

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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### SANCTIFICATION

#### Lesson 6

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**What is the meaning of Sanctification ?** - Sanctification is the setting apart from sin unto God. The result is a life of holiness. It is the perfecting (bringing to maturity) of holiness wrought in the life of a believer who desires to yield his life to God to be cleansed and to be set apart unto God. Sanctification is His way of conforming your character and conduct to the image of Christ.

When one is justified, he is *declared* righteous by God the Father. Justification is something God does *for you*. But sanctification is something God does *in you*. Justification puts you in the right relation to God, and sanctification manifests the fruit of that blessed relationship. The fruit, or result, is shown by separation from evil along with a dedication unto God.

The thought in the word "sanctify" originally meant "to cut." Sanctification, then, is His method of cutting you out of the world and the world's evil out of you. It involves a separation from evil, a dedication unto God, and a holy life.

**Separation from evil or uncleanness** - First, look at some Old Testament passages in which sanctification is mentioned: When Hezekiah became king over Judah, the house of the Lord had been forsaken. The former king, Ahaz, was a wicked, idolatrous king. Because of his vile idol worship, he provoked the Lord to anger. Ahaz closed the doors of the house of the Lord II Chronicles 28:24, and he destroyed the vessels which were used in the worship of God. To make matters worse, he built altars in every comer of Jerusalem and in many cities of Judah. On these altars, incense was burned unto other gods. The people, following the example of their king, were living in deep sin.

Hezekiah immediately set about to reopen the house of God so that the people might again worship Jehovah. Calling the priests and Levites (spiritual leaders) together, he said:

*"And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place."*

II Chronicles 29:5. Read on..... II Chronicles 29:15-19.

Here it, is easily seen that the word sanctification is used with the meaning of cleansing from evil or uncleanness, first the cleansing of the Levites, then the cleansing of the temple. Verse 15 says, *"They. . . sanctified themselves"*; that is, they separated themselves from evil deeds. Undoubtedly, evil thoughts were also put out of their mind so that they could be filled with thoughts from God. With this personal sanctification (cleansing) completed, the Levites were now ready to sanctify, or to set apart, from the house of God all that was evil. This they did by removing everything that belonged to idolatry...all that was vile, filthy, and unbecoming to the place of worship.

This is not the only time, however, that the house of God needed cleansing. In Matthew 21, Jesus went into the temple and *"cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers."* He sanctified the temple in the sense that all that defiled and corrupted God's house was driven out (separated) from it.

Further proof that sanctification has to do with separation from uncleanness is found in the following passages: II Chronicles 35:6; Exodus 19:10, 15; I Chronicles 15:12; Joshua 3:5; Job 1:5. Please take time to read each verse carefully, and you will observe that each one refers to personal cleansing.

**Dedication unto God** - Separation **from evil** is only part of sanctification. There must be a separation unto a dedication unto God. A person, a place, or a thing set apart for the exclusive service of God, is said to be sanctified. There are many accounts in Scripture where houses were sanctified. *"And when a man shall sanctify his house to be holy unto the LORD, then the priest shall*

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*estimate it, whether it be good or bad: as the priest shall estimate it, so shall it stand"* Leviticus 27:14. Solomon built the house of the Lord according to the instructions he received from God. When it was finished. God's approval was voiced in these words:

*"For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."* II Chronicles 7:16. Likewise, men who are set apart for the service of the Lord are said to be sanctified. Jeremiah was sanctified (set apart for the service of the Lord) before he was born. *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* Jeremiah 1:5. Jesus was sanctified by the Father when He was set apart for the work of redemption. *"Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world,..."* John 10:36a. In John 17:19, Jesus said: *"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."*

The truth set forth in this verse is that, living a life of holiness as our example, Jesus set Himself apart from the world. You must remember, though, that an example does not save, but it does set up a standard, a rule of living, that should be followed by each believer. Thus, you see that sanctification is also a separation, a dedication, unto God.

**Holiness** - When a man is separated from evil or uncleanness and is dedicated unto God, he is said to be holy. To be holy means to be free from all defilement to be pure. God is Holy, God is absolutely pure. The essence of GOD is Holy. The truth that God is holy is the fundamental truth of the Bible. The essential moral nature of God is holiness.

