

North Christian Church -

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7/17/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 104

Sanctification

To be made holy, to be set apart for God's purposes, to be consecrated in time unto God's will.

Sanctification

Sanctification is the result of a faith being put into action. Testing, therefore, is designed by God as an opportunity to reveal your God-given abilities, by grace through faith. This goes for salvation and sanctification. You are a witness (e.g., Ac 10:34-43; 1Ti 6:12; Heb 12:1).

To God's Glory

Faith is the device that God equips believers with in order to bring glory to Himself. We receive both the faith AND the trials where it is test, by grace!

To God's Glory

Without the trials, faith remains untested, unconsummated. Without the faith, trials are either self-induced and/or originating from one of our other enemies (1Co 10:13).

Poor Witnessing

Most people characterize testing as ANYTHING that causes them personal discomfort. This is grossly misrepresenting God's grace, for so much of man's suffering is self-induced.

Working Hard for Others

We mustn't think of our hard work as merely being able to "pay our own bills from month to month"; rather, we must think bigger-picture, understanding that we work for God, who intends to use such fruit to the benefit of others.

Jn 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Friendly Reminder

Never take a lesson or two out of context. Never react so viscerally to a lesson such that you are completely unnerved or thrown off. Sanctification takes time.

Knee-jerk reactions are often the cause for further angst, which isn't the Spirit's intention. Conviction is necessary; however, religious fear isn't.

Proven Character

One of the reasons there's a glut of wimpy men in this world is because they choose not to persevere (e.g., due to lack of faith). Their first response to tribulation is to point the finger at someone else! This contradicts scripture (1Co 16:13).

What Is Perseverance?

"By faith" means "by God", since He is the author/giver of faith. Therefore, ANYONE can persevere if they have true faith.

Ro 15:5a

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement...

Prayer

Persistence in prayer (Ro 15:5ff) produces the fruit of fellowship in the soul of man. God desires that we persist in going to the throne of grace, in humility. The impetus for prayer fellowship is often a persistent need. Therefore, it's by grace design that He ordains trials for us.

Grace Precedes Fruit

God will always afford a believer the appropriate grace to accomplish a command. This means that every command in the Bible is placed upon man in the presence and sufficiency of grace (ala 2Co 12:9).

Grace-Orientation

Paul understood that "power is perfected in weakness" to the degree that he persistently fulfilled his mission in the face of obscene adversity, even from those in his own flock.

Grace-Orientation

"Courage" is really just another name for faith applied. Faith is a grace gift given to the humble. So while Paul appeared "boastful" to his flock, he was actually exceedingly humble, comparatively. As a result, he pressed on under all circumstances.

Grace-Orientation

If you're grace-oriented, then you walk by faith (2Co 5:7)...in a manner worthy of your calling (Eph 4:1)...and a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ (Php 1:27).

Your Life Has Context.

Mature Reading

The central theme in the Bible is the Gospel. The central Person is Jesus Christ. The more "mature" you are, the more you'll read every passage of scripture in light of these two truths, and every passage will amplify them.

The Great Litmus Test

The hallmark of true love is a base desire to live for others. "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). The Spirit will assure you of your faith by revealing to you His love in you (1Jn 3:19-20;

4:13).

Good Perspective

We shouldn't eject ourselves out of our own "life context" when impressed by another saint's good labor for Christ. We ought to always be encouraged, not discouraged by such things.

Experiencing Theology

Looking back on your own life, considering how much God has done in/through you. Your experience highlights God's basic promise that He will sanctify you (Php 1:6).

Supernatural Walking

Do you have to "try" to "be" grateful? No - you can be reminded of things to be grateful "for", but GOD is the one who GIVES us the ability to "be" grateful - that's true grace. If you "try" to "be" something you're not, you're a hypocrite (Ro 12:9).

BE YOURSELF!!!

Faith Is Received By the Humble

Even though the overarching theology states dogmatically that God will sanctify all of His children, some children grow up quicker than others in faith.

Jas 4:6b [Message]

..."God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble."
"Willful" implies "full of human will", which points to the flesh "doing"; whereas, "willing" implies "not already full, but open to being filled", which points to the humble.

Lk 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Experiential Sanctification

His perspective, His Gospel, is what BECOMES our sanctification!!!