

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Filling in the Gaps - Lesson 26**  
**Sanctification**

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Suggested reading: 1 Thessalonians 5; 1 John 5; Genesis 1.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Sanctification, what does it mean? Most when quoting this verse will say body, soul, and spirit. Man always wants to put the flesh first. The Holy Bible says *spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

All five chapters in First Thessalonians encourage us to be excited about the coming of the Lord. The Lord is coming for us because we trusted Him as Savior. He gave us a new birth and eternal life. We are kept by the One who saved us by the word of His power. We are going to heaven because we have been justified. Our sins were judicially taken away, when we trusted the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. In that moment of salvation, we were sanctified.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, the Holy Spirit is pleading with us to live each day in anticipation of the coming of the Lord in the rapture.

The day we were saved, we did not leave the world in which we lived with water walls mounting up on either side, like the children of Israel, and a pursuing army drowning behind us. It only took a month before those people who were saved from the Egyptian army so dramatically, were drifting from God in their hearts, complaining about their new life that God had given them, and murmuring against His treatment and leadership in their lives. If we are honest, we would say we are so thankful that we are saved and so ashamed that salvation has not had a greater effect upon our lives. My spirit, soul, and body are seldom as fervently devoted to my Savior as they were when I was first saved. When we first trusted the Lord, our attitude was as the song writer said:

*"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live."*

Our attitude was, "O Lord, my life is now yours." What happened to us?

I remember the night I was saved. Upon that moment of salvation, I felt as though a heavy weight of burden was lifted off me, and I had an unexplainable peace. Why would I forfeit that peace for anything?

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We need to understand how to preserve that blameless condition before God, that complete surrender of our lives, to the One who saved us.

1 John 5:7 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.* If the Bible you are reading from does not have this verse, you need to get a better Bible. This verse has been removed from the modern Bibles. How can one be three? You can take it up with God when you get to heaven or just trust in the Lord. (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Compare 1 John 5:7 with Genesis 1:26 - **Let us** God said, **Let us, God** singular said, **let us** (plural), **make man in OUR** (plural) **image, after OUR** (plural) **likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.** God, just one God, *created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them* - two genders.

**What is the meaning of Sanctification?** - Sanctification is the setting apart from sin unto God. The result is a life of holiness. It is the perfecting (bringing to maturity) of holiness wrought in the life of a believer who desires to yield his life to God to be cleansed and to be set apart unto God. Sanctification is His way of conforming your character and conduct to the image of Christ.

When one is justified, he is declared righteous by God the Father. Justification is something God does for you. But sanctification is something God does in you. Justification puts you in the right relationship to God, and sanctification manifests the fruit of that blessed relationship. The fruit, or result, is shown by separation from evil along with a dedication unto God.

The thought in the word "sanctify" originally meant "to cut." Sanctification, then, is His method of cutting you out of the world and cutting the world's evil out of you. It involves a separation from evil, a dedication unto God, and a holy life.

If you meditate on the above definition, you will understand where you were in spirit, soul, and body at the moment of salvation.

God made His truth so simple to us that even a child could understand, 2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Yet we tend to over think what God has already made so simple.

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt to bring them into the Promised Land. They were begging God to get out of Egypt, and then they

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wanted to go back to Egypt. First, they did not want Pharaoh's whip, then they did not want God's direction.

It would have been great if after we were saved, we were blessed to have been mentored by someone who walked as they talked, with no hypocrisy in them at all. Unfortunately, there are very few that have been taught that way. Our flesh is so convincing that when all does not go its way it will begin to try and persuade us back to the attitude we had before salvation. In fact, if our flesh had its own way all the time, we would do nothing but exist and do everything to satisfy its lust.

Once we understand that we are actually two personalities within one body and that we are in a constant warfare with that other personality, we will understand why even the Apostle Paul said things like:

*Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

*Romans 7:17-20 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

**When does Sanctification take place?** - In this study sanctification will be seen in three aspects:

1. Instantaneous
2. Progressive
3. Complete (final)

**1. Instantaneous** - Sanctification takes place at the new birth. Sanctification is instantaneous in the sense that the very moment a man/woman believes in Jesus Christ, accepting Him as Saviour, he/she is set apart unto God. Both holiness and real freedom from sin begin at the new birth. By accepting Christ, a person gets a new standing in morality, behavior, and holiness. At the new birth, he is made to be righteous in the sight of God because of the offering of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Hebrews 10:10,14 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Through Paul's writing to the believers at Corinth who had previously worshipped idols and indulged in almost every known sin, we are taught that they were now both sanctified and justified.