In the Scriptures, holiness is commanded. see Leviticus 11: 43-45, Here it is seen that God commanded the children of Israel to sanctify themselves. Then they would be holy. By their not touching the unclean or the defiled, and by their desire to serve God alone, they would be known as a holy people. I Peter 1:15-16 says, *"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"* You, too, as a Christian, are to be free from defilement and "touch not the unclean thing." See 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.

The Bible also says: *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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."* Romans 6:11-13. You serve a Holy God now and we are commanded to: *"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."* Colossians 3:1, 2. As you daily count yourself dead to sin and alive unto God, you are obeying the command, *"Be ye holy."*

Holiness is the result of sanctification - being cleansed of sin and dedicated unto God. When you are born again, you become a partaker of the divine nature II Peter 1:4. This new nature desires that which is right, pure, just and undefiled. As God sanctifies you and as you sanctify yourself, Holiness, God's own moral nature is formed in you. You become a holy people *"zealous of good works"* Titus 2:14. God through sanctification makes you holy - fit for heaven. *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"*

Ephesians 1:4. Therefore, those who are born again are commanded to live holy lives. To live a holy life in our every word, thought, and deed must be under the control of the Holy Spirit.

**When does Sanctification take place?** - In this study sanctification will be seen in three aspects:

1. Instantaneous (immediate),
2. Progressive (gradual),
3. Complete (final).

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**The instantaneous** - Sanctification takes place at the new birth. Sanctification is instantaneous in the sense that the very moment a man believes in Jesus Christ, accepting Him as Saviour, he is set apart unto God. Both holiness and real freedom from sin begin at the new birth. By accepting Christ, a person gets a new standing in morality and behaviour, holiness. At the new birth he is made to be good and righteous in the sight of God, because of the offering of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ; *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."*

Hebrews 10:10,14.

Writing to the believers at Corinth who had previously worshipped idols and indulged in almost every known sin, the Apostle Paul declared that they were now both sanctified and justified. *"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."* I Corinthians 6:11. The Bible does not wait until after a believer is dead; or until sanctification is complete, to call him a saint. A person is a saint, according to the, Word of God, the moment he is born again. Note the way Paul addresses the Christians at Corinth: *"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 theirs and ours:"* I Corinthians 1:2.

Every believer is a saint and is sanctified in the, sense that he is set apart from sin unto God the moment he believes. In the new birth God not only justifies a believer but ushers him into a state of sanctification. This stage is only the beginning of sanctification. The believer now has new life and should grow until he has reached the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ, see Ephesians 4:13. It must be understood that a believer grows **in** sanctification, not **into** sanctification. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."*

I Corinthians 1:30,31.

God's demands for a holy life are met through Christ and it is only through Christ that a believer can become all that God desires him to be. When a person accepts Christ as Saviour, that person exchanges his sin for Christ's righteousness. Thus a believer is called a saint because in receiving Christ, Christ is made sanctification and holiness to him. Christ becomes his holiness.

**The progressive** - Sanctification takes place during the life of the believer. It must be remembered that sanctification is only started in the new birth experience. The new birth does not make sanctification complete any more than the birth of a baby makes a man. Birth looks forward to, anticipates, growth. *"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".* II Peter 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."* II Corinthians 3:18. The above verse could well be translated: You are being transformed from one degree of character to another, or from one height of glory to another.

The words, "increase" and "more," suggest growth. *"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints".* I Thessalonians 3:12-13. See also I Thessalonians 4:1,9, 10.

There are many crises (problematic events) in the life of the believer, which should be followed by a greater growth in holiness. When one is born again, however, or surrenders and dedicates his life, or has any spiritual experience that brings him closer to God, he must realize that this experience in itself is not sanctification. Each of these calamities is a stepping-stone that will enable the believer to keep growing in sanctification. Biblical sanctification is far deeper than

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emotion. It touches even more than the feelings. True sanctification is the perfecting of holiness in the believer through the working of the Holy Spirit. This work of the Holy Spirit will be discussed later. This progressive aspect of sanctification is what the Bible calls perfecting holiness. It is described in II Corinthians 7:1 as the cleansing from the filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The plan and purpose of God for every believer is that he might walk in the likeness of Christ. *"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: Ephesians 4:11, 12.* The word "perfecting" in this passage suggests progressing, growing, or bringing to maturity of holiness; Holiness does not grow overnight. It is not attained by creeds or deeds. Holiness is often a slow growth.

