

Sanctification

By

Grace

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Sanctification by Grace.

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I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO ALL OF GOD'S
GRACE REVOLUTIONARIES ACROSS THE WORLD WHO ARE
MAKING A STAND FOR THE PURE GOSPEL EVEN IN THE FACE
OF PERSECUTION. CONTINUE TO STAND STRONG IN THE
GRACE OF GOD FOR THERE ARE MULTITUDES COMING INTO
LIBERTY!

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Preface

The word sanctification has become a dirty word in the body of Christ. Many Christians feel like instant failures as soon as they hear the word sanctification. Many Christians have been badly butchered by legalistic sanctification teaching. Teaching that drives them rather than empowers them. Teaching that manipulates and commands them to “do more” and “be more” for God, (As if it weren’t in their hearts already and that you have to whip Christians into it.) and if they don’t then their ‘rebellious nature’ will take over and cause them to run from God and sin against God.

This could not be further from the truth. Some preachers have mixed up their role with the role of the cross. They think it’s their job to help Christians die to their old self when in actual fact that has already taken place at the cross when we came into Christ! Oh, if preachers could just be released from the burden of feeling like they have to control sin in Christians, and find release from the misconception that preaching true grace gives people a license to

sin. These preachers haven't seen their salvation! They are unaware and confused about what took place in their spirit at the point of salvation and therefore they are also unaware of the empowerment that is available to every Christian who desires to live for God!

Sanctification teaching is not about telling Christians what they should and/or shouldn't be doing. It's about identifying the very passions and desires that God has put in their spirit at re-birth and empowering those passions to come out. Inside the spirit of every Christian is the full blown passion for Jesus Christ! Yet it gets covered up with the affairs and distractions of this world; with religiosity, legalism, bad theology, passionless traditions, or simply guilt, shame and condemnation. Telling a Christian to do more and be more is just crushing when they are drowning in these other things. Especially because the passion of their spirit is already to be more and do more for God! This kind of sanctification teaching only smothers their spirit. Sanctification teaching should instead un-smother their spirit and release the passions that are already there. If a Christian could live totally by the things

that God put in their spirit at the point of salvation, without any hindrance from anything else, then that Christian would live in absolute righteousness, obedience and fruitfulness to God!

Sanctification must start in the right place and it must be built on a foundation of grace, not law. Much of the sanctification teaching today is either implicit law dressed up as grace or just explicit law! The end result is that Christians end up believing that the quality of their relationship with God is based on their performance rather than the finished work of Jesus.

In this book I want to show that sanctification is actually a wonderful thing. It's a privilege that only born again people get to partake in. It's the process whereby we are drawn into an empowering relationship with God, by His grace, and from there live out the full expression of the life we are called to: Our destiny!

Definitions of Sanctification:

***Hagiasmos* is the Greek word for sanctification.**

W.E. Vine's expository dictionary of Greek words defines it as:

- a) A separation to God, and**
- b) The course of life befitting those so separated.**

My definitions:

- Sanctification is being separated unto God, coming into your heavenly position in Christ, and it's the life that currently flows out of that position.**
- Sanctification says that your spirit has already become perfectly like Christ and now your mind and body are catching up!**
- Sanctification has happened and is happening! It's an event and a process. The process of sanctification can happen because the event of sanctification has already happened.**

- **Sanctification is not a dirty word. It's a revelation of God's will to supernaturally transform you into Christ's likeness. It's also a revelation about how that very same 'will' was placed inside of you at the point of salvation and that now, whether you realize it or not, it's also your will to become like Christ!**
- **Sanctification is where your current earthly condition starts to become more and more like your eternal heavenly position. The means by which this happens is not by willpower, self effort or law but through regular encounters with the God of glory and being established in His word of grace.**
- **Sanctification is not a 'have to'. It's an overflow of what has taken place inside of you! Take off the 'have to's' and the 'want to's' will arise.**
- **Sanctification is more than just being holy: It's about living in all the things, on earth, that you have already received and come into in heaven. That is true holiness!**

Scriptures showing sanctification has already happened:

1. [Acts 20:32](#)

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**."

2. [Acts 26:18](#)

"...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified** by faith in me."

3. [1 Corinthians 1:2](#)

"To the church of God in Corinth, to those **sanctified** in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours..."

4. [1 Corinthians 6:11](#)

"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were **sanctified**, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Chapter 1: The trinity of man.

I am a spirit, I live in a body and I have a soul (mind).

It's important to understand the three parts that every person is made up of before we talk about sanctification because sanctification concerns all three parts. If we don't understand the distinction between spirit, soul and body we will struggle to understand how certain scriptures apply to each part and sanctification will become confusing. You may think it's weird that I've started here, but this is foundational to understanding true sanctification, trust me. I believe this is one of the most important studies a Christian can do. Revelation on this subject will transform your life! So let's look at the trinity of man.

Every human being is made up of three major parts:

Spirit, mind (soul) and body.

Now there are also three major realms known to man:

The spiritual realm, the mental realm and the physical realm.

We live in all three realms but interact with them differently: With our bodies, the physical realm. This happens through our five physical senses (touch, taste, see, hear, smell). With our spirits, the spiritual realm. God is Spirit and we have been created in His likeness as spirit beings. Those who worship God must worship in 'spirit' and in truth. Finally, with our minds the mental realm.

You are not just the hunk of flesh and bone that everyone else sees. You are much more than that. Even though it's the part that everyone knows you by, it is actually the least part of you! The most accurate and helpful way to look at this is to say:

'I am a spirit, I live in a body and I have a mind (soul).'

You are a spirit, you live in a body and you have a mind!

You live in a body, but you are not that body. It is your earth suit! If it died, you wouldn't die. The real you, which is your spirit, wouldn't die. It would go on to be with the Lord. If you are born again you will never die! Your flesh may die but you, the real you,

your spirit, cannot die! It just instantly goes to be with the Lord.

Now how does salvation affect each of these parts?

Salvation happened instantly in your spirit, is happening in your mind, and will one day happen in your body.

It has happened, is happening and will happen. It has happened in your spirit, which is the most important thing. The fact that it has happened in your spirit means that it is happening in your mind now and will happen in your body when you go to be with the Lord. It doesn't have to happen in your body and mind in order for it to happen in your spirit. It first happened in your spirit and because of that, it is happening in your body and mind now.

Salvation was instant in our spirit and made us alive with Christ. That's when we received every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm (Eph 1), when our spirit was seated in heavenly places with Christ (Eph 2), hidden in Christ (Col 3), became a co-heir with Christ (Eph 2). When our spirit was born again and became a new creation (Titus 2, 2 Cor 5:17).

Nothing changed in our mind or our body at the point of salvation. We didn't receive a new mind or a new body. They stayed exactly the same. We still have all the same memories in our minds and even the same thinking (except that we changed our mind concerning what we believe about Jesus). It's foolish to think that salvation changed the desires of our body or the thought processes and memories of our mind. It didn't! Salvation changed our spirit and it's our spirit that needs to take control over our body and our mind and thus lead them into alignment with our spirit! It's our spirit that offers our body as a living sacrifice, and it's our spirit that subjects our mind to renewing through the presence and word of God.

You can see how your spirit needs to be the one in control. Otherwise your body will naturally follow its appetites and your mind will continue to stay worldly and lead you into worldly thoughts and actions.

