

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN SANCTIFICATION

A PROCESS TO PURIFY INTERNALLY - REFORMING THE SOUL

To be Sanctified is to be Transformed | 2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

A Process Lead by the Spirit; If We Follow | Romans 8:13-14

13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. 14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

What It Looks Like to Follow His Leading | Galatians 5:16-18

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

We're No Longer the Same | 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

He's Committed to Finish The Work That He Started In You | Philippians 1:4-6

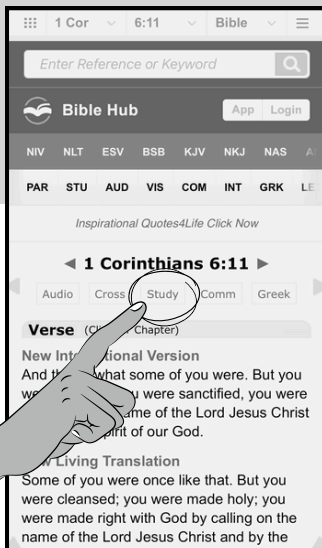
4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Re-read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 to see what He pulled us out of... 9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



FIRST, LET'S TAKE A DEEPER LOOK WITH AN ONLINE RESOURCE



Observe 1 Corinthians 6:11

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for 1 Corinthians 6:11 in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.

Observe Romans 8:13-14

- 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.
 - "If you live according to the flesh..." & "Misdeeds of the body"
 - Go back to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, and list what some of these are.
- 14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
 - As children of our parents, because of DNA, we tend to resemble their features, temperament, character and traits. As we are lead by the Spirit and obedient to the transformation process of sanctification...we look more and more like our Heavenly Father.

Observe 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB) - But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- What are we being transformed into?
 - With "ever-increasing" what?
 - It comes from where?

Observe Galatians 5:16-18 - 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- Obedience to the Spirit's leading never expires or ends. It is an ongoing lifestyle, which leads to ongoing transformation.
- **Continue reading Galatians 5:19-26**
 - List the evident deeds of the flesh.
 - List the fruit of the Spirit



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



CONCORDANCE ACTIVITY

Look up the following words:



Sanctified: Greek (hagiazó)

Strong's G37

(Found in 1 Corinthians 6:11)



Transform: Greek:

(metamorphoo)

Strong's G3339

(Found in 2 Corinthians 3:18)



Walk: Greek: (peripateo)

Strong's G4043

(Found in Galatians 5:16)



Led: Greek: (ago)

Strong's G71

(Found in Galatians 5:18)



Glory: Greek: (gloria)

Strong's G71

(Found in 2 Corinthians 3:18)



NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

Sanctification can feel like a big church word, but at its core, it's about transformation. It means being made holy, not by our own strength, but through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul writes that "we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory." This verse captures the heart of sanctification...it is a journey where the Holy Spirit gradually changes us to reflect more of who God is. It's not about instant perfection, but about becoming more like Jesus day by day.

Romans 8:13-14 shows us that this change doesn't happen automatically. Paul says that "if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God." The Spirit empowers us to fight against sin and selfishness, not with willpower alone, but with His strength. That process might look like conviction in our hearts, a sudden desire to walk away from something toxic, or finding peace in situations where we used to panic. All of that is the Holy Spirit shaping our hearts to look more like God's.

In Galatians 5:16-18, Paul gets even more real about the struggle. He says the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with each other. Basically, we all feel that tug-of-war inside, the part of us that wants to do whatever feels good in the moment, and the part of us that wants to honor God. That's the Spirit working in us. And if you read a little further into verses 19-26, you'll see what Paul calls the "acts of the flesh" and the "fruit of the Spirit." One side leads to chaos and hurt, and the other leads to love, peace, patience, and real growth. Sanctification is learning to choose the fruit of the Spirit more often, even when it's hard.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 reminds us of where we came from. Paul provides a list of sinful lifestyles and behaviors, and then he says something powerful: "That is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." Those three words: washed, sanctified, justified all tell our story. We were cleaned up, set apart, and made right with God, not because we earned it, but because the Spirit made it possible. It's a clear reminder that God doesn't leave us in our mess. He brings us into something better.

What's amazing is that sanctification is not about behavior modification. It's about inner transformation. The Spirit isn't just interested in you stopping certain actions. He wants to make you new on the inside. That means our attitude, our desires, our relationships, and even our thoughts begin to shift. And it's not overnight. It's a process, a lifelong journey that requires openness to God, a community of faith, and patience with yourself.

If you're trying to figure out who you are and how to live out your faith in a complicated world, know this: sanctification is not about being perfect...it's about progress. It's about the Spirit walking with you, helping you become someone who reflects the love, truth, and strength of Jesus. Whether you feel like you're doing great or barely holding it together, the Spirit is still working, still transforming, and still leading you closer to the image of God. And He won't stop until His work is complete (Philippians 1:6).



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Applying 2 Corinthians 3:18:** In what areas of your life do you see the Holy Spirit gradually transforming you to look more like Jesus?
 - Where do you still need to invite Him to work?
- **Applying Romans 8:13-14:** What habits, thoughts, or actions is the Holy Spirit asking you to put to death right now, and how are you letting Him lead you instead of doing it on your own?
- **Applying Galatians 5:16-18:** Are you more driven by the Spirit or by your impulses and feelings?
 - What would it look like this week to intentionally “walk by the Spirit” in your relationships or daily decisions?
- **Applying Galatians 5:19-26:** When you examine your life, which list better describes what people experience when they’re around you?
 - How can you pursue more of the fruit of the Spirit in your personal life?
- **Applying 1 Corinthians 6:9-11:** Do you truly believe that you’ve been washed, sanctified, and justified by the Spirit?
 - How does that identity shape the way you live, make choices, and view your past?
- **Applying Philippians 1:6:** In moments when you feel stuck or not growing spiritually, do you trust that God is still working in you?
 - How can you rest in the confidence that He will finish what He started?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we thank You for the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. You didn't just save us and leave us, we are being sanctified daily, molded into the image of Your Son. Lord, help us to welcome that process even when it's uncomfortable. Remind us that we are not who we once were. Fill us with Your power to put to death the misdeeds of the flesh and to walk by the Spirit with confidence and joy. May the fruit of the Spirit grow strong in our hearts and be evident in how we treat others.

God, protect us from becoming people who only speak about You with no evidence of Your work in our lives. Keep us from spiritual performance and instead shape us to be true worshipers...those who walk in Spirit and in truth. Let our personal lives reflect Your holiness, not just our public words. Teach us to discern wisely and to walk humbly with You, trusting that the good work You started in us will be completed. We surrender again today. Have Your way in us, Holy Spirit. In Jesus name we pray, amen.



Homework

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and understanding of the Word, then read Romans 8:1-17.

Next Week

We will study The Holy Spirit: Our Helper & Teacher.