In 1999 Michael was without hope.

After a life of emotional illness that brought him to the brink of suicide, he was committed to a hospital and then rehab.

Upon release, he thought he had his life together, even becoming a counselor to others.

But deep inside, he knew something was missing, and soon he found himself back in rehab.

There had to be a better way than the medications his doctor said he would need in order to live a manageable life.

He needed a greater help. His search led him to the church of the Nazarene.

The pastor there encouraged Michael to look not to his own problems or pain, but to Christ, who died and bore our sin, pain and our shame.

Together they prayed the sinners prayer, and Michael became a new creation in Christ.

Now a child of God, he began a new future that included restored relationships within his earthly family.

Today Michael leads two discipleship classes... showing others the way to a new life through Jesus Christ.

God wants to do a similar miracle in each of your lives. Do you know who stands in the way of your victory? You!

Today we’ll be talking about Sanctification and the Holy Spirit’s role in moving us on from Justification. But we’ll also be talking about your role in this crucial part of the Christian life.

The word sanctification comes from the word “Sanctus” in the Latin.

If you look that up in a dictionary today you’ll find it means “Holy”.

Many English words come from the word “Sanctus”/meaning holy/Set apart unto God.

You’re also sitting in one of them right now… “Sanctuary”

Even the name “Santa” (yes Claus), Sinterklaas, Saint Nicholas (the Dutch pastor, “set apart for God’s use and deemed the patron Saint of Children).

The original word Sanctus/holy/“set apart unto God” is listed 549 times in the Scriptures.

In the N.T. it is the Greek it is the word “Hag-ee-os/Hagios”.

Just as God is holy (Hagios), He is separate, other, He’s not like the rest of us.

Jesus lived with sinners, but He was/is “Holy” and “set apart” from them.

When we say someone or something has been “Sanctified”… something has happened to it. It has been made holy/separated/set apart unto God.

I touched on this last week.

1. (Positionally) Justified - 1 Corinthians 1:2

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth, whom God had graciously Justified… but wrote to change their behavior.

So what does that tell us? That a believer can get stuck in their Justification and not seek the Holy Spirit to continue growing and transforming their life… It a choice that we must make.

If positional “Justification” is all that God’s will is for people, then Paul wasted a lot of ink and papyrus writing letters to numerous churches to address their behavioral issues.

And if it wasn’t God’s Will for the believer to grow and be sanctified/Holy/set apart for God’s use, He certainly wouldn’t have allowed Paul’s letters to be included in the Cannon of Scripture.

Justification is the beginning of the Christian life (new birth), it’s not the DESTINATION…

I’m not going to belabor the churches view on Justification, but it is a gracious and judicial act whereby God grants a full pardon of all guilt and a complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and deposits in our account the full righteous of Christ, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive him as Lord and Savior.

We believe that regeneration (or new birth), is the gracious, ongoing work of God…

Whereby our moral nature (bent to sin and disobedience to God) possessed by the repentant believer,

is spiritually restored/revived and given a desire and capacity for a spiritual life, capable of faith, love, and obedience to God’s word.

Adoption is the gracious act of God making us a son/daughter of God.

Who then (through the Spirits gifts, graces, and calling) finds their place in God’s family business of winning souls to Christ and making disciples who make disciples.

It is this state of grace that the Holy Spirit testifies or bears witness before the Father.

In short: He makes the true believer Hagios/Holy/Separate/Set apart unto God.

The only obstacles that prevent that from happening, keeping you stuck in your Justification… are the ones that the believer CHOOSES TO PUT UP.

Caution: Putting up excuses and refusing to grow and move forward in Christ, “will only grieve the Holy Spirit and could eventually frustrate the work of grace that He has been sent to accomplish in the life of the believer.

2 Peter 2:21

So how do we avoid that?

1. Sanctification (Hagios – Holiness)

Being drawn by the Holy Spirit to faith in Jesus Christ was God’s first work turning of grace in the life of the believer.

Yes, the Holy Spirit “set you apart from the world and made you a child of God”… Belonging to God and having all of Him are one thing.

But He wants ALL you, which is something entirely different.

Therefore Sanctification is the “second work of GRACE”, whereby the believer seeks the Holy Spirit to purify their heart/desires to be “set apart from the BEHAVIOR” of the world.

It is only in the Holy Spirit’s continuing work of Sanctification/Holiness that one will find the answers to our two remaining questions that were posed by someone in our congregation;

* What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
* What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

Why are two works of GRACE necessary?

Because there are two levels of awareness.

Nonbelievers cannot know the depth of their sinful condition and selfish depravity until they begin to walk with the Holy Spirit and experience the holiness of the Lord.

As we see in Isaiah’s vision in 6:5-8

To walk in the Spirit one;

1. One must realize who they are as they stand before the Holy God and Sovereign Lord of the universe… Confessing our sin, being cleansed by God and made holy.
2. Then one realizes their need to grow and devote ones-self entirely to yielding to God’s Spirit, God’s Word and God’s Will.

Then we will say with the Prophet Isaiah “Here I am, send me Lord”.

1. The grace and Spirit of God are then allowed to produce a person who is Sanctified/Holy set apart for God’s use, not just Spiritually, but also physically…

It requires laying your all on the Altar of sacrifice. But as Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14… few are willing to that narrow path where the Spirit of God leads.

