

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

Lesson #11 - Judgment Seat - Part II - Experiential Salvation

Scripture speaks of being saved in three tenses and senses. In one place Scripture says we "have been saved" (past). In another place it says that we "are being saved" (present). In yet another place it says we "shall be saved" (future).

All these statements are true. An understanding of how we are saved in three senses and tenses helps to avoid wrong ideas about salvation and helps us gain a firm assurance of salvation.

Walvoord: When we put our trust in Jesus Christ, we transfer from the Road to Armageddon to the Road To Glory.

Security of the Believer: Those who trust Christ alone for salvation are redeemed, eternally forgiven and legally perfect before God.

I John 3:14 - We have "passed out of death into life."

We are accepted on the basis of His worthy merit.

I Thess. 4:3 *For It Is God's Will That You Be Sanctified...*

a. To "sanctify" is to set it apart for special use; to "sanctify" a person is to make him holy.

Three Types of Biblical Sanctification

I Cor. 1:30-31 It is because of God that you are in union with Jesus Christ, who for us has become wisdom from God, as well as our righteousness [Positional], sanctification [Experiential], and redemption [Glorification]. Therefore, the person who boasts must boast in the Lord.

This is a once-for-ever separation of believers unto God.

Paul prays in I Thess. 5:23-24 May the God of peace himself make you holy in every way.

And may your whole being—spirit [Justification; Positional], soul [Experiential Sanctification], and body [Glorification]—remain blameless when our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, appears.

The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

A. Positional Sanctification [Justification] signifies that every believer at the moment of salvation acquires the status quo of being set apart in Christ Jesus [Col. 2:10].

Heb. 10:10 By God's will we have been sanctified once and for all through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, the Messiah.

At the moment a person believes in Christ as Savior: [Way, Truth & the Life]

1. He is entered into union with Christ and he shares all that Christ has and is.
2. He is totally justified: set apart permanently by the sealing of the Holy Spirit.
3. It is a once-for-all change in his legal status before God.
4. God henceforth sees him as having died, been buried and raised again in newness of life in Christ.

Eph. 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

5. He is a partaker of His divine nature.

II Pet. 1:1-4 To those who have received faith that is as valuable as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours in abundance through full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the full knowledge of the one who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ Through these He has given us His precious and wonderful promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, seeing that you have escaped the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires.

C. Ultimate sanctification = Glorification = is the status quo of every believer in his resurrection body in the eternal state [I Cor. 15:35-54; Phil. 3:21; I John 3:2].

Paul prays in I Thess. 5:23: May the God of peace himself make you holy in every way.

And may your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—remain blameless when our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, appears.

Paul speaks of Christ as “the hope of glory” in Colossians 1:27.

He links the glorious appearing of Christ to our personal glorification:

Col. 3:4 “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”.

This glorified state will be our ultimate separation from sin, a total sanctification.

I John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Phil. 3:21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Note # 1: For the Christians, nothing more can be done in regards to *positional justification*—it has been secured by faith alone in Christ alone. [Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, in order to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.]

Note #2 Nothing will stop the certain attainment of *our glorification*—it too has been secured by faith alone in Christ alone. *However, experiential sanctification is another matter.*

B. Experiential Salvation = Sanctification = I am “being saved.”

We are called “saints” (*hagios* in the Greek), or “sanctified [holy] ones.” Our behavior should bear witness to our standing before God in separation from the world. Little by little, every day, “those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14, ESV) are becoming more like Christ.

II Cor. 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

1. While we are *positionally* holy [“set free from every sin” by the blood of Christ, Acts 13:39], we know we still sin.

I John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

2. God started the work of making us like Christ. He is continuing it.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

3. One key to be sanctified in the experiential phase is the proper use of:

I John 1:9 If we confess [say the same thing; acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. Experiential sanctification is the function of the spiritual life after salvation that involves the believer's spiritual growth by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and the grace to live it.

Eph. 5:25b-26 just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word,

5. It is the same as growing in the Lord or spiritual maturity.

II Peter 3:18 Instead, continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Messiah. Glory belongs to Him both now and on that eternal day! Amen.

6. This sanctification is to be pursued by the believer earnestly and diligently.

I Peter 1:13-16 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep a clear head, and set your hope completely on the grace to be given you when Jesus, the Messiah, is revealed.

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be shaped by the desires that used to influence you when you were ignorant. ¹⁵ Instead, be holy in every aspect of your life, just as the one who called you is holy. ¹⁶ For it is written, "You must be holy, because I am holy."

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

7. Experiential Sanctification is not vicarious (cannot be transferred or imputed) but is accrued progressively (moment-by-moment) as a result of each Christian's obedience to God's will as revealed in His Word.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth. Your Word is truth.

8. Progressive sanctification has in view: The setting apart of believers for the purpose for which they are sent into the world.

John 17:18-19 Just as you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

It is for their sakes that I sanctify myself, so that they, too, may be sanctified by the truth.

a. That Jesus set Himself apart for God's purpose is both the basis and the condition of our being set apart.

