



## **The Sanctified Life**

To live the sanctified life, we must appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit. We must consciously desire to surrender and then appropriate; it requires a recognition that God has set us apart unto Himself. We need to be intentional and have an inherent cultivated desire to want an intimate relationship with our Savior/Creator. The sanctified life, living Christ requires an intentional surrendered relationship where we choose to be available to God, to allow God to work in us – to grow us and transform us.

One of God's greatest attributes is his Holiness and His other attributes, such as His goodness, justice, righteousness, and mercy flow to us growing us in Him. The standard for sanctification is holiness – God's holiness ("be holy as I am holy," 1 Peter 1:16), which sets us apart unto Himself. This may seem as if it is an impossible standard that could be overwhelming and intimidating, but God knows, this side of glory, that we are progressively transformed - always moving forward. While you and I cannot do this transforming work ourselves we can choose to surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit in those who profess Christ to allow Him to do the growing - sanctifying work in us.

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability and power to not feed/fuel our flesh, so that we can crucify the flesh in our daily choices to reflect the purity and holiness of God. Our role in pursuing holiness is to seek Him and be actively devoted to making choices that are God honoring. Though this may seem difficult we already have our Helper, the Holy Spirit, which leads us into all truth and provides a way for us to be successful in Him. We only need to cultivate the practice of this skillset of surrender and obedience.

The more time we spend with the Lord- sitting and resting in His presence – reflecting and meditating on His glory and holiness - the more we reflect Him and the more infused, immersed, and saturated we become with our Lord and King. Our decisions to align with Christ position us to be more like Him because He fills us as we spend time with Him and the fruit of transformation is revealed as we grow in Him.

Let us remember sanctification is a gift. Sanctification stems from allowing the transforming and growing work of the Holy Spirit in us flowing from God's grace in our lives.