

Steps of Sanctification

Today we will learn Some of the Steps of Sanctification of the Christian

We understand that being Saved is by Faith Alone, Being Saved or Born Again Starts with our confession of faith in the Blood Atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross at Cavalry, it is what gets us the unmitigated pardon from our sins past present and future and the blessing of Eternal life.

Now I want to take a second to talk about Martin Luther, when Martin Luther read the book of James he did not understand it, and didn't know where to place it in the context of the Age of Grace, Martin was not a dispensationalist so he didn't understand that, and he wrongly assumed that being saved was all that need to be done as a Christian. He was partially right but this is what he didn't understand, and we have talked about it many times First the Christian has Salvation, then he has Sanctification, then there is Glory. Ok what do I mean by that? Martin Luther being a former Catholic Priest came to the revelation by reading the scriptures...notice by reading the scripture, the words...words are important remember. That man is saved by faith alone, and not our faith but the faith of Jesus Christ who trust the Father enough to allow himself to be Crucified and his blood shed for the remission of sins once and for all. He became our Propitiation, **that is our substitute**, his blood cleanses us of the Adams sin, and since he was perfect it was once for all he substituted himself for us...that shows the true love of God. Now Martin Understood this. But remember Martin was rebelling from the Catholic Churches abhorrent practices of simony, among others and that was the practice of paying a priest to absolve you of your sins. So Martin was a bit Jaded by his past and did not understand that there was a walk that the Christian must take, a walk we call sanctification. This process of sanctification is the process by which we learn more and more about our Saviour and we learn to be like him. This is the Lesson of the Book of James, case in point.

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

- So what does Wisdom have to do with Salvation...well nothing, wisdom has to do with Sanctification, your walk with God, Learning to be like God emulating him, learning to be more like him everyday.
- Ok so with that introduction we now see that as a Christian we must do certain things as a Christian. Does that mean we are not saved if we do not do them? Absolutely not. But remember you will stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ and answer God for what you have done with his saving knowledge, you do not want to go before the King Naked.
- Being Saved is not about your works, but growing in faith ie sanctification is; remember your faith is the faith of Jesus, your sanctification is the process by which you learn to have the faith of Jesus and we accomplish that by works to prove we understand.

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

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- Do you want to be called a friend of God? I do.
- Works show God that you are serious about learning how to be more like him, so that when he returns your reward is greater. And what is this reward we talk about. A Christians reward is higher position in hierarchy of the Government of God.
- The more you learn and emulate God in your walk of Salvation the more you prove yourself worthy more responsibility.
- Case in point; I am teaching my oldest son how to drive...yeah I know...scary...he has to demonstrate to me his proficiency at that skill before I leave him off on his own. It is the same with a Christian, God wants **you**, to learn his scripture, God wants **you**, to learn how he would behave and act in every situation so that he is confident that **you**, would do the same... **do you see how simple it is?** ...this life sanctification, learning about God, using works to emulate God is a beacon of your faith. A Demonstration of your proficiency of the word of God to God, these are your works.
- Paradoxically Martin Luther didn't grasp this concept...why, because he was Jaded by his preconceived notions and the false teachings of the Roman Catholic that placed in him a handicap to fully grasp the Church, he made tremendous strides to overcome this handicap but it colored his outlook on his Christian walk.
- As **OUR backgrounds** color our walk.... We our products of our up brining, everyone of us is poisoned by false teaching of our Parents, even the most dedicated Christian parents are guilty at some time of teaching their children falsehood. It is your Job to have a breakthrough and be better than your parents, understand more than your parents and become more Christ like everyday....That is the Glory
- Every Christian at the end of his life will be rewarded with Glory, Eternal Life, a Celestial Uncorruptible Body that is your reward for Salvation, you will be clothed by your works, your walk of sanctification, what you did with the words of God, in your life determines your position in the Kingdom and government of God.
- So let's go forward here and Learn about what we can do to polish of walk of sanctification.