Now, God did something with your spirit, but He expects you now (by that new spirit) to do something with your body and your mind.

Romans 12:1, 2

Now it is your responsibility to do something with your body and mind, not His! (Yes, we surrender to Him and partner with him, but we can't give him control unless we are first in control. We are in control of this process.) That's why we offer our body and we renew our mind.

I want to talk about walking in the spirit and how we do that, but first let's look at our heavenly eternal position and our earthly current condition:

When we were saved, which parts of us came into our eternal position and which parts of us became our current condition?

When we were saved our spirit came instantly into our eternal position in Christ. (Hidden in Christ, anchored in Christ, seated with Christ, united with Christ, etc.) That can never be undone or changed. If it could, it would mean that Jesus could be crucified twice, which is absolutely impossible. Why? *Simply because it's impossible for Jesus to die again.* How can our salvation be reversed? When our salvation happened we were united with Christ in crucifixion, burial and resurrection. To lose your salvation would

be to reverse that resurrection and die again. Then we would have to dig up our old self from the grave, nail it back up on the cross and resurrect it back into spiritual death! Being united with Christ means He would need to go through it all with us! Do you think that is something that can happen? Impossible! Well if that can't happen then it's impossible to lose your salvation and position in Christ.

Now, our position in Christ speaks about our spiritual position. Our spirit is with us now in our body and yet it is hidden in Christ in heavenly places at the same time. Try getting your mind around that! (Col 3:1-4)

Our body and our mind remain in their same condition which is our current earthly condition.

Our eternal position is not subject to change but our current condition definitely is subject to change. Our eternal position cannot be influenced by our current condition but our current condition can be influenced by our eternal position! That's what this whole book is about.

Hebrews 10:14: "...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Which part of us was made perfect and which part is being made holy? Our spirit was made perfect. That was the event that brought our spirit into its eternal position. That's the event of sanctification. And our body and mind are being made holy. Our current condition is that our body and our mind are increasingly being separated unto God for holy living. That's the process of sanctification.

Sanctification is an expression of increasing holiness in our current condition because of what happened in our eternal position. It's about your current condition becoming more and more like your eternal position. That's Christian maturity: It's where you consistently live from your position out into and through your condition. Your eternal position is that you have been made righteous. Therefore because you have been made righteous in your position, you begin to live it out in your condition. We're not made righteous because we live righteous. We live righteous because we have been made righteous! Because we have been brought into total obedience

positionally (Romans 1:5), we live obediently in our current condition. Obedience to God is no sacrifice for your spirit! We have been bought out of slavery and brought into freedom, so now we live as free people in freedom. We have been made sons, so now we live as sons. We have been justified, so now we don't live condemned! We live from our position through our current condition. That's how our position affects our condition.

Warning:

You are about to be exposed to concentrated truth that will forever alter your state of mind!

Your position in Christ is perfect and can never change! Never ever ever ever EVER!!! It's perfect. Your condition might not look as good, but your condition does not have to come up to your position in order for you to be made perfect. No, your position was made perfect first! And out of that, you are being made holy in your condition.

Your inner man was instantly made just like Christ. Now your mind and body are coming into alignment with that!

Sanctification happens instantly and progressively. It's an event and a process. The process does not determine whether the event will take place later, nor does the process make the event possible. It's an event that makes the process possible! The event that brought you into your position has happened. Now the process that is bringing your condition into your position is happening. One day when you go to be with the Lord, that process will be complete: Your current condition will be your eternal position and that is glorification!!! (Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15)

Right now our current condition cannot affect our eternal position in any way. However, our eternal position can affect our current condition. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places. That's pretty close to God! The Bible says we should also have total confidence to draw near to God because we don't approach God on the basis of our current condition but on the basis of our eternal position in Christ. We don't draw near through our blood but through His! (Hebrews 10) Therefore we have every right to live near to God and encounter Him every moment of every day.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says that as we encounter His glory, we are changed and transformed by His glory into the likeness of Christ. As we encounter Christ face to face we become like him. Sanctification is becoming like Christ in our spirit, mind and body. This is how it works: As we encounter Christ, the fullness of Christ is activated in our spirit by His glory presence and begins to extend its influence to our body and mind. The more this happens the more our spirit takes control and lives in control over our body and our mind. The more our mind is renewed through God's word and through these encounters, the less resistance it gives to our spirit. Our mind and our body want to control and lead us, but it's only our spirit man that is perfect and Christ-like and can therefore lead us into Christ-likeness. You will never become more Christ-like by sheer will and effort. It can only be through regular encounters with Christ and His living word.

The world and Satan both try to put so much rubbish and heaviness on your mind and body which is impossible to truly overcome by mere self effort. Your mind and body will not lead you into Christ-likeness. They cannot. It must be your spirit that

leads you into His presence to encounter Him and be changed by Him. See it's not essentially the Bible that renews our mind. The Bible gives us revelation about God that leads us to an encounter with God, and it's that encounter which transforms us! Troubles and hardships don't in themselves make us more mature and like Christ. Everyone responds differently in hardships and not always in the right way. No, it's hardships and troubles that cause us to run to God and encounter God for help, and as we encounter Him we get His perspective about the troubles and hardships and His grace to help us through. Through those encounters with Him we become more like Him!

Now, about walking in the spirit: What does it mean to walk by the spirit and how do we walk by the spirit?

To walk by the spirit is for us to surrender our spirit to the Holy Spirit and walk according to how God wants us to live. There is a general way that God wants us to live that is revealed in the Scriptures, and there is a specific way that God wants us to live in each situation as the Holy Spirit prompts us. The Holy Spirit can only lead us if we follow. We can only

follow if our spirit man is in control. The Holy Spirit doesn't take control of our mind and body and force us to serve him and live for him and live by the fruit of the Spirit and operate by the gifts of the Spirit. We have to surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit. We have to give him control but we cannot give him control if we are controlled by our mind or body! If your mind and body are in control, it means your spirit is not in control. So even if you wanted to follow the Holy Spirit, you couldn't. The degree to which we're not walking by the Holy Spirit is the degree to which our mind and body are in control. If our spirit could just be in control 100%, then it would have no problem surrendering 100% to the Holy Spirit. But our mind and our body get in the way.

Now our body and our mind are not evil. They are not bad. They are a part of who we are. They are our servants. When God created them, he created them good! But then corruption came in and affected all three parts of us. Through salvation, God instantly fixed our spirit. But he didn't fix our mind or body, that is happening and will happen. But our mind and body are not evil. Our mind and our body are incredible! God loves them. He loves all of us. He

doesn't just love our spirit yet hate our body and mind. We must not hate our body and mind either! We just need to understand them, how they work and how they don't naturally want to follow God. We have to teach and train them to.

