

# Sanctification

## The Doctrine of Sanctification

Sanctification is the progressive work of God and man whereby the believer is made increasingly free from sin and conformed to the image of Christ. While justification is a single act, sanctification is a lifelong process. These studies explore the nature, means, and goal of Christian holiness.

## Definitive Sanctification

### Positional Holiness — Positional Holiness

Believers are definitively set apart unto God at the moment of conversion, possessing a holy status before divine justice through union with Christ. This positional sanctification, distinct from progressive growth in grace, establishes the ontological foundation for the Christian's new identity as one who has been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:11**

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.

#### **Hebrews 10:10**

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

#### **Acts 20:32**

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

#### **Acts 26:18**

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:2**

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

**Jude 1:1**

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

## Death to Sin — Death to Sin

In union with Christ, the believer has died to sin's dominion and claim, having been crucified with Christ in His atoning death. This definitive break from sin's tyrannical reign does not eliminate the presence of indwelling corruption but decisively severs sin's legal authority and enslaving power over those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 6:2**

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**Romans 6:6**

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**Romans 6:11**

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Colossians 3:3**

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**1 Peter 2:24**

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

## Union with Christ — Union with Christ

The mystical yet real union between Christ and His people constitutes the fountainhead of all saving benefits, whereby believers are so vitally connected to their federal Head that His death becomes their death, His righteousness their

righteousness, and His life their life. This covenant bond transcends mere legal imputation, establishing an organic relationship wherein Christ dwells in believers and believers dwell in Christ through the Spirit's efficacious operation.

**Romans 6:5**

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

**Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Ephesians 2:5-6**

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

**Colossians 2:12**

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

**John 15:5**

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

## Break from Sin's Dominion — Break from Sin's Dominion

The believer's deliverance from sin's tyrannical reign represents a decisive transfer from one master to another, from slavery to sin unto obedience to righteousness. Though sin remains as an unwelcome resident, it no longer rules as sovereign lord over those who have been liberated by Christ's redemptive work and now serve a new Master in newness of life.

**Romans 6:14**

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

**Romans 6:18**

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

**Romans 6:22**

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

**Romans 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

**Colossians 1:13**

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

**Titus 2:14**

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

## Progressive Sanctification

### Gradual Growth — Gradual Growth

The work of sanctification proceeds gradually throughout the believer's earthly pilgrimage, advancing by discernible degrees as the Holy Spirit progressively mortifies remaining corruption and vivifies graces implanted at regeneration. This incremental transformation, though uneven and attended by many setbacks, moves inexorably toward the perfection that awaits glorification.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**Philippians 1:6**

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Proverbs 4:18**

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

**2 Peter 3:18**

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**Philippians 3:12-14**

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 1:10**

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## Lifelong Process — Lifelong Process

Sanctification extends across the entire span of the Christian's temporal existence, admitting no possibility of completed perfection in this present life. From conversion to glorification, believers engage in unceasing spiritual warfare against indwelling sin, pursuing holiness with the confident assurance that He who began this good work will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:6**

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

And the very God of peace 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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

**Hebrews 12:14**

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**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.

**2 Timothy 2:21**

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

**Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

## Imperfection Remains — Imperfection Remains

Even the most advanced saints retain vestiges of indwelling corruption throughout their earthly sojourn, experiencing continual conflict between flesh and spirit. This persistent imperfection, far from invalidating their justified status, drives believers to greater dependence upon Christ's mediatorial work and the Spirit's sanctifying grace while they await the consummation of redemption in glorification.

**Romans 7:18-19**

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

**Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**Philippians 3:12**

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

**1 John 1:8**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**James 3:2**

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20**

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

## Growth in Grace — Growth in Grace

Believers are commanded to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, increasing in spiritual maturity as they are conformed more fully to His image. This growth encompasses both deepening apprehension of gospel truths and practical advancement in godliness, as divine grace works effectually to produce Christlike character and conduct.

### **2 Peter 3:18**

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

### **Ephesians 4:15**

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

### **Colossians 2:6-7**

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

### **1 Peter 2:2**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

### **Hebrews 5:12-14**

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:3**

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

# Agent of Sanctification

## Holy Spirit's Work — Holy Spirit's Work

The Holy Spirit serves as the principal efficient cause of sanctification, applying Christ's redemptive work to believers and effectually transforming them into the image of the Son. Through His indwelling presence and supernatural operations, the Spirit both initiates and sustains the sanctifying process, working in believers both to will and to do according to God's good pleasure.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

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:

### **1 Peter 1:2**

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.

### **Romans 8:13**

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

### **Galatians 5:16-17**

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

### **Ezekiel 36:27**

And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

### **Titus 3:5**

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

## God Works In Us — God Works In Us

The Triune God actively works within believers to accomplish sanctification, energizing both desire and deed according to divine purpose. This internal operation does not negate human responsibility but rather enables it, as God's sovereign grace

empowers genuine human agency in the pursuit of holiness without compromising the gracious nature of sanctification.

