

“Sanctification of the Spirit”

1 Peter 1:1 - 5 *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

This morning, we want to look at the “*sanctification of the Spirit*,” what it means, how it is accomplished, and what it means to us who are saved. This passage of scripture in itself is everything a soul needs to know about the salvation of the human soul. Most of the world denies the truth about salvation, they want salvation to be all about man with God being an observer of the miracle of man bringing about their own life changing salvation. However, what they believe and teach is made-up and entirely unscriptural. God, the very God that created the world, the very same God that created the human soul, the very same God that condemned every human soul by the fall of one single man in the person of Adam, is the very same God that sanctifies those that He saves. Most people that “calls” themselves Christian refuse to believe that God saves those that are saved. However, right here in this very passage of scripture, the Holy Spirit of God, inspired, by breathing these words into the heart of Peter to write these words of Truth.

First God said that we are, “*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*,” The word “foreknowledge” is defined as “*forethought*”. Vines says about this word foreknowledge, (1.) “Foreknowledge” is one aspect of **God’s omniscience**,” God’s omniscience means that God eternally knew, as He eternally knows everything. (2.) We that are saved were “elected according to God’s foreknowledge. Meaning we were elected to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, God chose us to receiver this gift of being sanctified by the grace of God. (3.) “*unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*” The thought here is to the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrifices under the Old Testament law, and it signifies the application of the blood of Christ for the purging us from the guilt of sin; which sprinkling, or the application of the blood of Christ to us. This is performed on our part by faith, and on God's part by His Spirit working that faith in us, by imputing Christ's righteousness to us, therefore, enabling sanctification to us, by God's imputing Christ's righteousness to us through that sprinkling. (4.) “*according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us*” – By His “abundant mercy” hath “begotten us”. The word begotten means to beget us, which means to be born again of, that is we were born or begotten of God, as a new creature by His mercy.

As described in **John 3:5 - 6** “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*” (5.) Therefore, we are begotten, “*unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled*” Because of Jesus Christ we will live eternally, pure and with sin for eternity. We will be entirely holy in heaven, containing only our new nature or our “born of God” nature. Pure as Jesus when He ascended to heaven. (6) “*reserved in heaven for you,*” By who, by God in our election by Him. The word “reserved” means guarded or to keep from loss. Therefore, we must ask how this is **reserved for us**, V. 5 “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

A. The question is what is “*sanctification of the Spirit*”.

1. The Greek makes it clear that it is the Holy Spirit who does the sanctifying. It is not of us but of grace and a gift from God just as salvation is. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** “*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.*” Our purification is by the Holy Spirit through the life, blood, and sacrifice of Jesus.
2. Sanctification is a, separating profane things and dedicating us to God. It is a repentance from serving sinfulness to serving God.
3. It is the gift of making one holy in God’s eyes. God spoke of Him doing this by His own power. **Jeremiah 1:5** “*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*”
4. God makes us clean; it is truly a legal cleansing and an eternal cleansing. **Hebrews 10:10** “*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*”

B. This is accomplished by God giving us “saving faith”.

1. **Acts 15:8 - 9** “*And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; (9) And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*” Purifying is cleansing or sanctification.
2. Faith is a gift because it comes by hear God. **Romans 10:16 - 17** “*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? (17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”
3. We are also sanctified through the word of God by the Holy Spirit, just as faith comes. **John 17:17** “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

C. Conclusion, our fruits of a progressive sanctification.

1. A sense of unworthiness on our part.
2. A hatred of sin.
3. Growing interest in God's word and grace.
4. A growing love for the things of God.

Sanctification is the state of God's children that were foreordained to have it. It is by God's grace through the blood of Jesus and as the Holy Spirit calls us. We are exactly as God has chosen us to be by His grace through the Holy Spirit.