David said, "My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God." Our flesh actually enjoys God's presence. But it also enjoys sin. It's important to understand that our flesh doesn't make moral decisions. It just senses things that feel good and wants to do them again, and it feels things that are bad and doesn't want to do them again. In order to get fit you need to overcome your body. It wants to stop when it gets exhausted but in order to get fit you need to tell it to keep going. Eventually your body will thank you because it enjoys the benefits of being fit. But you had to force it against its natural tendency. Sex, whether right or wrong feels good to the body. It doesn't know the difference. It's your mind and spirit that knows the difference. The unrenewed mind says that sexual sin is OK. The recreated spirit says, "No, it is wrong". Now if we just let our body follow all its appetites for sex, it would lead us into serious trouble! If we still have

worldly thinking when it comes to sex and are led by our mind, it will also lead us into trouble. However, if we are led by our spirit, we will know what is right by the Spirit of God even if our body wants to do it and if our mind says it's OK. Our spirit will lead us into righteousness and keep us from trouble! Temptation appeals to our body and our mind, not our spirit. The enemy doesn't try and attack our spirit. He knows he can't touch it, it is hidden in Christ. But he knows he can still attack our body and mind so he tempts them. If our spirit is not in ascendancy then we will easily give into temptation. The more in control our spirit is, the easier it is to resist temptation because even if our mind and flesh want to give in, our spirit says "NO!"

Smith Wigglesworth used to say that he's a thousand times bigger on the inside than on the outside. He understood the importance of empowering his spirit to reign over his body and mind. The Bible says we do that by encountering God, soaking in his presence and the word of his grace, revelation of the word of God, meditation on the word of God, encounters with God through the word, good preaching on the word of God, preaching that releases the Spirit of God, and

praying in tongues. The dominance of our spirit is determined by how much we feed ourselves spiritually or starve ourselves. It's amazing how good you feel after a great preach on a Sunday. You feel strong and refreshed. People even say things like, "We don't need lunch today, we have already had a great meal!" You walk out of church feeling great: Like you can take on the demands of life with ease and flow through life effortlessly and slap temptation in the face! It doesn't take long before you feel weak again, and the demands of life creep back in and sin seems too easy to give into. Why is that? Because we didn't continue to feed on spiritual food! We went back into the world and were fed by natural worldly things. Now if life surrounds us with worldly circumstances that are unavoidable, that's OK. It just means there's all the more reason to stay spiritually fed so that we will be stronger to deal with the onslaught of worldly thinking and behavior. Our spirits will stay in a place of greater influence over us and we'll be able to walk with the Holy Spirit through the most testing of circumstances.

Whether we like it or not, our mind is constantly being exposed to worldliness. It comes through the

radio, TV, movies, advertising, worldly people all around us, etc. Not all of it is bad, yet much of it is. Whether this worldliness affects us or not is a matter of our level of maturity in Christ.

What is worldliness? It's the lies of the devil setting themselves up against the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ. All of creation points to Christ. The devil's chief goal is to distract people's attention away from Christ. That's why 2 Corinthians 4:4 says: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." Worldliness is the devil's attempt to distract people from God and fill their minds with the importance of other things! Advertising says that possessions are most important for your life. I live in Hong Kong where the biggest idol is money. Society is geared and obsessed from birth to old age with making lots of money. Somehow the devil has been able to convince precious Chinese people that the most important thing in life is making money. That lie is robbing so many people of experiencing the Creator of the heavens and earth who has infinite wealth! Certain movies and certain people tell you that sex,

or having a girlfriend or boyfriend is the most important thing in life, and so we pursue those things rather than God, who ultimately, and who only, can truly satisfy! Some people's prime objective in life is to accumulate power and prestige. They seek that rather than the very God who could give them more power than they could handle and who could and wants to make their name great!

Why is it like this? Because the devil is at work trying to distract people away from God and keep them busy with other things so that they don't even realize they have been distracted from God! He doesn't just stop at unbelievers, he targets believers as well. Every day we have to wade through a marshland of worldly thinking trying to take us under and consume us. Even though we are in this world we are not of this world. We are from above. We are citizens of heaven and are to fix our mind and our eyes on eternal things and things above rather than on temporary and earthly things. Having our minds renewed means we recognize and know how to process worldly thoughts and lies and distractions constantly barraging against us. An unrenewed mind is a mind that agrees with worldly thinking. A

renewed mind is a mind that agrees with God's thoughts and rejects anything that contradicts them. You can't stop worldly thinking coming at you, but a renewed mind knows how to process it and not feed on it! It knows how to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Jesus Christ and true truth. A renewed mind recognizes the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom which is true wisdom. Only God is wise. He makes the wisdom of man look foolish.

The more our mind is renewed and the more we walk by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, the more we'll be able to tell the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom.

So many of our problems are because we feed our mind on the wrong things, and we starve our spirit of the right things. If we were to feed less on worldly thinking and feed more on awesome spiritual food, we would find our spirit rising into ascendancy and control over our body and mind. We'd have the ability to surrender total control to the Holy Spirit and find that He is more active and powerful in our whole life; spirit, mind and body.

Jesus went into the wilderness full of the Spirit and came out in the power of the Spirit. What happened to take Him from being full of the Spirit to being in the power of the Spirit? Three things: He fasted, was tempted by the devil and was led by the Spirit. Fasting was to gain total ascendancy over his body and teach it who was boss. Temptation came against his mind and body and the more he resisted the more it showed that he was gaining ascendancy over his mind and body. And he was being led by the Holy Spirit. We know that that could only happen if he was in control of his spirit and surrendering it to the Holy Spirit. The fact that he was being led shows that he was surrendering control of his spirit to the Holy Spirit, which means He had control of his spirit. That means his spirit was in ascendancy over his mind and body. So for forty days Jesus was walking in the wilderness by the Holy Spirit with his spirit in ascendancy over his body and mind. It says that he was praying and fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit for that time. That means that he was feeding his spirit for forty days on awesome spiritual food. His spirit finally came into such a place of ascendancy

that the Bible says he came out of the desert in the power of the Spirit. Temptation was easy to resist and the power of God easily flowed through him. He moved with the Holy Spirit and was able to do all that the Father wanted him to do!

Does this mean that we need to spend forty days in the desert? No, but there's a principle about walking in the spirit that we need to catch.

So when we talk about walking in the spirit and undergoing the process of sanctification, it's important to understand the relationship between our spirit, mind and body and how they work, and how our spirit can gain and live in ascendancy over our mind and body. That's why I started this book with this chapter. I hope it has been helpful. It's a great foundation to now start talking about regeneration and sanctification and means we will understand them so much better. Before we do, here's a chart to help you visually see what I've been talking about.

<u>Part of</u> <u>us</u>	<u>By</u> <u>salvation</u>	<u>By</u> <u>sanctification</u>	<u>Our</u> <u>current</u>
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<u>affected</u>			<u>status</u>
<u>Spirit</u>	Has happened. (Past)	Event	Eternal heavenly Position
<u>Soul/ mind</u>	Is happening. (Current)	Process	Current earthly condition
<u>Body</u>	Will happen. (Future)	Process	Current earthly condition

Chapter 2: Regeneration.

Empowered for Sanctification!

When the Bible speaks of regeneration, or being ‘born again’, it is speaking specifically about the effect salvation has on our inner being, our spirit. Once regeneration takes place your spirit is completely different. It is no longer part of the old creation fallen order. It becomes a part of the new creation perfect order. Everything changes in your spirit!

Have you seen your salvation?

I believe that the cause of so much of the legalism and control in the church today comes from a failure in ‘seeing our salvation’. If you haven’t seen your salvation then you haven’t seen that your spirit has been made perfect and complete in Christ and that nothing else needs to take place. Unfortunately many haven’t seen that so they’re busy trying to complete their salvation. They’re trying to complete their righteousness, complete their holiness, complete their death to old self, complete their worthiness to receive blessings from the Father,

complete their right to come boldly before God and so on.