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1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

The instantaneous stage is only the beginning of sanctification.

1 Corinthians 1:2 *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:* The believer now has new life and should grow until he/she has reached the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ, see Ephesians 4:13.

1 Corinthians 1:30,31 *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

God demands for us to live a holy life through Jesus Christ, and it is only through Jesus Christ that a believer can become all that God desires him to be. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour, that person exchanges his sin for Christ's righteousness. Thus, the believer is sanctified. Jesus Christ has made us sanctified and holy unto Him. Jesus Christ becomes our holiness.

**2. Progressive** - Sanctification takes place during the life of the believer. It must be remembered that sanctification is only started in the new birth experience. The new birth does not make sanctification complete any more than the birth of a baby makes him a man. Birth looks forward to and anticipates growth.

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

We are being transformed from one degree of character to another, or from one height of glory to another.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints".* The words, "increase" and "more," suggest growth. See also 1 Thessalonians 4:1

There are many crises (troublesome and problematic events) in the life of the believer, which should be followed by a greater growth in holiness. When one is born again, however, or surrenders and dedicates one's life, or has any spiritual experience that brings him closer to God, he must realize that this experience in itself is not sanctification. Each of these calamities is a stepping-stone that will enable the believer to keep growing

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in sanctification. Biblical sanctification is far deeper than emotion. It touches even more than feelings. True sanctification is the perfecting of holiness in the believer through the working of the Holy Spirit. This progressive aspect of sanctification is what the Bible calls perfecting holiness. It is described in 2 Corinthians 7:1 as the cleansing from the filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The plan and purpose of God for every believer is that he might walk in the likeness of Christ Ephesians 4:11, 12. *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:* The word "perfecting" in this passage suggests progressing, growing, or bringing to maturity of holiness. Holiness does not grow overnight. It is not attained by creeds or deeds. Holiness is often a slow growth. Isaiah 28:9-10 *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:* Growth takes place as the Holy Spirit points out sin in one's life and as confession is made to God. True confession is always accompanied by repentance. He promised that, 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Thus, a believer who is under the Holy Spirit's control and truly confesses a sin will stop practicing it.

**3. Complete** - Complete sanctification speaks of that final part of sanctification which takes place in the believer when Christ comes.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* The word "wholly" means complete in every part, perfect in every respect. At Christ's coming again, every believer will receive a new body. This body will be perfect in every way. In addition, he will be mature, possessing every Christian grace. 1 Thessalonians 3:12,13 *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.* The Bible declares that when the believer sees Jesus, he will be like Him. 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Philippians 3:12-14. *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of*

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*the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* At His coming again, our sanctification will be completed. See also Philippians 3:20, 21.

If we do not maintain our sanctification from the time we get saved until the time we go to heaven, it is not because of a lack of sanctifying power. The missing ingredient is desire on our part to be sanctified. We do not have to ask for the Holy Spirit to give us fullness, spiritual gifts, or spiritual power. We have been given all spiritual blessings and have been placed in Christ. What we are asked to do is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

You can be as completely victorious over sin and as completely devoted to Jesus Christ as you desire to be. This is the one thing you can achieve if you want to give honour and glory to the One who saved you by His precious blood.

Praise the Lord.

*"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live."*

Notes

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**Sanctification**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Note: (\*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. Why would you forfeit the peace of God that surpasses all understanding? \*
2. What are the three stages of sanctification?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
3. What outward evidence can be seen so that we know that a person is sanctified? \*
4. How does a believer gain victory over sin? \*
5. What are the benefits of being sanctified? \*
6. What is the definition of sanctification? \*
7. What is the difference between sanctification and justification?
8. What should our attitude be towards the Lord on a daily basis?
9. What is the motivating desire of our flesh? \*

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10. Each human person is made up of three different and distinct parts. What are they?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
11. Where do we see in the Bible that God is a trinity (three)? \*
12. How do we grow in our spiritual life? \*
13. What proof do we have from the scriptures that becoming sanctified is an attainable goal? \*

**True/false**

- Church attendance, handing out tracts, even preaching on the streets will make us sanctified.
- Each time we give up a sin in our lives, we achieve another level of sanctification.
- Complete sanctification will happen at death or the rapture.

**Scripture memorization**

Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:10,14

Write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper: (must be in KJV)

any questions?