Key Point My Purpose After Justification

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Rom. 8:29 For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that the Son might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Fact: When you were born again (justified), you were set apart by God. You were also set apart UNTO God for sanctification. New commands are given to the justified believer:

Be filled with the Holy Spirit; Walk in the Spirit; Be Sanctified; Purify Yourself; Humble Yourself; Die To Self; Mortify the Deeds of the Flesh; Be Clothed With Humility of Christ. False and preconceived notions regarding sanctification emanate from man's inclination to achieve the approval of God through self-effort (human good = wood, hay, stubble). Fact: You cannot obey these commands; you MUST yield to the Holy Spirit who will do the work in you and transform you into the image of Jesus Christ. NOW this will be true in your life: II Cor. 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

Key Point Christian growth is a balance or union between God's sovereign work by His Spirit and man's responsiveness (will), as seen in

Philippians 2:12-13: Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out [Gk. "katergazomai"—cultivate] your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

The concept in this passage is similar to a farmer who owns a field. The field is his possession, but what is produced on it depends on how he cultivates it. The field can produce little to nothing, or it can bring forth a rich crop. It all depends on the farmer and how he cultivates it. In the case of the possession of salvation, the property of every Christian, there is always God's way of cultivating and man's way of cultivating.

1. God's way is always to "work through" the believer, which produces divine good.

[works accomplished under the power of the Holy Spirit and glorify Jesus Christ].

2. Man's way is to function under his own will and self-effort, which produces human good (works conducted under his own power with improper motivation and which glorify only him).

Phil. 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved ones, as you always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, carry to its ultimate conclusion [likeness to the Lord Jesus] your own salvation with a wholesome, serious caution and trembling, for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure. [amplified]

- a. At the "new birth," each believer is under the control ("filling"—influence) of the Holy Spirit—a control that may only be limited by the believer's improper personal (willful) choice.
- b. By making wrong choices the believer allows sin to crowd out the influence of God's Spirit in his life, even though God's Spirit will never depart from the believer—not in whole or part.
- c. It is God's will that each believer be always "filled" with (controlled, influenced by) the Holy Spirit in order to be divinely empowered for service. [Eph. 5:18]
- d. For this reason, once sin enters a believer's life and thereby quenches (restricts) and grieves (causes hurt or emotional pain in) the Holy Spirit, it is up to the believer to enact I John 1:9, which if judiciously followed, will immediately reestablish the "filling" of the Holy Spirit in his life—a fact of faith, not feeling (emotion).

The "filling" (empowerment) by the Holy Spirit is not to be "prayed for" or "begged from God." One doesn't receive it by agonizing over the matter. Nothing done apart from the Holy Spirit will honor God!

Our Works Revealed At The Judgment Seat

I Corinthians 3:11-15: For no other foundation [Positional Sanctification] can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds [Experiential Sanctification] on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones [divine good], wood, hay, straw [human good], each one's work will become clear; for the Day [of Judgment] will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of WHAT SORT IT IS.

If anyone's work which he has built on it endures [as in divine good], he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned [as in human good], he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Danger: Do not conclude that every Christian will do well at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Ponder: Paul did not see a contradiction between teaching justification by faith as well as the fact we shall be judged for all our "deeds done in the body" since our justification.

Consider: We can suffer serious loss and stand in shame. We will not all have the same privileges. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to purify and sanctify you?

The Essentials of Experiential Sanctification

1. Grounded in The Word

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is Truth.

Eph. 5:25-26. . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word.

2. Apprehend Experiential Sanctification by Faith

It is an error of the most egregious degree when a child of God, having apprehended eternal salvation by faith alone, to then attempt to achieve *experiential sanctification* [growth; maturity] by self-effort. God abhors man's efforts to please Him through man's will and strength.

Col. 2:6 As [in the same manner] you have therefore received [by faith alone] Christ Jesus the Lord, so [in this same way—BY FAITH] walk in Him.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ps. 37:4-7 Commit your way to the LORD, trust [have faith] also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Rest [have confidence or faith] in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him

3. Conducted Only In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

The only enabling power capable of producing divine good is the Holy Spirit. At the moment a person accepts Jesus Christ by faith alone for his personal salvation, he is born of the Holy Spirit who immediately—in whole—enters and takes up dwelling in the believer and immerses (baptizes) him into the Body of Christ, as well as “seals” the believer for the Day of Redemption and grants him spiritual gifts for Christian service (*not personal recognition*).

I Cor. 3:16- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?

II Cor. 1:22 Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee

4. Focused Always On Jesus Christ.

Christ will dominate his thoughts, his life, his praise, his gratitude, his testimony and his service. The Christian who is properly living by faith in accordance with Bible doctrine in concert with the Holy Spirit will always point others to Jesus Christ, and his life will be consumed with thanksgiving and praise for all the Son of God has and is doing in his life. He will not be majoring on “spiritual gifts,” and “healings” and other peripheral matters.

John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I [Jesus Christ] shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

1 Cor. 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

5. Abide In Jesus Christ

I Thess. 5:23: May the God of peace himself make you holy in every way. And may your whole being—spirit [Justification; Positional], soul [Experiential Sanctification], and body [Glorification]—remain blameless when our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, appears.

I John 2:28 Even now, little children, abide in him. Then, when he appears, we will have confidence and will not turn away from him in shame when he comes.