

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

In the previous lessons we have discovered all the steps to being justified by faith. This next topic is introduced as a result or a fruit to having been justified by faith. We will pick back up in the book of Acts.

Lesson Eight: Sanctification

1. What happens after the believer has been baptized and now justified by faith?
 - a. Read Acts 2:38: “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and you will receive the gift of the _____ .”
 - b. What is another term for the word Holy?
 - c. The Greek word Hagios: ἅγιος means holy, holiness, and it is also the same word for Sanctification. Therefore, the term Holy Spirit could also be translated as the Sanctifying Spirit. And Sanctification or Holiness simply means to be ‘set apart’ by God for His purposes.
 - d. When does the process of Sanctification begin?

There are some who teach that Sanctification can be a delayed event. Meaning it usually happens sometime in the future when you really want it. The old Holiness Movements of the late 18th century taught this. They believed that you had to go through a “garden experience” or a “second blessing”, as it was sometimes called. Then, after really praying, fasting, weeping, and begging for the Spirit, it might come to you.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone ___ in Christ, he ___ a new creation; old things have passed away: behold, all things have become new.”
 - a. A person could not be any more “in Christ” than at baptism. Remember Paul’s words in Romans 6:3, “as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead, by the glory of the Father, even so we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”
 - b. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit’s work or Sanctification in our life?
 - c. Ephesians 4:24 says: And that ye put on the _____, which after God is created in _____ and true _____.
 - d. The Gospel is teaching us that as soon as we are justified by faith, having gone through the steps of faith, and choosing to be buried with Him in baptism (being dead), then as we begin that new way of life, symbolized by coming up out of the watery, God sends us the Holy Spirit to actually begin the process of making us new creations.
 - e. When a person is being sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit, what should they expect to happen in their life? Read Ephesians 4:23-32 and discuss what you expect.
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____

Read and discuss this quote as it relates to what Sanctification does to the believer.

If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things. Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit....” (Steps to Christ 58.2,3)

3. What does the process of Sanctification look like? In other words, what should our experience look like? Should we ever sin again after we receive the Holy Spirit? What happens if we do? Is that normal? This is what is meant by the “process of Sanctification”
 - a. Read Romans 7:23. “But I see another law at work ____ me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of _____ at work within ____.”
 - i. Blanco’s paraphrase: “But inside me is a sinful nature. It is always there urging me to think about myself, no matter how I set my mind against it. It is even strong enough to take me captive and to overcome my inner most longings to be good.”

This text makes it hard to deny what Paul is saying. He is saying that he is struggling with sin. Some have argued that this is Paul speaking of himself before his conversion. But the Greek theologians beg to differ. In most of Paul’s verb tense usage in the first six chapters of Romans, he uses what is called the Aorist tense. The Aorist is past tense or unidentified tense. But when Paul writes chapter seven, the shift of tenses to what is called “present, active, indicative” is clear and deliberate. He is saying that “today within me right now is a sinful nature that I am struggling with.”

Discuss the above passages:

Even though we have received the Holy Spirit, and we are being Sanctified, the truth is that we still have a fallen sinful nature to contend with that wants to sin. In Matthew 26:41 Jesus says the same thing as Paul “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The _____ indeed is willing, but _____ is weak.”

Jesus uses the same idea that we have a fallen nature that He calls the flesh, but because we have been born again we also have a new power operating in us called the Spirit to keep us from sinning!

4. How does Galatians 5:17 describe the relationship between our fallen nature (flesh) and the spirit within us? “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are in _____ to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”
 - b. The Greek word for “opposition” is antikeimai, which means an adversary, or hostility to someone. And again, Paul uses the present tense to say, My flesh is at war against my spirit today, now!
 - c. What are the things that the flesh desires?
 - i. 1 John 2:16-17 “Do not love the _____ or the things in the _____.

If anyone loves the _____, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the _____ the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the _____. And the _____ is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Discuss: What is meant by “The world”?

In short, our flesh loves the things of the world. Not all things that we do in life are evil, but Paul is speaking of those things in the world that are, and it is those things that our fallen nature gravitates toward, and that is where the Spirit will guide us away from.

5. How can we overcome temptation to do evil when the flesh desires to do it?
 - a. Romans 8:5: “For those who live according to the flesh _____ their _____ on the things of the _____, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the _____.” In other words the above texts is telling us that the way to overcome your desire to do wrong is to place your mind upon God. What are some ways you can do this?

Read and discuss this following quote on how to have victory over sinful desires or actions and thoughts.

- a. We cannot save ourselves from the tempter’s power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but “the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name.”—Manuscript 15, 1908. {CTR 219.6}
 - b. There are several ways that we can set our minds upon the things of the spirit one of them is through prayer, another would be the word of God, and yet there is still meditation upon God, Godly music, or the best; sharing God with someone else by talking openly about him through Bible studies or just casual conversations. There are also many great Christian movies. If we set our mind on God he has promised to help us overcome every tendency towards evil.
 - c. “The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan’s control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God.” Desire of Ages 466
6. Even though the Bible is full of promises about the power to overcome sin the unfortunate reality is that often we will succumb to temptation, and sin. What do we do when we fail God? Read 1 John 2:1-2 “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
 - a. The Word is clear. God does not want us to sin, but if we do go back in repentance, ask His forgiveness, determine to turn from that issue, and welcome the Holy Spirit to continue working in us, He forgives and accepts us in Jesus.
 - b. The process of sanctification is a lifelong and continual battle between

the flesh and the spirit read the following text in Philippians 3:12-14:
“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- c. The above text is what the Christian battle of Sanctification looks like. We will not always be perfect, but we shall continue on even when we fail looking for the day when God returns and we become perfected.

Summary: Receiving the Holy Spirit is the process called sanctification. We receive the Holy Spirit and the process of sanctification begins at baptism. The process of sanctification is a battle between our sinful nature and the spirit of God that is within us, and this battle last throughout our lifetime. We can be victorious over sin by setting our minds on things of God such as Bible study and prayer.

Appeal: *Would you like to invite the Holy Spirit into your life today?*