**Philippians 2:13**

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

And the very God of peace 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.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**Jeremiah 31:33**

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

## Divine Initiative — Divine Initiative

Sanctification proceeds from divine initiative rather than human resolution, originating in God's electing love and effectuated by His irresistible grace. While believers actively engage in mortifying sin and cultivating godliness, even this activity flows from grace previously imparted, ensuring that sanctification from its inception to consummation remains fundamentally the work of God in His people.

**Philippians 1:6**

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

**Jude 1:24-25**

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Hebrews 12:2**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Romans 8:30**

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

## Trinitarian Work — Trinitarian Work

Sanctification manifests the cooperative work of the Triune God, as the Father elects and calls, the Son redeems and intercedes, and the Holy Spirit applies and transforms. This threefold operation, though distinguished according to person and office, constitutes one undivided work of grace wherein each divine person contributes to the believer's progressive conformity to Christ's image.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13**

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:

**Hebrews 10:10**

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**1 Peter 1:2**

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.

**Hebrews 13:12**

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

**Hebrews 2:11**

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

**John 17:17**

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

## Means of Sanctification

### The Word — The Word

Sacred Scripture serves as the instrumental means whereby the Spirit sanctifies believers, as the sword of the Spirit cuts away error and implants truth. Through hearing, reading, meditating upon, and obeying biblical revelation, Christians are progressively transformed by the renewing of their minds, their affections realigned with divine truth and their conduct conformed to divine commands.

**John 17:17**

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**Ephesians 5:26**

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

**Psalms 119:9**

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

**Psalms 119:11**

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**1 Peter 2:2**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

## Prayer — Prayer

Prayer constitutes an indispensable means of sanctification, as believers commune with God, confess sin, seek grace, and plead for transforming power. Through habitual prayer, the Christian cultivates dependence upon divine strength, mortifies self-reliance, and opens the soul to the Spirit's sanctifying operations, growing in grace as communion with God deepens.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 4:2**

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

Pray without ceasing.

**Ephesians 6:18**

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**Jude 1:20**

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

**Luke 18:1**

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

## Fellowship — Fellowship

Corporate fellowship with the visible church advances sanctification as believers stimulate one another to love and good works, bearing burdens, restoring the fallen, and edifying the body of Christ. The communion of saints provides accountability, encouragement, instruction, and mutual care that nourish spiritual growth and preserve individuals from doctrinal error and moral declension.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

### **Galatians 6:1-2**

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

### **Proverbs 27:17**

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

### **Acts 2:42**

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

## Sacraments — Sacraments

The ordained sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper serve as visible means of grace, confirming gospel promises, strengthening faith, and sealing believers unto sanctification. These outward signs, when received with faith, convey spiritual nourishment and remind believers of their union with Christ, stimulating gratitude and godliness while warning against apostasy and sin.

### **1 Corinthians 10:16**

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

### **1 Corinthians 11:26**

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

### **Romans 6:3-4**

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

### **Colossians 2:12**

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

### **1 Corinthians 12:13**

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

### **Acts 22:16**

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

## Providence and Trials — Providence and Trials

Divine providence deploys afflictions, trials, and chastisements as instruments of sanctification, refining believers as gold in the furnace and producing endurance, character, and hope. Though grievous in the moment, these temporal sufferings work an eternal weight of glory, conforming the Christian to Christ's image and weaning affections from earthly vanities unto heavenly realities.

**Hebrews 12:10-11**

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

**James 1:2-4**

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**Romans 5:3-5**

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

**2 Corinthians 4:17**

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

**Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

## Mortification

### Putting Sin to Death — Putting Sin to Death

Believers are commanded to mortify the deeds of the flesh through the Spirit's power, actively putting to death those sinful dispositions and practices that wage war against the soul. This violent, aggressive stance toward sin requires ruthless self-examination, deliberate renunciation of evil, and conscious dependence upon the Spirit's sanctifying operations to subdue indwelling corruption.

**Romans 8:13**

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

**Colossians 3:5**

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

**Galatians 5:24**

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**Romans 6:12-13**

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**1 Peter 2:11**

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

**Ephesians 4:22-24**

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

## Daily Dying — Daily Dying

The Christian life demands daily self-denial and cross-bearing, as believers continually reckon themselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. This ongoing mortification involves habitual repentance, constant vigilance against temptation, and regular crucifixion of fleshly desires, reflecting Paul's declaration that he died daily to live for Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:31**

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

**Luke 9:23**

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Romans 6:11**

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

**Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Matthew 16:24**

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

## Spiritual Warfare — Spiritual Warfare

Sanctification proceeds amidst fierce spiritual conflict, as believers wage war against the world, the flesh, and the devil who conspire to impede holiness and promote sin. Armed with the panoply of God and empowered by the Spirit, Christians engage in unremitting combat against invisible enemies, resisting temptation, refusing compromise, and relying upon divine strength to withstand evil assaults.