The more you see your salvation by looking at regeneration, the more you will see how all these things have already been completed in your spirit. Consequently faith will come into your heart to cause you to live out, on earth, all that has already happened to your spirit in Christ!

So let's look at this issue of regeneration:

What is the state of a person's spirit before they are born again compared to after they are born again?

In this chapter I want to analyze a few scriptures and have a look at the difference.

But first here's a table to help you see the difference by visual comparison.

Comparison of our spirit before and after regeneration:

<u>Spirit before regeneration:</u>	Spirit dead to God.	Sinful nature present and controlling.	Sin driving from the inside.	Law external: commanding, condemning and exposing internal sin problem.	Wants to sin.	Doesn't want to and can't bear fruit unto God.	Cannot keep God's law.	Object of God's wrath.
<u>Spirit after regeneration:</u>	Spirit alive to God.	Sinful nature gone.	Sin tempting from the outside now.	Law internal now in the form of a new nature. God's nature.	Doesn't want to sin. Sin is foreign.	Wants to and can bear fruit unto God.	Is credited with fully keeping God's law.	Object of God's love.

Let's look at some scriptures to back this up.

Ephesians 2:1-6

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of the sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who

is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus... for we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Characteristics of an unregenerate person in this scripture:

- 1) Spiritually dead to God and living in transgressions and sins.**
- 2) Following the ways of this world.**
- 3) Disobedient and under the influence of Satan.**
- 4) Following the desires and thoughts of the sinful nature and gratifying its cravings.**
- 5) Objects of God's wrath.**

Characteristics of a regenerate person in this scripture:

- 1) Made alive with Christ Jesus.**
- 2) Seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.**
- 3) God's workmanship.**
- 4) Recreated in Christ and empowered by Christ for good works, destined by God for us to do.**

Romans 7:4-6

“So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”

Characteristics of an unregenerate person in these scriptures:

- 1) Controlled and bound by the sinful nature.**
- 2) Under the law.**
- 3) Sinful passions at work in the body aroused by the law, because of the sinful nature.**
- 4) Bore fruit for death.**

Characteristics of a regenerate person in these scriptures:

- 1) Died and released from the sinful nature.**
- 2) Released from the law and all service to God according to the law (Old way).**
- 3) Spirit empowered to serve God through grace (New way).**

Basically our spirits are completely different now that we are saved. The old has gone and the new has come. We are new creations, and God says it is good!

Before you were saved your spirit inside you was alive, but it was dead to God. Then, inside your spirit, attached to it, was a sinful nature. The sinful nature was a parasite that had moved in and had taken control of you and induced its nature onto yours. So the sinful nature became your nature. Or you could say that your fallen nature was a sinful nature. I would describe that as an internal sin problem! It's been the problem of mankind since Adam and Eve. It's the cause of all the trouble in this world. People blame God but actually it's them. They have an internal problem called the sinful nature. They can try to disguise it by doing a lot of good things in this world but no matter how much good they do or try to do, they still have this internal problem of the sinful

nature that ultimately causes their hearts to be rebellious towards God. That will continually keep manifesting in one way or another throughout their lives and all those manifestations are called sin! However, it isn't the sin that makes them sinners. They sin because internally they are sinners, because internally they have a sinful nature that was passed on to them by Adam. There is no way that God just turns a blind eye to the masses of humanity with this internal sin problem and says: "That's fine, just let that sin nature dominate you. Live how you want and then welcome to heaven." Firstly, God's justice demands penalty for sin and perfect holiness for entrance into eternal perfection. And also in his compassion he doesn't want to leave people in a state where they are dominated by that evil nature of Satan. So he did something about it. What did he do? Well it would seem obvious to most Christians that he dealt with it by the cross and the gift of righteousness that comes through Jesus. However, many Christians get a bit confused here and somehow think that the law also plays a part. Either they think that the law came to give us a righteous standard to live up to, and by doing so we earn salvation, or they think that although the law was

not given to get you saved, now that you are saved you need to prove that salvation by keeping the law or you are in danger of losing it. They think of the law as a guardian over you making sure you're good and correcting you if you're bad. Either way, they are completely wrong.

God never gave the law to try and control or fix the internal sin problem. He gave it to expose the internal sin problem. The law cannot fix the internal sin problem because the sinful nature actually thrives on the law! The law doesn't kill the sinful nature, it empowers it! As soon as law comes, the sinful nature says break it! And because it is in control, guess what your body does? It obeys the sinful nature! Saying that the law was given to control or fix the internal problem of the sinful nature is like saying to a man who looks at his face in a mirror to discover that it is dirty, that he must now take the mirror and clean his face with it. That is a ridiculous thing to say, let alone do! The mirror only exposes the problem. It can't fix it. You need soap and that soap is the blood of Jesus shed for us on the cross and the life transforming power that comes from that!

The law was only ever given to expose that man has an internal sin problem and just how powerless he is to fix it himself.

Romans 7:7

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’”

This scripture shows the sole purpose of the law: To reveal and expose sin! But what about a scripture that takes it even further and shows us that keeping the law cannot make us righteous before God at all?

Romans 3:20

“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

And again it shows the purpose of the law. To bring a consciousness in us of the state of our sin before a holy and just God, who condemns and judges sin.

Basically it's the law's job to strip us of all self righteousness, and reveal to us our desperate need

of salvation. Once it has done that and we come into Christ, the law becomes redundant.

Galatians 3:24-25

“The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.”

If the law is used to try and control sin then it ends up provoking sin. But, if it is used to expose sin, then it reveals sin in you and condemns you by stripping you of all self righteousness and leaves you helpless before God, who is the holy judge. Therefore people’s only hope is Jesus. Only He can ‘fix’ people.

The law cannot and does not fix the sin problem or bring righteousness. No, it exposes the sin problem by showing how unrighteous we are and how desperate our need for Gods righteousness is.

Sadly, many Christians are very confused about all this. Many think we still have a sinful nature and are still under the law! So they are trying to control something they don’t have, by using something they are no longer under. In other words they are trying to control (or die to) a sinful nature they don’t have, by

using God's law that they are no longer under! That's called sanctification by law and it's totally weak and useless!

Sanctification by grace says you don't have to die to the sinful nature because you have already died to it and have been given a new righteous nature. Therefore you no longer need external laws to expose or control an internal problem because you no longer have an internal problem! Instead you have a new nature that wants to live for God because it has the very desires and law of God written on it!

It's amazing that people think the law can somehow control or fix the sin problem! Preachers mix a bit of law in with grace to try and control sin in their congregations. They argue: "Well if we just preach grace then people will just feel free to go out and sin because they know that they will be forgiven, but if they believe that God will punish them and judge them for sin, then that will hinder them from sinning." To think that the law was meant to do that is just plain bad theology. It can't! The law was given to reveal sin by provoking sin.

Romans 7:8

“...but sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire.”

Basically the sinful nature inside of people (before salvation) is aroused by the law (commandment). So when they hear, ‘Do not covet’, well now all of a sudden that is exactly what they feel like doing. Before the law came, they didn’t really feel like coveting, but now that the law has come, they actually want to covet because the sinful nature has been provoked.