2 Peter 1:5-8

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**; and to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**; and to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**. For if these things be **in you, and abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren **nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Virtue: Westers Definition| 1) **Strength:** physical action of one body on another, 2) **Bravery/Valor:** Courage in Battle, 3) **Moral Goodness:** Abstaining from vice adherence to God's law, 4) **A Particular Moral Excellence:** Temperance or Chastity or Charity etc... 5) **Acting Power:** Something Efficacious 6) **Secret Agency:** efficacy without visible or material action.7) **Excellence:** That which constitutes value or merit, 8) One of the orders of Gods **Celestial Hierarchy:** Thrones, dominations, prinedoms, virtues, powers 9) **Efficacy:** Power 10) **Legal Efficacy of Power;** authority (efficacy is the Power to produce effects)

- So our First building Block that we must add to our faith is Virtue; we must build up our physical strength, our bravery our moral goodness.
- We must excel at the Morals of Christs example, striving to be like him.
- We must utilize the Power of God, the word of his Authority
- We utilize that secret unseen connection with the Spirit of God to achieve this excellence and power
- By it and it alone will we obtain to the reward of a celestial positon of authority, God upon his return and translation will rewards us based upon the effort we put into learning and exercising his word.

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- We will be given his authority and the power to wield it during the Millennial reign of Christ

Knowledge: 1) A clear and certain **perception of that which exists**, or of **truth and fact**; Human knowledge mostly gained by **observation and experience**. 2) **Learning**; illumination of mind. Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven. 3) **Skill**; as a knowledge of a trade. 4) **Acquaintance with any fact or person**. I have no knowledge of the man or thing. 5) **Cognizance**; notice. Information; power of knowing. 7) **Sexual intercourse**. But it is usual to prefix carnal; as **carnal knowledge**.

- So for us in our Christian walk we must read proverbs and learn the cause and effect relationships that are laid out there, we must be wholly perceptive of those things that exist we must establish ourselves in truth and facts. By observing and experience if we are not faithful enough to believe the words of God. Remember Experience is the second best teacher, God's word is the first.
- We must allow the word of God to teach us the truth so that we learn the difference from God and Evil Versus Righteousness, strive never to be Ignorant, look beyond what your told look to the truth, read a book, read the bible see what God says on the Matter.
- Learn to wield the word of God Skillfully, Acquaint yourself with those of like mind, go to Church, hang around with those who enhance your character. Are you a Fountain or a Drain? Are your friends Fountains or Drains? Be that Fountain of the word of God to Edify your Friends and Family.
- Know the Truth from a Lie, Learn the difference between Love and Lust. Know your spouse in a manner that is befitting of Gods love.

Temperance: 1) **Moderation**; particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence; as temperance in eating and drinking; temperance in the indulgence of joy or mirth. Temperance in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness, and in other indulgences, to excess. 2. **Patience**; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

- The word of God and the saving power of Gods salvation gave us freedom, not since but to grow. We are blessed with the fact that we must use our brains, that temperance which is moderation, do not do things to excess, don't each to much, don't exercise to much, don't sleep to much, don't force the word of God down peoples throat, let them come to you by your good example. Control your temper.
- Be patient with others, be strong and skilful in the faith but have patience with those who are just learning or those who are ignorant. Give them the time they need to develop the skills and to learn to love God. Learning to love is a Skill, and loving has to be learned, it is not a nature emotion of a man, but it is by definition the very nature of God

Patience:

1) **The suffering of afflictions**, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil, with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness. 2) **A calm temper which bears evils without murmuring or discontent**. 3) **The act or quality of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent**. Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Matt.18. 4) **Perseverance**; constancy in labor or exertion. He learnt with patience, and with meekness taught. 5) **The quality of bearing offenses and injuries without anger or revenge**. His rage was kindled and his patience gone. 6. **Sufferance**; permission. 7. **A plant**, a species of rumex of dock.

- I Like Noah Websters Quote: Patience may spring from constitutional fortitude, from a kind of heroic pride, or from Christian **submission** to the divine will.

