

God's Plan For Your Life

When we become believers, we are born again and adopted into God's family. Adoption and being born again occur simultaneously when one receives Jesus as Savior. **Galatians 3:26:** *"For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus."* Our adoption guarantees full standing and privileges in the family of God. He justifies us and pronounces us *"not guilty,"* and it is certain that not one of us will slip from His hands. Jesus told us, **John 10:28-30:** *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* We become saints and enter a guaranteed future glory. Saints? How do we become saints? Through sanctification. The word sanctify means *"to set apart,"* and it shares the same root as the words *holy* and *saint*. Every believer has been sanctified, for all have been set apart to God and adopted into His family. Scripturally, *"saints"* are the body of Christ, Christians, the church. All Christians are considered saints. But what if we struggle to live a sin-free life? **1 Corinthians 6:11:** *"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."* The Bible tells us that our salvation is secure and that our sanctification is an actual position, not dependent on the status of our spiritual growth and maturity. Lord Jesus has sanctified us and perfected us in perpetuity. **Hebrews 10:10:** *"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* Understand, sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us freer from sin and more like Christ in our lives. **1 Peter 1:15-16:** *"but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written: 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY'"* But it is quite obvious that not all believers live this way. **1 Thessalonians 4:7:** *"For God has not called us for impurity, but in sanctification."* God knows this, and His plan is to bring all His children to glory, which includes His discipline. God's discipline is part of the total educational process by which a believer is conformed to share God's holiness; it is proof of a genuine love relationship between our heavenly Father and us; it helps train us to be obedient; and it produces the fruit of righteousness in our lives (as cited in **Hebrews 12:5-11**). Our heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all participate in our sanctification. But understand that every command to us implies the necessity of our involvement in the process. Reading the word of God ranks first in importance. Prayer will aid the process if it is offered truly in the name of Christ. There is nothing in Scripture that teaches that any believer will become perfect in this life. Complete sanctification will take place when we reach heaven, so in the meantime, it is our job to grow in our relationship with the Lord; our behavior should become more conformed to God's desires.