

SANCTIFICATION

MEMORY VERSE

Titus 2:11-12

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..."

1. What is the will of God for your life? (I Thessalonians 4:3)
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Sanctification is the act of consecrating or of setting something apart for a sacred purpose. It is an on-going process by which believers in Christ are transformed into His image in character, speech, thought and deed. The American Dictionary of the English Language (1828) defines sanctification as "the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified from sin and the world, and are exalted to a supreme love for God."

2. What does real faith in Jesus produce? (Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2:14-26)
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3. Is sanctification an option for a person who claims to follow Jesus Christ? (Hebrews 12:14 (NASB))
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God's highest goal for you is for you to enjoy an unhindered love relationship with Him—and without sanctification that is impossible. It is His will that you be sanctified entirely—in your spirit, soul and body.

When you surrender your life to serve Jesus Christ, you are cleansed from your past sins, and your spirit is sanctified. However, your body and soul (which consists of your mind, will and emotions) still need to be sanctified to God and His purposes. Old ungodly ideas, thoughts and desires that we still carry must be done away with.

4. How are we transformed into Christ's image? (Romans 12:1-2)
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5. How are our minds renewed? (John 17:17, Ephesians 5:25-27, Hebrews 4:12)
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God desires to sanctify His church with His Word. As you treasure God's Word in your heart, your mind will be sanctified and transformed. Your thoughts, motives and actions will be purified.

6. Can a person live in holiness and be 'bound together' with unbelievers? (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)
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7. What does God promise you if you will separate yourself from worldly sin? (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

8. In light of that promise, what are we exhorted to do? (II Corinthians 7:1)

Perfecting holiness in the fear of God means to stop sinning. “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.” (Proverbs 8:13) “By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.” (Proverbs 16: 6).

Perfecting holiness is an ongoing process by which you bring each area of your life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There are sins of commission (doing things that are against God’s Word) and sins of omission (not doing what God commands). Stopping sin means stopping the sources of temptation to sin; for instance, worldly habits, friendships and relationships. When you are dealing with unsanctified areas of your life, you must ask yourself, “Which do I love more, God or my sin?”

Remember that the purpose of sanctification is that you glorify and enjoy your loving Father, not that you “earn” salvation. However, sanctification is not an option. It is essential for you to have a vibrant relationship with God.

9. What has Jesus become for us? (1 Corinthians 1:30)

10. What happened to our old self? (Romans 6:6) _____

11. For what purpose were our old selves crucified with Christ? (Romans 6:6-7)

12. What did Jesus die to in His death, and what does He now live to? (Romans 6:10)

13. Since we shared in His death (Romans 6:6, 6:8, Galatians 2:20), what have we died to, and what do we now live to? (Romans 6:11)

14. What therefore are we to do in response to this glorious truth? (Romans 6:12-13, 19)

15. Why does sin have no dominion over us? (Romans 6:14)

We stated in a previous study that Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Not being under the law does not mean we are free to disregard God’s commands, but rather that we are free from trying to fulfill those commands by our own willpower.

16. What will happen if we attempt to overcome sin simply by trying harder? (Romans 7:7-19)

17. Why were we made to die to the law? (Romans 7:4)

18. What does grace do for us? (Titus 2:11-12)

Grace is not an excuse for sin. The grace of God—His undeserved favor and the empowering ability He gives us to do what we naturally could not—trains and causes us to live righteously.

If we rely on fleshly effort to gain victory, we will be trapped in a seemingly endless cycle of that law. But if we rely on the indwelling Spirit of life, we need never live under the law (constant pattern) of sin and death again!

19. What exists wherever the Spirit of the Lord is? (II Corinthians 3:17)

20. How are we to walk? (Galatians 5:16)

21. What are the works of the flesh? (Galatians 5:19-21)

22. What is the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23)

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| a) _____ | d) _____ | g) _____ |
| b) _____ | e) _____ | h) _____ |
| c) _____ | f) _____ | i) _____ |

Note that the flesh has “works” and the Spirit has “fruit.” Fruit doesn’t work to grow; it just does when the conditions are right. If you cooperate with God so the right conditions are created, you will see the fruit of the Spirit grow in your life.

23. Who works in us and for what purpose? (Philippians 2:12-13)

24. What are we therefore to do? (Philippians 2:12)

So we see that in our quest to be sanctified, to be wholly God's and wholly free from sin, we rely on two wonderful truths:

1. My old self was crucified with Christ so I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ, and 2. The law of the Spirit of life (the Holy Spirit's constant work in me) sets me free from the law (constant pattern) of sin and death—God the Holy Spirit works in me to will and do according to His good pleasure! In response to this, I walk with Him constantly, thereby living immersed in His presence and free from sin! We will share a few more scriptures to demonstrate this wonderful principle.

25. Who sanctifies us, and to what extent? (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

26. Who is responsible to turn away from sin as the Holy Spirit works in us? (II Timothy 2:21-22)

27. What happens to us if we cooperate with the Holy Spirit? (II Timothy 2:21)

28. What happens to us if we don't? (Romans 6:15-16)

Even though we are free from sin by the grace of God, if we *willingly choose* to sin we can become the enslaved to sin again.

The root word of the word "decide" means "to cut off all other options." We must make a decision to live like there is no such thing as a secret (Luke 8:17- "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open."). We don't wait for God to turn us away from sin—we **decide** to do that out of obedience to Him. Our decision is based not on mere will power but what Christ has done through His death and resurrection and on the power of the Holy Spirit living in us. This is the merging together of our part and God's part in the process of sanctification. It is the only sure way to experience a life of holiness, freedom and fruitfulness for God!