When you put law on a Christian, it doesn’t provoke the sinful nature, since they don’t have one. Instead, putting law on Christians drives them further away from God. I don’t believe that law necessarily stirs up sin in the born again believer. Instead, I believe that the law drives the believer further and further away from God, and the further you are away from God, the easier it is to give into sin. Putting the law back on Christians will result in them feeling far from God and seriously struggling with sin and struggling even harder to feel accepted and loved by God. It will also fill their mind with a sin consciousness that will keep them in condemnation. You cannot live in

condemnation and close to God at the same time, neither can you live in victory over sin if you're not living close to God. Grace empowers us to live close to God. So if preachers are using the law to try and control sin in their congregation, the end result will be that their congregation will increasingly live further away from God and sin more!

Every Christian sins to some degree, whether small or big. And of course we're all working through that because our desire is truly to not sin. The thing is that's not going to happen as long as we have a sin consciousness and are struggling under condemnation. Condemnation robs us of our confidence to come before God. It's only truly in and by His presence that you and I will be transformed more and more to be like Him in all of who we are. Grace, true grace, brings and keeps us in a consciousness of righteousness that empowers us with confidence to come into God's presence at any time to see Him face to face and be strengthened by Him to overcome. The more we live in and by grace, the closer we will live to God, and the closer we live to God, the less we will sin. The more people come under law, the further they will live from God, and

the further they live from God, the easier it is to just give into sin. That's why it is so unhelpful for Christians to put law on Christians. Justification happens by grace and so does sanctification. Neither can happen by the law!

Now, let's just go back to the state of your spirit before regeneration. Your spirit was dead to God but alive to sin because of the sinful nature living in it. Sin was on the inside controlling and driving you, and the law was on the outside barking commands at you, unable to control sin, but seeking to expose it. Sin on the inside of you would rise up to defy those commands and therefore would expose that internal problem, which the external law was powerless to fix.

And that's why regeneration is so wonderful! Because of it, all of that changed! At the point of faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit took our spirit and baptized it into Christ. At that point we were instantly united with Christ in his crucifixion (death), burial, resurrection and even his ascension!

Because we were united with Christ in his death, it means that our old self died. And then was buried with him (Romans 6).

That's more powerful than you realize! Your old self, which was dead to God but alive to sin, died and was buried! That means that your spirit and everything in it died and was buried including your sinful nature! Then God raised your spirit up together with Christ into a new life. That's when our spirits were made alive in Christ and we became new creations! That means a new nature! God didn't resurrect the sinful nature and put it back in you. That was the whole point of you being crucified with Christ, to get rid of that foul thing! To release you from the control of that nature, and to bring you under the influence of another nature, a new nature, God's nature. 2 Peter 1:4 says that we are partakers in the divine nature! That doesn't make us divine it just means that we have His divine nature infused in our spirit.

God's desires, God's will, God's passion, God's character, God's righteousness, God's justice etc. are now on the inside of your spirit! That's the new nature. Hebrews 8 and 10 talk about the new covenant that God will make with his people where

he will write His laws on their hearts and put them in their minds! That's talking about a new nature! It's not talking about a reminder to keep the law or else suffer punishment. It's talking about an empowering God-nature on the inside of people's spirits that doesn't need to be told to keep the law, but has a desire to live out perfect righteousness. God isn't trying to put restraint on us, He put restraint in us! Do you think anyone has to say to God that He shouldn't steal or lie or commit adultery? That's a ridiculous statement! No one needs to say those things to God because those things are so foreign to His nature. No one should have to say to a born again believer: "You shouldn't steal or lie or commit adultery." Why? Because their new nature doesn't want to do those things. It wants to live holy and righteous for God! The spirit of a Christian is not looking for a way to get away with sin. Sin is foreign to the new nature of a Christian!

That's why you can teach grace in its fullness and not have to mix it with external law. That's why you don't have to be scared that if you preach grace it may cause Christians to feel like they're allowed to just run out and sin.

Sanctification is not about trying to put restraint on Christians. The restraints being: “If you sin, God will punish you.” or “If you sin enough, you will lose your salvation.” or “If you go too far into sin, then you may end up choosing sin over God thereby rejecting your faith and losing your salvation.” That’s the option preachers take who haven’t seen their salvation properly. This type of teaching really has to stop because it’s not helping Christians. True sanctification is about helping people understand what has happened in their spirit at the point of salvation that changed their spirit to be like God, and then helping them to live by their new spirit, ruling over their mind and their body, with the help of the Holy Spirit in all three parts.

Born again Christians don’t really want to go out and just sin. They truly want to go out and live holy lives and reign over sin rather than sin reigning over them! Why? Because God has changed their nature. Let me ask you a question: If you could flick a switch that would completely stop every sin in your life, would you flick that switch? Someone not born again wouldn’t flick that switch because they are reserving places in their life for sin, because sin is still living in

them. Someone born again would have no hesitation flicking that switch (especially those who struggle the most with sin) because they've died to sin (Romans 6:1). In fact we would all love a switch like that and many are actually looking for one! But there is no switch like that because we live in a world of temptation and the only way to switch that off is to exit this world! Why would we flick that switch? Because the new nature inside of us doesn't want to sin! The old sinful nature did want to sin. But our new nature wants to live absolutely righteously for God. Now if a Christian could live completely by their spirit, and the new nature that is in their spirit, and not be influenced by the worldly parts of their mind that hasn't been renewed yet, or by their body that still and will always have appetites, then their spirit would lead them into absolute righteousness, holiness, obedience to God and total fruitfulness to Him 100% of the time! It would not lead them into sin because sin is not in their spirit!

Christians do still sin. Does that mean they still have a sinful nature? Unfortunately that's the deduction that people make that is confusing so many people! That if we sin, or still feel like sinning, then it must

mean that we still have a sinful nature inside of us driving us toward sin. That is such a flawed statement. It's in no way theological. It's a deduction made purely from experience and not based at all on the Bible. Just because we still might sin or feel like sinning doesn't mean that we still have a sinful nature. It simply means we still feel temptation and it appeals to us.

What does temptation appeal to? It appeals to the body and the mind. Not the spirit. Your spirit has been made perfect, in perfect righteousness, with a new nature that hates sin. However, our mind and our body are not yet made perfect and that means they're vulnerable to temptation. Our spirit is not vulnerable because it is hidden in Christ so the devil doesn't even try to attack us there. He goes for the mind and the body. Adam and Eve were created without a sinful nature, but with a God-nature within their spirits. However it was still possible for them to be tempted and feel temptation and even give in to temptation. So to say that by not having a sinful nature we wouldn't sin or feel temptation, is wrong. Jesus was born in the flesh, yet without a sinful nature, and the Bible says he was tempted in all

ways just like us. That means temptation appealed to his flesh and his mind but he didn't give in to it.

The major point I am making here is about the change that has taken place in our spirit. Before you were saved, sin was on the inside of you trying to get out, now that you are saved, sin is on the outside trying to get in. One is internal and driving. The other is external and drawing. The reason why Christians sin is not because they have a sinful nature on the inside of them driving them into sin, but because they give into temptation that is luring them from the outside appealing to their mind and body to sin.

Let's take another look at my comparison table of the spirit before regeneration and after regeneration. Before we are born again our spirit is dead to God but alive to sin. It's the internal sin problem. Law comes on the outside and is powerless to produce righteousness in us because the sinful nature is controlling us and keeping us from obeying the law. Therefore the law stirs up sin in us and reveals a serious problem inside of us.