A little-by-little, degree-by-degree, step-by-step growth takes place as the Holy Spirit points out sin in one's life and as confession is made to God. True confession is always accompanied by repentance. He promised that, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* I John 1:9. Thus, a believer who is under the Holy Spirit's control and truly confesses a sin stops practicing it.

**The Complete** - Complete sanctification speaks of that final part of sanctification which takes place in the believer when Christ comes. *"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."* I Thessalonians 5:23. The word "wholly" means complete in every part, perfect in every respect. At Christ's coming again, every believer will receive a new body; this body will be perfect in every way. In addition, he will be mature, possessing every Christian grace. *"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."* I Thessalonians 3:12,13. The Bible declares that when the believer sees Jesus, he will be like Him. *"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."* I John 3:2. Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit spoke of this in 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."* At His coming again, our sanctification will be completed. See Philippians 3:20,21.

**What are the means of Sanctification?** - How are men Sanctified? By divine power and through human initiative are what conform the Christian into the likeness of Christ will be studied here.

**The Divine** - The divine side includes the work of the entire Godhead, The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. Please keep in mind that the Godhead works together; they do not work independently of each other in their perfecting of holiness in the believer.

**GOD THE FATHER** - *"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."* I Thessalonians 5:23,24). *"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: Jude 1. "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."* Philippians 1:6.

The One who gave faith to the believer in the first place is also the One who will bring it to maturity and perfection. Every exhortation about faith in the Bible is aimed at strengthening the believer's faith in the One who is the *"author and finisher of our faith."*

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Even though faith is a gift, it must be received, for God never gives anything against our own will. He is the one who works out holiness in a life, but He cannot do so without the full cooperation of the individual. *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always....."* Philippians 2:12,13.

In the prayer of intercession for His disciples, Jesus prayed to the Father saying, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* John 17:17.

**JESUS CHRIST THE SON** - Because Christ *"bore our sins in his own body on the tree,"* every born-again person can be dead to sin and alive unto righteousness. Christ paid in full with His precious blood the penalty for all sin. Thus, God is then able in the new birth to start the work of sanctification. At the same time the believer is being cleansed and separated from sin, Christ begins forming His holiness in him. *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* Hebrews 10:10.

The same truth is taught relative to the sanctification of the church, as based on the sacrificial death of Christ, in 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."* Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** - The Holy Spirit is the executor of the Trinity. He is the Agent through whom the Trinity works. The word "Holy" refers to His essential moral character. Therefore, He is holy in Himself. One of His purposes is to produce holiness in the life of every believer. The moment a person is born again the Holy Spirit begins His work of sanctification (setting apart from sin unto God). The Bible refers to Paul's work in Romans 15:16: *"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."*

The Holy Ghost is the same person as the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul also refers to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in writing to the Corinthian Christians: *"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."* I Corinthians 6:11.

As the Holy Spirit is divine, the word "holy" refers to His essential moral character. He is holy in Himself. His purpose is to **produce holiness** in the life of the believer.

Note: how the following scriptures refer to the Holy Spirit as the agent of sanctification. See I Peter 1:2. and II Thessalonians 2:13.

It is the Holy Spirit who fights against the lust of the flesh. Through Him you are able to gain the victory, and, at the same time, He will bring forth in you fruit unto righteousness. This battle is described in Galatians 5:17-22.

The seventh chapter of Romans describes the unsuccessful human struggle against indwelling sin. The Bible states of Paul that the things he knows he should do, he finds that he cannot do because he has no power in himself to accomplish them. Likewise, the things that he should not do, he finds himself doing because he has no power to abstain. The chapter seems to end in a dilemma, verse 25, *"So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."* See Romans 7:23-25... The trouble, here, is that the Holy Spirit is left out. He is not mentioned even once in the chapter. But in chapter 8 there is victory, because He has been given freedom to work. In fact, the Holy Spirit is mentioned sixteen times in that chapter. All of the defeats of Chapter 7 are turned into victory by the Holy Spirit. He gives the believer not only the power to do the things he should but also the power to keep from doing the things he should not do. Remember, He will never work in your life unless He is invited. Then He gives you the power to turn your defeats into victory. This is His work of producing holiness. This holiness is the result of the Holy Spirit's sanctifying you, by His convicting you of sin, by your confessing it, and by your renewing your dedication unto God.

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*"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. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* Romans 8:13-14.

