

draw even closer to our Holy God.

What three things does 2 Tim 1:7 tell us the Spirit gives us? How do each of these help us in pursuing the holiness that brings us nearer to God?

The Nazarene church, of which New Life is a part, uses the term “entire sanctification” to describe the work God’s Holy Spirit does to clean the believer’s heart of anything that competes for our complete love of God and neighbor. The evidence of His sanctifying work is seen in the demonstration of our love and increasing Christlikeness. It is a process that continues throughout our lifetime.

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. - Romans 8:11 NIV

If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Romans 8:11 says that the Holy Spirit makes us alive (Gr. *.zōopoieō*). That word for making us alive comes from the root *zōē*, which refers to the full, vigorous and abundant life that comes from God.

Take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to increase your love, and self-discipline as you pursue the holiness, joy and vibrant life that God desires for you.

WRAP-UP

Sanctification is the ongoing process by which a person becomes more holy, turning away from sin and growing to reflect Christ’s character. While forgiveness and new life happen immediately through faith, spiritual growth and maturity take place over time through daily choices, obedience, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. It’s not about achieving perfection but about steady transformation, by God’s grace and empowered by His Holy Spirit. This growth flows from a relationship rooted in unconditional love, leading to a life increasingly marked by purity, love, and alignment with God’s purposes.

MEMORY VERSE

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

Challenge –

Be aware this week of the opportunities you have to choose to follow the way of Jesus rather than the ways of the world.

The More Excellent Way- Week 1 Sanctification

INTRODUCTION

There are some words you never hear except in church. Sanctification is one of those words. In fact, you might go to church for years and never hear that word. But it is an important concept in the journey of our Christian faith, and so we should do our best to understand what it means. Sanctification (Gr. *hagiasmos*) is from the root word *hagios* that means holy, pure, and separated from sin. Sanctification is the process of becoming holy, pure and set apart. But how does that work? How do we become holy and set apart for God? Let’s look at what the bible has to say about that.

Ice Breaker

Is there anything in your life you’ve spent a lifetime to develop- like a sport or a skill?

Key Passage

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." - 1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Be Holy, As I am Holy

2 "Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

- Leviticus 19:2 NLT

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

- Galatians 5:16 NIV

Sanctification means to make something holy, pure and set apart. It is a progressive work of both God and man that makes Christians more and more free from sin and more, and more like Christ in their actual lives. In Leviticus 19:2 God instructs His people to be holy. What did He give as the reason for His people to be holy?

When God gives a command, it tells us that we have a choice to obey or not. It also tells us that it is attainable because God will not ask us to do something that is impossible. In fact, God is the one who enables us to obey His commands. So, this command tells us we have a choice in being holy or not and it is possible for us to be holy with God’s help. In fact, our holiness is

an essential reflection of God's character shining in us like light reflected in a mirror.

What does Gal 5:16 indicate is the key to being set apart for God rather than following the desires of the flesh, which are in opposition to God?

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ... 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. - Romans 6:19, 22 NIV

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:7-9 NIV

Jesus' death and resurrection set us free from slavery to sin and death. We can choose to offer ourselves to a different master, one who loves us and offers us eternal life. But it is a process. When we are set free from sin it doesn't mean we will never make the wrong choice to sin again.

It would be easy to think we can never attain holiness and be sanctified. But God knows we are a work in progress. 1 John 1:8 says if we claim we are without sin we are only deceiving ourselves. What remedy is provided for our sins and by what means do we become pure of unrighteousness?

We grow in sanctification as we walk in the Spirit. The more we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, the greater the holiness He produces in us. We don't need to strive for perfection, but we should continually increase our obedience to Christ's commands and become conformed more to His image in our daily lives.

2. Two Works of Grace- Justification and Sanctification

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. - Romans 5:1-2 NIV

Because Jesus died in our place, His blood paid the debt for our sin. Therefore, when we received the pardon for our sins offered by Christ's sacrifice, and made Him Lord in our life, we were viewed by God as guilt-free.

We have exchanged our unrighteousness for Christ's righteousness. This gift from God is called justification by grace.

It is immediate and from the moment we accept Jesus we are a new creation. We have a new relationship with God and our transformation has begun. The closer we walk with the Lord the clearer we see our own sinful condition. But as we willingly follow and draw near to Jesus, our sanctification grows and so does our joy.

Reflect on where you began your journey of faith, and how your relationship to Christ has transformed you. How long have you been walking with Him? What are some of the most noticeable differences between how you were before Jesus and how you are after following Him.

The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus is more than a golden ticket to heaven. When we accept Jesus as Lord our guilt is pardoned and we are justified, forgiven and going to heaven. But that is just the beginning of our journey. The Holy Spirit is at work in us to clean up the mess sin left behind. Sanctification is a life-long work of God's grace.

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. - 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. - 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

2 Cor 5:17 tells us that if we are in Christ we've become new creations, reconciled to God. Our acceptance by God is an indication of our initial sanctification and the beginning of the transformation of our lives. As Jesus prepared to depart from the earth, He told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit and with the Spirit, they would receive power.

Did you know God's love is unconditional? That means no sin you commit will cause Him to love you less, but it also means that no good deeds that you do will cause Him to love you more. You are accepted and loved by God, and so, obeying His commands should flow from your love of the God who loves you unconditionally, it is not a means of earning His love or acceptance. It is an expression of gratitude and a desire to please Him and draw near. And He has even placed His Holy Spirit in us, giving us the ability to follow Him more closely. The nearer we come, the more we desire the holiness that allows us to