**Ephesians 6:12**

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

**James 4:7**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of

strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

**1 Timothy 6:12**

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

**Ephesians 6:13-17**

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

## Resisting Temptation — Resisting Temptation

Believers must actively resist temptation through watchfulness, prayer, Scripture meditation, and flight from occasions of sin. While God faithfully provides escape from every trial, Christians bear responsibility to exercise spiritual vigilance, avoid unnecessary exposure to enticement, and cry out for divine assistance when Satan, the world, or indwelling corruption present allurements to transgression.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**Matthew 26:41**

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**Hebrews 2:18**

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

**James 1:12-14**

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be

tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

**2 Timothy 2:22**

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Hebrews 12:4**

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

## Vivification

### New Life in Christ — New Life in Christ

Believers possess new spiritual life through regeneration and union with the risen Christ, having been quickened from spiritual death to walk in newness of life. This imparted vitality energizes holy affections, enables spiritual perception, and produces righteous conduct as the principle of divine life works within to transform heart, mind, and will according to God's image.

**Romans 6:4**

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

**Colossians 3:1-3**

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**John 10:10**

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

**Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Fruit of the Spirit — Fruit of the Spirit**

The Holy Spirit produces distinctive spiritual fruit in believers' lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—as evidence of His indwelling presence and sanctifying work. These graces, flowing organically from vital union with Christ rather than through mere human striving, manifest the character of God reproduced in redeemed humanity through sovereign grace.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

**Ephesians 5:9**

(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

**Philippians 1:11**

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

**Colossians 1:10**

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**John 15:5**

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**James 3:17-18**

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

## Renewal of Mind — Renewal of Mind

Sanctification fundamentally involves the transformation of the mind, as the Spirit renews cognitive faculties formerly darkened by sin and redirects thoughts toward truth, purity, and godliness. This intellectual renovation enables discernment of God's will, appreciation of spiritual realities, and conformity to divine wisdom, as believers are no longer conformed to worldly thinking but transformed by mental renewal.

### **Romans 12:2**

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

### **Ephesians 4:23**

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

### **Colossians 3:10**

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

### **Titus 3:5**

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

### **Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

### **2 Corinthians 10:5**

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

## Walking in the Spirit — Walking in the Spirit

Believers are commanded to walk by the Spirit's leading, depending upon His guidance and empowerment for victory over fleshly lusts. This Spirit-directed life transcends mere moral reformation, as the indwelling Spirit produces supernatural enablement for obedience, cultivates holy desires, and progressively brings every

aspect of life under Christ's lordship through continuous submission to divine influence.

**Galatians 5:16**

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:25**

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**Romans 8:4**

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Romans 8:14**

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**Ezekiel 36:27**

And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**Philippians 2:13**

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

## Perfectionism Rejected

### No Sinless Perfection — No Sinless Perfection

Scripture uniformly rejects the notion of sinless perfection in this present life, recognizing that even the most sanctified believers retain vestiges of indwelling corruption until glorification. The doctrine of perfectionism contradicts both biblical testimony and Christian experience, fostering either self-deception regarding one's true spiritual state or despair at the impossibility of attaining such an unrealistic standard.

**1 John 1:8**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20**

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Proverbs 20:9**

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

**James 3:2**

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

**1 Kings 8:46**

If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

**Job 9:2-3**

I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

## Remaining Corruption — Remaining Corruption

Indwelling sin persists in believers throughout their earthly pilgrimage, continually warring against the Spirit and hindering complete obedience to God's holy law. This remaining corruption, though progressively weakened through sanctification, never achieves complete eradication in this life, ensuring that the Christian's holiest actions remain tainted by imperfection and requiring perpetual cleansing through Christ's mediatorial blood.

**Romans 7:18**

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

**Romans 7:21-23**

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**Philippians 3:12-13**

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

**1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Psalms 19:12**

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

**Simul Justus et Peccator — Simul Justus et Peccator**

Believers exist simultaneously as justified saints and remaining sinners—righteous in Christ's imputed righteousness yet still contending with indwelling sin. This biblical truth preserves both the perfection of justification (fully righteous in God's sight) and the imperfection of sanctification (progressively growing in practical holiness), preventing both antinomian presumption and legalistic despair through balanced biblical realism.

**Romans 7:25**

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

**Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Philippians 3:12**

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 6:11**

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.

**Romans 6:12-13**

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**1 John 3:2**

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

## Hope of Glory — Hope of Glory

While perfect holiness eludes believers in this present age, Scripture provides certain hope that sanctification will achieve consummation at Christ's return, when the faithful shall be wholly transformed into His likeness. This eschatological hope energizes present pursuit of godliness, comforts those frustrated by remaining sin, and assures believers that their sanctification, though incomplete now, will be perfected when they behold Christ face to face.

### **1 John 3:2**

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

### **Colossians 3:4**

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

### **Romans 8:23**

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-4**

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

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