**The Human** - The human side is prompted by the Holy Spirit and given the desire to change, but it is up to the believer to follow through in appropriating the faith by which the execution of the change is made in perfecting of holiness in the believer.

**Appropriating faith** - *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"* I Corinthians 1:30. Christ is all of these to the believer, but these - wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption - only become a reality when the believer learns how to appropriate them for himself. Every Christian must learn how to use the law of appropriation before he can experience sanctification.

Appropriation is a very common law found throughout the Bible. In fact, no one has ever been saved without using it; although it is not likely that appropriation was understood when you received God's gift of salvation. Appropriation simply means "to take for yourself something that is offered". It is used in various ways in, scripture, but this study will be limited as to how the believer, can put it to practical use.

Abraham was one of the first to appropriate for himself what God had promised to give. Through the divine commentary of Hebrews 11, we learn that Abraham did not see the completion of these promises while he lived, yet he embraced them (took them for himself). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."* Hebrews 11:13. Every believer must first take the promises of God by faith before he can expect to experience the reality. Joshua was one who experienced the reality of the promise first made to Abraham, but he, too, first had to take it by faith. The promise was made to Joshua in chapter 1, verse 3, of the book that bears his name. See also Joshua 21:44,45.

By your embracing the promises of faith that God has given to you as a believer, you, too, will be able to joyously say, **"In my life, all came to pass."** Remember, *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."* Romans 15:4.

**Act of faith** - God has seemingly made men creatures of habit. Once a thing is done, the easier it is to do it the next time. In the future it is still easier, until, finally, these things are done with little consciousness of doing them. Because of this ease in forming habits, you must realize the importance of starting off on the right foot, of making the right decisions, of having the right purposes. **"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."** Your actions, what you do, are the result of the intents, the purposes of your heart. This has been pointedly and truly expressed in the saying: "Sow a thought, and you reap an act; Sow an act, and you reap a habit; Sow a habit, and you reap a character; Sow a character, and you reap a destiny". Therefore, since habits are so easily, formed it is all the more important to recon yourselves to be dead, see Romans 6:11-13. *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* Romans 6:16.

Have you actually counted yourself as *"dead indeed unto sin"*? Many Christians try to hold on to the sins of the world with one hand, and with the other hand they attempt to grasp the things of God. Are you doing this? If you are, there will never be any joy, deep happiness, or real victory in your life. If this is true of you, make your decision now. Decide, purpose in your heart, that you are dead to sin, that you will not yield to sin, and that you are going to obey God. Do that which is right, and be a servant of righteousness. You will fail at times, but, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* John 1:9. Remember, *"to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are"* Romans 6:16.

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There is another phase to this practical application which is just as vital as reckoning yourself dead to sin. You must also reckon yourself "*alive unto God*," verse 11. Where there is life there is feeling, communion, and fellowship. You must associate yourself with Christ in resurrection, as well as in death. For He now lives in you. You are now alive unto God; so put it into practice. Tell the Lord that you love Him; thank Him for salvation, for victories won, for all things that He has done for you. Ask Him to make you sensitive to sin, quick to confess, and honest with yourself, as well as with others. Learn to appropriate for yourself all that Christ promised to give. From man's viewpoint, the height of your sanctification will be equal to the extent of your taking for yourself His promises. Therefore, to live holy, you must count yourself not only dead to sin but also alive unto righteousness through obedience unto Him.

**Man's free will** - There is another factor that has to do with the human side of sanctification. It is the act of the will. When God created man. He gave him a free will to exercise as we so desired. God may plead with him through the Holy Spirit, but He does not step over that boundary line of man's free will. In a very real sense, we are as sanctified and as holy as we want to be. Even though sanctification is a work of the Triune God, He never works in a life unless asked to do so. You are responsible for yielding your life unto God, Romans 6:13. See Colossians 3:5, 8,-10,12,14.

Truly, it is love that binds all of the fruit of the Spirit together. Therefore, it might be said that love is the sign of sanctification. If a person does not manifest love, it is very likely he knows little or nothing of the reality of sanctification.

**The methods used - The Word of God sanctifies** - Every believer should read the Word of God daily, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal its truth and apply its teaching to his own heart. When reading is accompanied by obedience, the Word becomes an aid to sanctification. The Bible is pictured as a mirror. When a believer looks into it, "*he is like unto a man be-holding his natural face in a glass*" James 1:23. As he reads the Word, he sees himself as he really is. Imperfections, shortcomings, and sins are brought to light. When the reflected image shows; traces of the unregenerate man, the natural man, it reveals the continual need of sanctification.

