

***“By My Spirit!”***  
***The Summit Of Sanctification!***

**Introduction:**

1. Looking At The Personal Work Of The Holy Spirit In The Life Of A Christian!
  - The Holy Spirit Has Extraordinary Power, And Provides His Power To Us As He Fills Us!
    - One Of The Demonstrations Of His Power & One Of The Evidences Of His Filling Is His Work Of Sanctification!
2. What Is Sanctification?
  - To Sanctify Simply Means To Make Holy!
    - The Essence Of God Is Holiness!
    - The Expectation Of God Is Holiness!
      - 1 Peter 1:15-16 - “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy!”
    - The Entrance To God Is Holiness!
      - Hebrews 12:14 - “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!”
    - The Equipment From God Is Holiness!
      - Through The Process Of Sanctification By The Holy Spirit!
      - Look At Several Passages That Show The Holy Spirit’s Work Of Sanctification In Your Life As A Christian!
3. Shows Us That Sanctification – Or Spiritual Growth In Holiness – Is A Lifelong Process!
  - Very Much Like Climbing To The Summit Of A High Mountain!
    - Sometimes The Process Seems Difficult!
    - Sometimes The Process Seems Long!
    - But When You Reach The End Of The Climb, The View Is Nothing Like You’ve Ever Seen In This World!
      - Why It Is Described As The “Beauty Of Holiness” In The Psalms!
4. Tonight, Continue To Climb The Summit Of Sanctification With Me!
  - By Looking At And Fully Trusting In The Holy Spirit’s Continuing Work In Your Life!

\* Before A Climber Begins To Scale The Heights Of A Mountain, Like Mount Everest, The World’s Highest Mountain (Nearly 5 ½ Miles Above Sea Level!), He Will Go To The Base Camp, Far Below The Peak! At This Camp, A Climber Will Usually Be Part Of A Team & Receive The Equipment Necessary For The Difficult Climb! A Climb Like This Would Be Very Dangerous Alone, And Nearly Impossible To Reach The Summit! A Climber Has To Be Ready To Climb - Otherwise, Great Disaster! In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary Was The First Person To Reach The Summit Of Mt. Everest & Return Safely! He Could Only Have Succeeded Because He Was Prepared!

- When It Comes To Your Life As A Christian, You Have To Be Saved Before You Can Be Sanctified! But How Can You Know You Are Saved & Ready To “Climb To Spiritual Heights” Through Christ?

**1. *Sanctification Is The Personal Proof Of Your Salvation!***

- 1 Peter 1:1-2 - “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied!”
  - Peter Is Writing To The “Elect” – Those Who Are Chosen By God & Are Saved!
    - And He Says That Their Salvation Is Applied To Them “Through Sanctification Of The Spirit!”
- In Other Words:
  - The Holy Spirit Has Been Working On Them All Along, According To God The Father’s Plan!
    - It Started Out When The Holy Spirit Regenerated Them & Gave Them New Life!
    - It Continued When The Holy Spirit Indwelt Them & Provided His Permanent Presence & Power To Them!
    - Now, The Holy Spirit Continues His Work, By Filling & Sanctifying Them – Making Them Holy, Like He Is Holy!
- Even Though The Process Of Sanctification May Seem Mysterious, There Is Solid Evidence That It Is

Taking Place!

- It Is “Unto Obedience!”
- Through Sanctification, The Holy Spirit Enables You (Through His Power) To Obey The Lord & His Word!
- Your Obedience To The Lord Is The Proof Of Your Sanctification!
  - Your Sanctification Is The Proof Of Your Salvation!
    - You Can Never Make It To The Summit Of Heaven, Without Being First Prepared By The Holy Spirit In This Way!

\* Before Going On The Climb, Sir Edmund Hillary (Who Just Recently Died On January 11, 2008 - 88 Yrs) Knew That It Would Take A Long Time & A Lot Of Work To Reach The Top!

- Yes, Salvation Is A Free Gift To Those Who Accept It By Faith At The Hand Of The Lord Jesus Christ! But Once Saved, The Lord Teaches That There Is A Process In Place While You Live In This World To “Sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!” (1 Thessalonians 5:23) - It Will Take Time & Effort!

