

# SANCTIFICATION AND VICTORY OVER SIN

**Bible Passage:** John 17:15-19; I Thessalonians 4:1-8, 5:23-24

**Memory Verse:** God has called us not for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification— I Thess. 4:7

## Introduction

Sanctification is a state of separation unto God and the daily process of attaining Christ's perfection (1 Peter 1:16, Lev 20:7, Matthew 5:48). It also means to fully consecrate or yield spirit, soul and body to God (Romans 12:1-2). Other connected words include consecration, separation, holiness, perfection, yieldedness, set apart, dedication etc. God's salvation encompasses total deliverance which includes holiness and sanctification (Luke 1: 68-75). It is the express will of God that every believer will be sanctified (1 Thess. 4:3-4) or set apart and become a useful "Vessel unto honour" (II Timothy 2:21).

## Sanctification – God's command to Believers

The Scriptures teach us that we are to live holy lives and avoid sin (Col. 1:9-11, Heb. 12:14). Just because we are saved and eternally justified by God (John 10:28), is no excuse to continue in the sins from which we were saved (Romans 6:1-2). God expects that believers will continually win the consistent battle with sins through His grace on our lives (Romans 5:20-21, II Cor 12:9); although we will never be perfect until Jesus appears (Rom. 7:24-25). To commit sin continually and use God's grace as an excuse is to degrade the power of God's salvation (Rom. 1:16) and trample the blood of Christ underfoot (Heb. 10:29).

## What is the difference between Salvation and Sanctification?

Salvation is the divine work of God, obtained when a sinner is forgiven the sins of the past and declared by God as being righteous (Rom. 4:3; 5:1,9; Gal. 2:16; 3:11). It is an instantaneous occurrence, resulting in eternal life. It is based completely and solely upon Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24) and it is a gift from God (Romans 6:23), received by faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9, Romans 5:1). This righteousness is not earned or retained by any effort of the saved. On the other hand, Sanctification is the process of being set apart for God's purpose and conforming to the image of Christ. This conforming to Christ involves obedience, commitment and dedication of the believer, but it is still achieved divinely by God's work through His grace in a saved believer, to keep producing more godly character and life (Phil. 2:13). Sanctification is not instantaneous but continuous as the saved believer actively submit to God's will, resist sin, seek holiness, bear fruits of righteousness and work to be more like God (Gal. 5:22-23).

## How can I be sanctified?

Believer can be obtained divine sanctification through:

1. The Word of God. (John 17:17, Psalm 119:9,11) – Read, meditate, understand, get inspired and obey the words of God.
2. Through the blood of Jesus (Rev. 12:11, Heb. 13:12).
3. Allow God to perform divine surgery on your heart (Ezek. 36:26). Only God can change stony heart to heart of flesh, which then becomes easy to do God's will and live holy life.
4. By partnering with the Holy Spirit – 2 Thess. 2:13
5. Play your part, by running away from sins/evil and yielding yourself to righteousness (II Cor. 7:1).

## Scriptural Reading Assignment

Romans 1-2,6; I Peter 1-2; Galatians 5