There is another image, besides the image of the believer, that is seen in the Word. Unlike the image of the believer, which may change from time to time, this image never changes because it is a perfect image a true picture of Christ. The Holy Spirit seeks through the Word of God to make the two images a-like. Since the image of Christ cannot change because it is the standard, the image of the believer must be changed to conform unto the image of Christ. As the Christian sees where his image is marred by sin, he must confess that sin according to I John 1:9. This is one of the ways in which the Holy Spirit uses the Word to sanctify the believer. "*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.*" II Corinthians 3:18.

The Word of God is also spoken of as a cleansing agent which sets us apart from sin. "*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*" "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*" Psalm 119:9,11. See also John 15:3.

**An active faith sanctifies** - Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, used many parables. He used these stories to illustrate the truth He was teaching so that everyone could understand. By picturing the Christian life as the stairway of holy living that leads from earth to heaven, it will help you to understand the doctrine of sanctification. Entrance into this holy life is through the new birth. Faith is a dominant factor in this entrance, as well as in every step that is later taken. Knowing the fact that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins, I by faith received Him as my Saviour. This same faith began the work of sanctification. "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*" Colossians 2:6. But unless you exercise more faith, you will remain on that first step, which is the position of a carnal Christian.

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It must be noted that the farther one advances up the stairway of holy living, the less attractive the world becomes. The pull that the world has on an individual is much like that of a magnet. The reason so many Christians are living weak, powerless, and defeated lives is that they are still on the first step. In fact, those on the first step even look like the world so that it is rather difficult at times to tell the difference between a believer and an unbeliever.

**Chastisement sanctifies** - God's plan and purpose for every believer is that he will "..... *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*" Ephesians 4:13. Another way of expressing the purpose of God for every believer is found in Galatians 4:19.

God often chastens, punishes (for, correction) the believer for sin. This chastening is in order that he will not desire to walk in sin. Thus, chastening also becomes a means of sanctification. When chastened, the believer immediately should desire to be cleansed and to proceed to a higher step. This higher step is reached by faith after confession is made according to I John 1:9.

To distinguish between a Christian and one who, though calling himself a Christian, has never believed unto salvation, there is a principle set forth in Scripture. "*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten*" Revelation 3:19; "*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons*" Hebrews 12:6-8. All chastisement is for our good. On the other hand, if a person continues in sin and is not chastened of the Lord, it is a good indication that he has never been born again. Just as you would not punish your neighbor's children, God does not correct the devil's children. And it is clear from John 8:44 that those who have not been born again are the devil's children.

Your attitude regarding chastening is very important. If you yield unto the Father, confess your sin, and repent, your faith will be enlarged. Then you can advance a step higher. But if you rebel, refusing to confess and repent, there must be more chastening. The chastening will increase more and more until there is repentance. Notice the increased intensity of His Chastening - rebuke, chasten, then scourge.

God cannot and does not tolerate sin in His children. Sometimes it is necessary to take a believer out of this world through death in order to stop him from practicing sin, which brings dishonor to God. See Romans 6:16, It behooves every Christian to carefully examine his attitude toward the chastening of the Father, lest chastisement fail in its purpose to bring him farther from sin and closer to the Father.

**Testing sanctifies** - Testing is another, means used to encourage our advance up the stairway of life. Remember, God never tempts His children to do evil. See James 1:13. But He does permit things to come into their lives to test them. See I Peter 1:6,7.

Both chastisement and testing often have the same result, separation from evil unto God. For this reason it is sometimes hard to tell whether a brother is being tested or punished for sin. There is, however, no question on the part of the one who is going through the experience. Chastisement is accompanied by conviction of sin. Therefore, you must be very careful not to judge a brother who is going through a difficult time and who seems to be on a step lower than you. Unjust judgment is sin, and sin must be punished. "*Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again*" Matthew 7:1, 2.