Then we get born again. So what happens is that our old self dies, therefore also killing the sinful nature

(Romans 6:6, Colossians 2:11-14), and God then brings us back to life as a new creation and gives us a new nature that is His nature with His laws written on that nature (Hebrews 8 and 10).

He deals with the internal sin problem by crucifying our spirit with Christ and removing the sinful nature, and then by resurrecting our spirit in Christ giving us a new nature in our reborn spirit. Oh that is AWESOME!

Now have a look at this: before we were born again, sin was internal and law was external. After being born again sin is external and law is internal. Before Christ, the sinful nature in us wanted to express itself through us as sin, and law was external and powerless to control it. Now, in Christ, the new nature in us wants to express itself through us as righteousness. God's perfect law is a part of that nature, not holding us to account or supervising us but empowering us with God's desires and nature. No longer do we need external law telling us what to do. Now we have a new internal drive that wants to lead us into absolute righteousness.

Now just because this has all happened in our spirit at the point of salvation it doesn't mean that it will automatically control our lives. Something powerful has happened on the inside of us but now it's up to us how we take advantage of that. Basically God has destroyed the life force of sin in our lives. He's also given control back to us by putting some powerful stuff in us, that if we lived totally by, would manifest in absolute righteousness, obedience and fruitfulness to God. BUT he doesn't live our life for us! We are in this world, but not of this world, nevertheless we are still in this world! Even though we are citizens of heaven and our spirit is seated in heavenly places and hidden in Christ and perfect in Christ, our spirit still lives in our body that has appetites which can get out of control. It also has a mind that didn't change at salvation which needs to be renewed by you subjecting it to the truth of the word of God. Therefore the process of sanctification is all about tapping into what has happened in our spirit and making it manifest through our body and mind! And the more you see your salvation the easier that will be.

Before I talk about the process of sanctification I want to spend a whole chapter talking about the starting point of sanctification. We've already covered a lot of it, but there is no way I'm going to go on and talk about the process of sanctification if we are not absolutely secure in the event of sanctification first! There is a starting place for sanctification that so many people miss and because of that Christians get butchered! I'm tired of Christians getting kicked around and whipped by ill informed teachers of the Word that don't understand regeneration and the event of sanctification. So let's talk about the event of sanctification.

Chapter 3: The starting point of Sanctification.

The event that changed our eternal position

Sanctification is two things: It's an event and it's a process. It starts with an event and then continues in a process. The process can only happen after the event and proceeds out of it. The process doesn't make the event possible. It's an event first, and that makes the process possible! Any sanctification teaching that does not originate from this understanding will inevitably start off in the wrong place and will devastate Christians by bringing them back under law (no matter how subtle), and placing on them a cloak of death. Any sanctification teaching that says you need to live a certain way otherwise you are in danger of losing your salvation is law. It's a gospel that says: "The Gospel is good news as long as you keep your end of the deal. If you don't, you fail to keep your salvation and go to hell." In other words salvation comes by grace but is kept through performance or works. That's law. That's old covenant, not new covenant. That produces

miserable and defeated Christians and puts them under a ministry of death which robs them of true encounters with the God of glory. His presence alone empowers the process of true sanctification in their lives. “Well then how do I stop Christians from sinning?” That’s not your job! Our job is not to try and put restraint on Christians, but to help Christians to live by their reborn spirit. If you try to put Christians under restraint through fear tactics and conditional Christianity that is based on performance, (which really is law) you’ll put a cloak of death on them and destroy any chance they have of living a supernatural Christian life that flows from deep intimacy with God.

The old covenant is all about our performance and how it is directly linked to whether God blesses us or curses us! Therefore it’s a covenant of death because it’s impossible for anyone to keep it perfectly! Galatians 3 says that all those who rely on keeping the law are under a curse because cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the law.

The new covenant is all about how God saves us based purely on Christ’s performance for us and not

one bit based on our performance. If that covenant went on to say that now that you are saved, you need to perform in order to keep your salvation, then it would cease to be New Covenant and would have reverted back to Old Covenant. A covenant based on works and not faith! No, the New Covenant is based solely on Christ's performance on our behalf. It starts that way and finishes that way. The Bible says it's a righteousness that is based on faith from first to last (Romans 1:17). It is not a righteousness that is first based on faith and then based on works.

Much sanctification teaching subtly puts this requirement of works on people. The danger is not in the explicit obvious legalism but in the implied requirement for works. Many Christians wouldn't fall for a lie that says, "Now that you're saved you need to perform in order to keep your salvation." They would recognize that as legalism straight away. Unfortunately many Christians do fall for the lie that says you need to perform and be holy in order for God to bless you, to please God and to avoid God's judgments and punishments. Their effort to be sanctified becomes all about trying to please God, keep him happy, stay in the blessing and avoid being

cursed! “The less I sin the more God will be happy with me and treat me like his child and let me into his blessings.” This is the the way many Christians think and it’s HORRIFYING!

There is an epidemic in the body of Christ throughout the world and it’s called legalism. It has kept the church from truly encountering God’s presence and has put it on a performance based treadmill of trying to earn God’s blessings and avoid His curses. It has changed the way we see God and how we approach God. It perverts the way we see ourselves in God’s eyes. It’s a gospel full of thorns and nasty surprises. Many preach either explicitly or implicitly, that now that you’re saved, to keep God happy and enable God to bless you, you must go to church every Sunday, go to prayer meetings, read your Bible and pray every day, witness, Bible tithe, give offerings, care for people etc. If you don’t do these things well, then you tie God’s hands and He can’t bless you and in fact you will basically be a disappointment to God. He will tolerate you but he will not be happy with you. It’s sickening. The fact is that as a believer I want to do all those things. It’s in my heart to do them. I see the value in doing them. But never ever

do I do them to earn God's blessings and approval. I already have His blessing and approval. I do these things from a place of God's blessings and approval! God has already blessed me in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus with every blessing. Now I'm going around manifesting that blessing in the earthly realm as I simply believe it. God is 100% happy with me, accepts me and approves of me. I don't have to (can't) earn his acceptance. I have already received it. I don't have to (can't) earn his blessings. I already have them! I'm living from a place of blessing and approval. Before Jesus did a single thing for the Father, God ripped open the heavens and boomed down in a mighty voice saying, "This is my son, whom I love. With him I am well pleased." Before you do a single thing for God he booms down with the same voice saying, "You are my child, whom I love. With you I am well pleased." Why? Because we are in Christ! Christians have got to realize that even if they never did another thing for God for the rest of their entire life, God would still say over them, "You are my child, whom I love, and with you I am well pleased." Our minds get so corrupted with legalistic teaching that we find it hard to believe. But it's true! That needs to be your starting place before you try

and do anything for God. God never drives or forces us. He empowers and draws us. True sanctification never drives people. It empowers people. Now sometimes a true prophet might have to stand up with the fire of God in his mouth and challenge Christians. That's not driving, that's blasting off all the distracting stuff which has built up in people's minds and is suffocating and restricting the true passions and desires that are in their spirit from coming out. It helps to shake Christians out of a place where they have allowed themselves to sink under all the distractions of life. I've experienced that many times and I've been so grateful for the boldness of the prophet because my spirit unquestionably wants to live passionately for God all the time! A prophet absolutely must be grounded in grace or they will abuse God's people. In fact we all need to be thoroughly washed by grace and an understanding of the new covenant that is based on better promises!