## 2. ***Sanctification Is The Personal Progress Of Your Salvation!***

- Like Pilgrim Of Pilgrims Progress - After His Burden Was Lifted At Calvary, He Still Had To Climb The Hill Of Difficulty, Into The Valley Of Humiliation & The Valley Of The Shadow Of Death - Up & Down / Up & Down / But Always Moving Forward, Upward, Closer To The Summit & The Gate Of The Celestial City!
- It Is A Continual Process Of Change!
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 - “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because ***God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!”
  - God’s Plan “From The Beginning” Is To Save You To The Uttermost! (Hebrews 7:25)
    - Not Just From The Penalty Of Sin, But From The Power Of Sin (Through Sanctification), And Ultimately From The Very Presence Of Sin!
  - He Chose You To Change You!
    - And This Is One Reason Why We Ought To Give God Thanks! He Is Not Content To Leave Us Where He Found Us!
    - William Wilberforce - “I Am Not What I Should Be; I Am Not What I Want To Be; I Am Not What I Will Be; But I Am Not What I Was! And By The Grace Of God, I Am What I Am!”
  - How You Are Saved Is How You Grow!
    - Through “Belief Of The Truth!”
    - In God & His Spirit / In The Process He Uses To Sanctify You – Your Circumstances / Church / Communication - Prayer & The Word!
  - Are You Continuing To Change?
- It Is A Continual Process Of Cleansing!
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, / Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. / And such were some of you: ***but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God!***”
  - God’s Plan Is Also To Make You Fit For Heaven!
    - Through The Cleansing Of Sanctification!
  - He Brings You From Unrighteousness To Righteousness!
    - From Darkness To Light!
    - A Joint Effort By The Son & The Spirit!
    - Through This Process, The Holy Spirit Equips Us For Service For & Faithfulness To The Lord!
  - How Does He Cleanse & Purify?

- John 17:17-19 - "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth!"
- Strong Relationship Between The Spirit's Work & Word!
- Are You Continuing To Be Cleansed & Purified?
- It Is A Continual Process Of Cooperation!
  - Hebrews 10:29 - Is A Warning To Those Who Refuse What God Has Provided & Is Using To Sanctify Them - "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"
  - This Is Why Our Cooperation With The Holy Spirit In This Process Of Sanctification Is So Important!
    - Look At Leviticus 20:7-8 - "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. / And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you!"
  - Are You Continuing To Cooperate?
    - By Your "Reception Of The Word" / "Reliance Upon Its Promises" / "Struggles Against Sin" / "Earnest Longings For Holiness" (Boyce)
- There Will Be Hills & Valleys, But There Will Always Be Progress!
  - The Summit Of Sanctification Will Grow Ever So Much Closer And Larger!

\* And As You Get Closer To That Summit, You Will Soon Realize That, Unlike Mt. Everest, There Is Someone Already There! Who Has Been Drawing You Closer And Closer With What Seems To Be A Hidden Rope You Were Perhaps Never Aware Of! He Is Why You Didn't Fall Over A Cliff! He Is Why You Didn't Turn Back! He Is Why You Kept Plodding Along, Even Though You Felt Like You Could Go No Further! And At The Summit, You Will Learn:

3. ***Sanctification Is The Personal Presentation Of Your Salvation!***

- Romans 15:15-16 - "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, / That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, ***that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost!***"
- Without The Spirit's Sanctification:
  - You Could Never Be Acceptable To God! No Matter How Many "Good Works" You Have Done! It Has To Come From The Inside, Through The Work Of The Holy Spirit!
- With The Spirit's Sanctification:
  - You Will Be Presented This Way:
    - Ephesians 5:25-27 - "Husbands, love your wives, even 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, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!"
- Is This How You Are Presenting Yourself Now To The Lord?
  - This Ought To Be Your Desire! Because It Is God's Design!
  - This Is The Summit Of Sanctification!
    - Where You Are Presented Without Spot Or Wrinkle Or Any Such Thing!
    - Where You Are Holy Because He Is Holy!

**Conclusion:**

1. What A View From The Summit!
  - At Mt. Everest, The View Can Be Limited Because Of Clouds, Or Very Temporary, Because Of The Cold Temperature & Strong Winds!
  - But, At The Summit Of Sanctification:
    - You Will See All That The Lord Brought You Through, To Bring You To Where You Are!
    - And You Will Be But "Bound to give thanks always to God . . . because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit!"
2. Are You Being Sanctified By The Holy Spirit?

- This Is The Proof Of Your Salvation!
  - This Is The Progress Of Your Salvation! This Is How You Grow!
  - This Is The Presentation Of Your Salvation! This Is How You Become What God Wants You To Be – “Holy And Without Blemish!”
3. Are You Cooperating With The Holy Spirit?
- Are You Sanctifying Yourself!
    - By Listening To What The Lord Tells You!
    - By Using What The Lord Gives You!
  - Some Day You Will Reach The Summit Of Sanctification!

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