Perhaps the victory gained by the brother in difficult times will carry him on to a loftier height than you have attained. Though there may be many on steps below, there is never any room for a holier-than-thou attitude. Remember, Jesus, who is our example, is at the top of the stairs, seated on the right hand of the Father. Though higher than some, you cannot boast of a position

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equal with Him. Neither can you with pride point to past experiences in which you were given faith to overcome a trial, or correction in your Christian walk. It might be necessary for our loving Father to chasten, test, and bring you to the end of self before giving to you more faith to ascend another step.

We are exhorted in II Corinthians 7:1 "*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*" The word "perfecting" here speaks of a process of making holy. Since it exhorts us to cleanse ourselves it is evident it is referring to the human side of sanctification in which the believer must exercise an act of faith, knowing and believing God's Word, and an act of the will, yielding to and obeying His Word. See Romans 6:11, There must then be an act of will in which you willingly give yourself over to the Lord to do with you whatever is necessary for cleansing Romans 6:12, 13. This yielding unto the Lord must be accompanied by a determination to turn from sin unto God, which is in obedience unto righteousness. When you, by believing God's Word, by yielding unto it, and then by obeying it, get victory over sin and mount the next step, another height in Christian living is attained. As you begin to climb the stairs, you may need to get victory over such sins as worldliness, lust, hatred, and wrath. As you triumph over these and walk closer to the Lord on a higher step, you will become more sensitive to sin. The lack of love, self-glory, pride, and jealousy will be seen as sin as you draw closer to Him. Then you come to the place where you see that your thoughts, your motives, and your dress must also be pleasing to the Father. But these are all only a good start, the closer one moves to a light, the greater is the revealing of all the imperfections. Things that were never considered as sin will then be revealed as sin. One by one, victory is gained over these sins; and step by step as He worketh in you, you are perfecting holiness. This process goes on continually until one day at His coming you are made perfect.

**God's immediate goal.** - His objective in one's sanctification in this life, is holiness, which is conformity to Jesus Christ. God's purpose for "the called," as said before, is that they "be conformed to the image of His Son." This is the divine standard for believers.

**God's ultimate goal** - For you to be perfectly conformed to the image of Christ, which you now only partially resemble. "*When He shall appear, we shall be like him*" I John 3:2. At the second coming of Christ, the believer's sanctification will be complete; the power of sin will be forever broken. Indeed, the very presence of sin will be no more. At the sight of Him in all His beauty, your sanctification will be perfected, completed. Then you will be a prepared saint, made holy for heaven through His grace and love.

Notes

**KJV**

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### Simple Sanctification Lesson 6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. With what does sanctification primarily have to do?
2. What outward evidence can be seen so that we know that a person is sanctified?
3. What two thoughts are expressed by the word "sanctification" in the Bible?
4. When does sanctification begin?
5. When does growth in sanctification take place?
6. When does instantaneous sanctification of the believer take place?
7. What is progressive sanctification of the believer?
8. What is complete sanctification of the believer?
9. Why did Jesus sanctify Himself?
10. For whom was the command made "Be ye holy for I am holy"?
11. The perfecting of holiness in the believer is the work of whom?
12. Who is the Holy Spirit?
13. What does appropriation mean?
14. How does a believer gain victory over sin?
15. To what are all believers to reckon or count themselves dead?
16. What is the main or primary sign of sanctification?
17. What is sanctification?
18. What does it mean to be holy?
19. What are the three time aspects of sanctification?
20. When does sanctification take place?
21. What are the means of sanctification?
22. What part does the Holy Spirit play in our sanctification?

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23. Can man be sanctified against his own will?
24. How does faith sanctify?
25. How does the Word of God sanctify?
26. What part does testing have in our sanctification?

True/false

- Justification is something God does for us, but sanctification is something that God does in us.
- In the Scripture, holiness is commanded for all believers
- A believer is not to grow in sanctification
- God's plan and purpose is that every believer may walk in the likeness of the angels
- Abraham believed God and appropriated for himself what God promised
- Before a believer can experience the reality of progressive sanctification, he must take the promises of God by faith.
- God will sanctify a believer against his own will in answer to the prayers of others
- When a person experiences instantaneous sanctification, he immediately manifests all the fruit of the Spirit
- When Christ comes again, believers will neither know Him or be like Him
- Through one experience a person can be completely sanctified in this life
- Chastisement and testing are for the good of the Christian



Scripture Memorization: Write out the verses on the back of these pages, Romans 6:11-13; I Thessalonians 3:12-13; I Peter 1:15-16 must be is KJV

Any questions?