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- Patience is a gift from God, it is a power unto itself, the very power to suffer afflictions. because...because you know something is greater on the other side. Being a Parent, Being a Good Parent, teaches you Patience, then you get a better understanding of what God has to go through with you.
- It is a humbling experience, when you grasp the magnitude of your own sins and then realize the Incredible level of Patience God has for Us.
- Bearing up under evil without murmuring or discontent, recognizing there will be a better tomorrow, that God is always in control no matter how dark the day appears.
- Pilgrims of years ago suffered for 3 months on the Mayflower to get to America, then they endured a winter of Death, it wasn't until that following years harvest That their perseverance and their patience with the Lord paid off, they were in a New Land of their very own they could worship God the way they wanted in peace and harmony.
- As time went on our wonderful nation has turned into a cesspool of Non-Believers who spread there filth throughout the land, they poison the truth they make us live in their hateful self absorbed land. But we through Patient endurance will see that when Christ returns we will be liberated, right before there very eyes. To their shock and Horror they will be left on an Earth inhabited by Demons and lead by Satan himself with no Holy Spirit to Bind him.
- We have to give our permission to be abused to take the punishment to follow God's way and not slip into the ways of the Devil. Sufferance, that ability to give permission to an oppressor because the way of God is more important, the example you set is better that the punishment you suffer.
- There is a plant called a patience plant, also known as Dock...I couldn't find why it was called Patience.

Godliness:

Piety; belief in God, and reverence for his character and laws. 1. **A religious life**; Christian obedience.

2. **Revelation**; the system of Christianity. Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness;

- Webster Defines a religious life as a careful observance of the laws of God and performance of religious duties, **proceeding from love and reverence for the divine character and commands**
- **You see this is what differentiates a Christian from an ordinary person, his actions are driven by Love and reverence for the divine Character. God is Love, so therefor to be Godly, to be a Christian is to act in the same Love as God does, that means we have to Learn Godliness, we have to learn how to act.**
- **Revelation, God reveals to us, he reveals to you his divine nature, his Godliness if you please him, if you seek him with your whole heart.**
- Godliness is profitable unto all things. 1 Tim. 4.

Brotherly Kindness:

1. **Good will; benevolence**; that temper or disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others, which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes, supplying their wants or alleviating their distresses; benignity of nature. Kindness ever accompanies love. 2. **Act of good will; beneficence**; any act of benevolence which promotes the happiness or welfare of others.

- So what is a Brother, well it's someone who you grow up with, its someone you fight with, its someone you strive with, it's someone you can trust under all circumstances to help you out when no one else will. **It's a Blood bond of love.**
- **As a Christian we have a Spirit Bond with each Spirit Imbued Christian, We have a Blood Bond with them, a Bond in Christs Blood. As Christ laid down his life for us we too should learn to act with that same Supreme act of Kindness. As Children of Adam, we inherited the sin of our father, we weren't given the same choice as Adam, we were born in sin from the beginning.**

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- **God Knowing this, Died on the Cross for us children bound into the slavery of satans service by their earthly father, God would have none of it...his act of Ultimate kindness gave us life.**
- **We must learn to act in brotherly love to our friends, to our Brethren our Literal Blood Brothers in Christ...learning this comes later in our walk with God.**
- There is no man whose kindness we may not sometime want, or by whose malice we may not sometime suffer.

Charity:

Webster has 8 definitions of Charity; I prefer only one which was preached to me and now I pass on to You.

Charity to a Christian is Love in action.

- **It is that simple, all the previous things you learned in your walk all wrapped in one action toward another.**
- **Toward anyone, toward everyone.**
- **It's a way of Life Living for others, living to help others, helping others to learn about the God of Heaven who is Love.**
- **We can only emulate him, we can only emulate his love. But that's what we are called to do.**
- **And we need to learn it and we need to do it**
- **Charity is a verb, I know Webster says it's a noun, well he is wrong when you act in charity you are committing an action of Godly Love, Godliness.**
- **This above all is our calling**

1. In a general sense, love, benevolence, good will; that disposition of heart which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow men to think favorably of their fellow men, and to do them good. In a theological sense, it includes supreme love to God, and universal good will to men. 1 Cor. 8. Col. 3. 1 Tim 1. 2. In a more particular sense, love, kindness, affection, tenderness, springing from natural relations; as the charities of father, son and brother. 3. Liberality to the poor, consisting in almsgiving or benefactions, or in gratuitous services to relieve them in distress. 4. Alms; whatever is bestowed gratuitously on the poor for their relief. 5. Liberality in gifts and services to promote public objects of utility, as to found and support bible societies, missionary societies, and others.

6. Candor; liberality in judging of men and their actions; a disposition which inclines men to think and judge favorably, and to put the best construction on words and actions which the case will admit. The highest exercise of charity, is charity towards the uncharitable.

7. Any act of kindness, or benevolence; as the charities of life.

8. A charitable institution. Charity-school, is a school maintained by voluntary contributions for educating poor children.