Thank God there is a grace revolution that is truly sweeping through the earth. Many are hearing the sound and coming right out of old covenant death and fading glory and coming completely into new

covenant life and ever increasing glory! Along with that is coming a simple but powerful revelation of true regeneration and true sanctification. Sanctification that starts in the right place!

It is essential to thoroughly understand the *event* of sanctification, before you go on to look at the *process*.

Hebrews 10:14 says that; “by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever all those who are being made holy (sanctified).”

“Has made perfect” is the event of sanctification that happened to your spirit, bringing it into absolute perfect standing before God eternally. That’s our eternal position in Christ.

“Being made holy” is the process of sanctification that happens in your body and mind, where we live out the holiness that we’ve been brought into in our spirit. That’s our current condition on this earth.

The event of sanctification separated our spirit unto God and the process of sanctification is where our spirit lives out that life through our body and mind, causing our condition to look more and more like our position. Sanctification is actually a lifestyle. It’s a

life lived separated unto God, because it is separated unto God.

Just before we go on to the next chapter, I want to look quickly at some of the ‘-tions’ of our salvation. This will help us see exactly what happened at the event of sanctification and what takes place in the process of sanctification.

What are they? These are all things that happened to us in our spirit at the point of salvation. There are arguments about exactly how many there are, however there are 5 that I want to talk about.

- **Justification**
- **Adoption**
- **Redemption**
- **Regeneration**
- **Sanctification**

All of these help us to understand the point at which we start the process of sanctification because they tell us what happened in us at the event of sanctification. I’ve drawn up a graph that helps you to see the effect that each one has already had on your spirit, is having on your mind and body, and will finally have on your mind and body when you are

brought into completion upon glorification (1 Corinthians 15).

The ‘-tions’ of our salvation:

What ‘tion’?	Did it happen in our spirit?	Is it happening in our body and mind?	Is it completed in our body and mind at glorification?	Explanation.
Justification	Yes	No	No	We were eternally justified from the point of faith in Christ.
Adoption	Yes	No	Yes	The final installment of adoption is the redemption of our bodies.
Redemption	Yes	Yes	Yes	Manifesting in our body and mind what has been given to our spirit. Made perfect in body and mind at glorification.
Regeneration	Yes	No	Yes	Body and mind finally made perfect at glorification.
Sanctification event.	Yes	No	No	Spirit eternally set apart from point of faith in Christ. Can’t be any more set apart.
Sanctification process.	No	Yes	Yes	Process of our mind and body finally completed and ultimately all of who we are will be set apart for God at glorification.

Being separated unto God means that we were taken out of Godless things and brought into Godly things.

Each ‘-tion’ affected us in different ways with regards to what they brought us out of and what they brought us into.

<u>'-tion':</u>	<u>Out of:</u>	<u>Into:</u>
<u>Justification</u>	Condemned for sins Unrighteousness Pending eternal wrath (death)	Justified of sins Righteousness Total forgiveness and eternal life
<u>Adoption</u>	Orphans Beggars No inheritance Wrath of God	Sons King's kids Heirs of God The love of the Father
<u>Redemption</u>	Law Curse Darkness Slavery Sickness Defeated by our enemies Poverty	Grace Blessing Light Freedom Divine health Victory over enemies Unlimited resources of heaven
<u>Regeneration</u>	Dead to God Under the control of sinful nature	Alive to God New nature, circumcised of the sinful nature
<u>Sanctification event</u>	Citizens of the kingdom of darkness Separation from God Satan's control The world	Citizens of heaven Separated unto God. Seated with Christ. Hidden in Christ The Lordship of the King of kings Co-heir with Christ In this world but not of this world

	Sin's penalty, presence and power	Forgiven, sin removed, circumcised,
	Corruption	Made perfect

Chapter 4: Being Sanctified.

The process that changes our current condition.

There is so much that could be said in this chapter about the process of sanctification. There are so many different interpretations of scripture when it comes to it, yet I really don't want to make it a complicated thing. I'm so aware of all the things I could say, but I only want to say the things that God has put on my heart, for now, about this subject and hopefully in a way that's simple, clear and empowering.

I want to make it clear that neither I, nor this book, will sanctify you! So I'm not writing this chapter thinking that by the end of it you'll be sanctified! Sanctification is a journey with God and you just can't fit that into a chapter. Sanctification isn't a chapter in your life, it *is* your life! And it's a very exciting journey in which you get to discover the greatness that God has put inside of you and how He wants to draw it out of you.

This isn't the final say on sanctification and certainly won't cover every aspect of it. There are aspects like; the role others play in your sanctification, how suffering, hardships and trials can help, the role of washing your mind by the word of God, the breaking of mental strongholds through the anointed word, how daily interaction with the Holy Spirit and His anointing helps in the process of sanctification. I will touch on some of these topics but I want to focus on what I believe is the most important thing when it comes to sanctification.

We need to be so careful when we come to the topic of sanctification that we don't start thinking works all of a sudden. It's not about self effort and discipline. The way we start thinking works is by falsely making the deduction that if the *event* of sanctification has to do with your *spirit*, and if the *process* of sanctification has to do with your *body and mind*, then surely, for the process, we must focus on our body and mind and trying to change them? Actually the process of sanctification keeps its focus on our spirit. Sanctification is about what flows out of our spirit, not about the disciplines we apply to our mind and body in an attempt to change

them. “But isn’t the process about us focusing on offering our body and renewing our mind?” Actually it’s about focusing on how to empower your spirit to rule through your body and mind. Keep the focus on your spirit. It’s your spirit that offers your body and subjects your mind to renewing, forcing them to increasingly synchronize to your spirit. A renewed mind and a conquered body will not fight your spirit but will flow with and serve your spirit and will be a delight to you!

Religion will have you focus on the external. Grace is all about the internal. Religion applies controls to the external to try and force change to the internal. Sanctification is about discovering the internal spiritual transformation and helping that to flow out to the externals. There are things you can do with your mind and body (externals) to help the flow, but if you make the focus your mind and body you will reverse the flow because it simply doesn’t work that way!

Sanctification is about your spirit rising in dominion and reigning and expressing itself through your mind and body. It’s not about applying discipline and rules to your mind and body in the hope that it will

produce holiness and spirituality in your spirit. That's why, in this chapter, I am not going to give you a whole list of things to do with your mind and body so that if you can tick them all off then you are sanctified! That would be misleading and disempowering to you. I want to help you to get empowered, so I'm going to keep the focus on your spirit. If I can help in that area of your life, I know that it will automatically flow over into your mind and body.

Some people make the deduction that acceptance grace is for your spirit, making it righteous, while empowering grace is for your mind and your body enabling you to walk in that righteousness.

That's what many would believe and it's almost correct. But it's still getting the focus on the external rather than the internal. And so there's this big emphasis on your body and mind to live righteous, reasoning that if you were in true grace, you would see it in your body and mind. There is an element of truth in this because I believe the empowering grace of God does flow to our mind and body, but it doesn't start there. It starts in our spirit.

You receive it in your spirit and then it flows to your body and mind.