Ephesians 5:15-17 - Followers of Jesus WISELY want to know what God’s Will is, amen?!! Not just to know, but to follow the Spirit into God’s Will.

Ephesians 5:18 – What is Paul saying to the Christians in Ephesus?

Don’t fill yourself with alcohol, drugs (legal or illegal) that transform your behavior and dishonors Christ.

INSTEAD, “Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Who leads to behavior/lifestyle that honors Christ/patterned after the Word… and not the world.

My wife, filled with the Spirit… was led to make a very difficult choice…

She had a great job that she really liked… she worked for an alcohol distributer… she loved all the free samples and stuff they had…

But then she became a follower of Jesus who moved forward, walking with the Spirit,

and He told her she needed to leave that job that was helping other people be filled with the wrong kind of spirit that leads to all sorts of bad things and ruins peoples health, their relationships and the lives of those who love them.

It was a very difficult decision because we needed the good money they were paying her, we had three little ones, bills galore…

But she believed Romans 8:29

If we have been saved to grow in Christ-likeness, helping others fill themselves with alcohol was the opposite of that…

She needed to hear the Spirit say, “Jesus wouldn’t contribute to getting other people filling themselves with the wrong spirit.

Is it easy? No! (TURN TO) Romans 8:9 – We must battle our flesh and it’s anti-Christ desires.

That’s why Paul said;

* 1 Corinthians 15:31 – I die daily
* Galatians 5:24
* Revelation 2:7

What God has prepared & waiting makes the journey worth it!

None of that makes sense to the unbeliever because Scripture tells us they cannot understand it without a relationship with Christ or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit…

1 Corinthians 2:14

14The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God([H](https://www-biblegateway-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%202%3A10-14&version=NIV&interface=amp&_js_v=0.1&usqp=mq331AQIKAGwASDYAQE%3D#cen-NIV-28409H)) but considers them foolishness,([I](https://www-biblegateway-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%202%3A10-14&version=NIV&interface=amp&_js_v=0.1&usqp=mq331AQIKAGwASDYAQE%3D#cen-NIV-28409I)) and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Without the Spirit of God, the Word of God will make no sense to you.

You’ll make up all kinds of things to avoid doing what it says.

But those who are true, Spirit filled believers…

When we read passages like 1 Peter 1:14-15

We’ll not only KNOW what we need to do… We’ll desire to do it…

2 Corinthians 6:17

God saved us to be “obedient children”, to be Holy (hagios/set apart) as He is (Hagios/set apart).

Why would we give up disobeying God’s Word here?

Because He saved us and has prepared a mansion for us in GLORY!

Also because 2 Corinthians 5:20 tells us that followers of Jesus are His Ambassadors/representatives.

Think about your job, you relationships, your church attendance, tithing, prayer time… Your service to God… does it represent God well? The way the Spirit leads?

Galatians 5:25

Walking with the Spirit in a Sanctified lifestyle is a beautiful and peaceful life because it’s a life that doesn’t make excuses for not aligning one’s self with God’s Word… Your not at odds with the Holy Spirit.

Sanctification/holiness – Simply believing one is a child of God, will not necessarily transform your life as God intends.

Sanctification/holiness – Is devoting one’s life to walking with the Holy Spirit daily, yielding to Him and the Word, which will transform you so drastically that your loved ones will call the cops because they won’t be able to recognize the one living their house…

And they’ll put out an APB for the old you!

You’re picture will be on milk cartons every where!

You will burn brightly, lovingly, (not defensively) with the Spirit’s passion for Christ.

So Holiness/Sanctification in the Bible, more often than not, is referring to the transformation of the believers behavior/lifestyle.

Let me say this and then we’ll move on… Nazarene’s believe that the decision to ENTIRELY walk with the Spirit in Sanctification can be made in an instant, with a prayer…

but walking with the Spirit on the transformational journey called Holy Christian living is a life long process.

God doesn’t complete that work until our Glorification when we receive our new bodies, which will happen where (as we learned a few weeks ago)? In the air! 1 Cor 15:42, 52-53

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? Galatians 5:16

In other words… your carnal desires to feed that ungodly beast called the flesh will wain as your desire to obey God waxes.

Which means God is still working on us… Yes, we will make unintended mistakes, but hopefully less intentional sin/violating God’s Word.

Some may be thinking… “Surely God doesn’t want all of us “sanctified, living holy lives, led by the Holy Spirit, obeying the Word of God…” That’s just for Pastors!

We’ll end today with the 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

God will see to it that you and I have a number of opportunities to prove yourself the miracle of His grace to our world.

The closer you walk with Jesus, the more you will find yourself saying things like, “if that had happened before,

I would’ve have done something that would have dishonored God!“

And you will never cease to be the most amazed person on earth at the list of changes that God has made both inside you and out.

The question before you today is do you want to become the next “Michael”, the next success story that God will use to bless the world?

Restore relationships within your family.

Leads discipleship classes in an effort to show others the way to a new life through Jesus Christ.

How can these awesome things happen your life?

It all starts here at the Altar… get serious with God… entirely devote ALL of the life He gave you to Him and His good plan.

Come and pray, do business with God while we pray & sing…