10: “And have put on the new man, who *is* being renewed in knowledge according to *the* image of Him Who created him.”

A tremendous Scripture here that ***gives us the hope and the encouragement that with the Spirit of God and with Christ in us we can overcome and grow in sanctification!***

2) We must seek daily cleansing by asking for forgiveness of our sins in our daily prayer

Yes, walking in sanctification requires that we go before God and confess our sins before Him. He is faithful to forgive us of those sins and to wash us clean.

In order to walk in sanctification then we need to have a repentant attitude and to recognize that we still are battling flesh and we are still sin in some way each day through thought or deed or action. We do sin, because everything that's not of God is centered on this world. So, we need to daily ask God for forgiveness of our sins.

This is like a spiritual shower. It's like we are going through and being cleansed. We go to God on our knees and we ask for His forgiveness and He is faithful to forgive us.

Here we can see a very important scripture that should give us a great deal of hope:

1-John 1:7: “However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

Christ died on the cross; He shed His blood so that our sins can be forgiven.

Verse 8: “If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.” *We know and understand what that means!*

Verse 9: “If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

This is to be a daily occurrence in prayer to be washed and be cleansed. We can walk in its application, because we ask God’s forgiveness of our sins on a daily basis.

3) **We must guard our mind and be alert to any thoughts that do not line up with the Word of God, with the Truth of God**

Proverbs 4:23: “Above all guard the door of your mind... [How do you do that? *With close inspection with discernment!*] ...with diligence... [with perception and reality and recognizing] ...for out of it *are* the issues of life.... [both good and bad] ...Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you” (vs 23-24).

Again, what we speak and say originates in our mind. We guard our mind so that we can put away a deceitful mouth.

Verse 25: “Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established. Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil” (vs 25-27).

We must be ready to cast off wrong thoughts, wrong attitudes, evil intentions and cast them off as a vain thing. To truly turn to God in prayer to ask for His help, His strength of the Holy Spirit to do that. We can read a very key Scripture about casting out vanity and the ways of the flesh.

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the* flesh, we do not war according to *the* flesh.”

God gives us the power of His Spirit and His Word and the power of His presence in us. So, we have some *strong spiritual weapons* that we can use.

Verse 4: “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds.”

These are things in our mind that Satan can get a hold of, whether it’s anger or fear or bitterness or evil thoughts, he can achieve a stronghold, a position in our thinking, ***which we should never allow!*** How do you rid this? *By:*

Verse 5: “Casting down *vain* imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...”

That is we watch very carefully and we guard our mind. We cast off those things that are of Satan the devil, of this world, and of our flesh.

“...and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ; and having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled” (vs 5-6).

The Scriptures here reveal that with the power of God, with God’s Spirit, if we continue to love God and serve God then we can grow in righteousness and continue to walk in sanctification. We can truly overcome wrong thoughts by replacing them with the right thoughts and right thinking. That’s why Bible study is so very important, because when we study the Scriptures, we put into our mind:

- right thinking
- right thoughts
- right purpose

and we go forward! But also, as we meditate on God’s Word, we can then begin to understand how we can overcome the ways of this world and become truly more sanctified. So, right thoughts truly can motivate us to Godly action into proper conduct.

Philippians 4:6: “Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything.”

So, coming before God we can just come and give Him all of our thoughts and prayers for everything we need.

Verse 7: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever *things* are honorable, whatever *things* are just, whatever *things* are pure, whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report; if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, ***think on these things***” (vs 7-8).

Here we see a replacement therapy. By focusing on these righteous thoughts we can drive out the evil thinking and wrong thoughts that might enter into our mind.

Let us understand the importance of walking in sanctification realize all of the things that is important with that. But then let us as God’s people, seriously in our walk in sanctification, remaining Holy and righteous before God.

Colossians 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and

spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *in* everything—whatever you do in word or in deed—*do* all in *the* name of *the* Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and *the* Father by Him” (16-17).

I hope this message has been helpful to you. It certainly was to myself as I’ve studied more on the meaning and the depth of what sanctification is all about. I hope this has been something that you will be able to use and to be able to put to use in your life.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ephesians 1:3-5, 9-11
- 2) 1 Peter 2:9-12
- 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7
- 4) 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 5) 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 6) 1 John 3:1-3
- 7) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- 8) 1 John 2:15-17
- 9) 2 Timothy 2:19-22
- 10) Romans 15:16
- 11) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- 12) 1 Peter 1:14-16
- 13) 1 John 2:2-6
- 14) John 17:14-17
- 15) 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22
- 16) Psalm 119:9-16
- 17) Ephesians 5:25-27
- 18) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 19) 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- 20) Philippians 2:5
- 21) Jeremiah 7:9
- 22) Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25
- 23) Colossians 3:5-10
- 24) 1 John 1:7-9
- 25) Proverbs 4:23-27
- 26) 2 Corinthians 10:3-6
- 27) Philippians 4:6-8
- 28) Colossians 3:16-17

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 6:33, 48
- Jude 1
- 1 Corinthians 1:2

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