There seems to be too much of a distinction made between the acceptance grace and the empowering grace of God. People have dissected grace. Some say acceptance grace is for justification while empowering grace is for sanctification. They also say acceptance grace is what we received when we first get saved, but now we need to live in empowering grace. You'll hear some preachers say, "We know about the acceptance grace of God and that we're forgiven and that God will never hold our sins against us, *but Christians still need to...*" You know as soon as you hear that "but you still need to..." you're about to hear a whole bunch of things you need to do because "the acceptance grace of God is not enough to live by, you also need the empowering grace of God." As soon as I hear the "but we still need to...", I immediately, without even having to think about it, shut down to whatever they're going to say next, because I know it's going to be law dressed up as grace.

If a Christian thinks that acceptance grace is not enough, then, unfortunately they do not know what true acceptance grace is.

Acceptance grace is enough because within it is empowering grace! Empowering grace is not separate from acceptance grace, it comes out of acceptance grace.

Titus 2:11 says, “For the grace of God that brings salvation, has appeared to all man, it teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live godly lives...”

The Bible says there that it's the grace of God that teaches us to say no to sin! And that the grace that teaches us to say no is the exact same grace that brings salvation!

Now some preach empowering grace as *things we have to do*. It's to try and move Christians to action. People who haven't seen their salvation (internal transformation) are continually looking for ways to apply external pressure to move Christians to action. They can call it empowering grace all they want, but it is law dressed up as grace!

If they could just see how acceptance grace and empowering grace flow from the same source and to the same destination, their message would change and they would truly help people. Let me explain:

Acceptance grace is not only for justification, it's also for sanctification. Because of it, through it, and out of it will come empowering grace! Something that every believer needs to realize is that empowering grace is not a concept. Empowering grace is a person: God! Acceptance grace is what brings us to Him and continually empowers us to live close to Him no matter what. As your understanding of acceptance grace increases, you are empowered to come to God more and the more you encounter God the more you are filled with power. People who encounter God encounter the very person who is empowering grace. He empowers us to overcome sin, and He empowers us to love and to do the works of Jesus and even greater works.

Acceptance grace is what clears the way for you to come to God and encounter Him. Not encountering the concept of God, but actually really encountering God the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit in

their tangible presence. And as we encounter God, we are empowered and transformed by Him.

Isaiah 40:31 says that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. That's empowerment from just being in His presence!

2 Corinthians 3:18 says that as we with unveiled faces reflect His glory we are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory that comes from the Lord. Encounters with Him transform us into His likeness.

What is that transforming power? His glory. Where does it come from? Him. Is His glory something that is separate from Him? No. It is who He is. Empowerment is His glory. His glory is who He is. When you encounter Him, you encounter transforming glory, you encounter empowering grace! As He encounters your spirit, it will always overflow to, and have an effect on, your body and your mind in bringing them closer to Christ likeness. If you don't encounter Him, you don't encounter empowering grace and your body and mind stay the same. You can try as much as you want in your own strength but you cannot be transformed into His

likeness without encountering Him in, and through, His glory. If sanctification teaching is not leading people to an encounter with God, then it is not empowering teaching. It's external restraint teaching, and that is religious!

So empowering grace is a person, and acceptance grace is from that person and is what brings us to that person. In essence, empowering grace is the reason for acceptance grace and acceptance grace is the reason for empowering grace.

Deception creeps in when acceptance grace and empowering grace get separated, because there will come a point when it will feel like you have to move on from one to the other. Some will have you believe that it should happen like this and that you are moving on to maturity. That is a big deception facing believers. Let me tell you, if you just stayed on acceptance grace for the rest of your life, you'd be doing a good thing! The more you teach acceptance grace, the more you are empowering Christians to encounter God and live close to Him, and the closer Christians live to God the more they are empowered by God! When you preach acceptance grace you are

preaching empowering grace without even realizing it!

Now let me just say at this point that I'm not saying that external disciplines are wrong. Not at all. As long as you have the right focus, and you don't distort grace, external disciplines can be very helpful. Your body and mind are your servants, not your masters. The victory is won in your spirit, but there are some things in the natural that you can do that are just wise and helpful. Sometimes your spirit is so choked up and can't move because it's being dominated by the natural appetites of your body and the carnal/worldly thoughts of your mind. We must realize the enemy doesn't attack our spirit directly, because he can't get to it. He attacks our body and mind in order to subdue and choke up our spirit so that we can't live by it. He'll try and arrange temptations to your body and mind that are temporary distractions, but he's happier if he can establish temptations that are permanently around your life to continually bombard you with temptation in an effort to bring you into bondage. He'll also try and fill your mind with lies about grace and the finished work of the cross in order to rob you of

confidence to go to God. Everything he does is about keeping you out of fellowship with God! He knows that when you walk in fellowship with God you'll find empowering grace to live a supernatural life. And he knows what sort of damage that will cause to his purposes.

So I'm not against doing external things to help you grow in God. It's OK to mention externals and talk about disciplines that are helpful. I'm just saying that our focus and our hope are not to be in those things. A greater revelation of grace and encounters with God will lead you to sort out many of the externals in your life anyway. God will give you wisdom regarding what disciplines to practice. God may tell you to do certain things that are specific for you, that He wants you to do. For example, He may ask you to spend an hour with Him every morning. You can't put that on other people and say everyone needs to spend an hour with God every morning. You can offer it as advice but to put it on people would be bondage. God might say to you that He doesn't want you to drink alcohol. You cannot put that on other people as though that's the will of God for everyone, especially if it was just for you. If you put those

things on others, it just becomes external manipulation and religion, even if you have their best interests at heart. It may be good advice that can help people, but ultimately we want people to hear from God first. I believe, as best as you can, to try and make your environment as helpful as possible and not an obstacle to your relationship with God. If you struggle with alcohol it would be wise not to put yourself in those situations where it's easy to give in. If you struggle with credit card debt, perhaps it's time to cut up the credit cards, pay them off as best as you can and cancel them! If you struggle with pornography on the internet then it would be wise to do something about your computer situation. If you just have open access to internet at home then your home becomes a battle zone every time you're at home alone! Why would you want to do that to yourself? It doesn't matter how strong you are as a Christian you're going to have a struggle on your hands. If you don't have the access you can't be tempted with it! You could get a spouse or friend to put codes on the internet that only allow for certain sites to be accessed.

These are some examples of actions and disciplines that you can take but heaven forbid that our Christianity is characterized by our good discipline! Bill Johnson says, “Our Christianity should not be characterized by discipline but by passion. I want to live from passion not discipline.”

That confirms what I’ve been saying: Discipline is something we apply externally. Passion is what emanates from within. Discipline is like a safety net. When we don’t feel passionate about doing something, like praying, we do it by discipline because we know it’s important for us and others that we do pray. But I would rather live from passion than from discipline. And I’d rather be known for my passion than my discipline.

Now a lot of Christian ‘bad behavior’ is not due to a lack of discipline, but a lack of encounter. To correct the bad behavior many want to give a list of things Christians need to change, start doing or become. Too often, they motivate with fear by saying, “If you don’t change then God will do this or that to you” or “If you keep sinning God will punish you” or, “You’ll lose your salvation” or, “You’ll come under curse” or,

“God can’t bless you’ etc. That’s just manipulation and behavior modification pressure.

The problem isn’t the bad behavior, it’s their relationship with God: It’s not in a good place. Most likely because they’re under law and feel far from God, guilty and condemned. The further away from God the easier it is to just give in to sin. The closer you are to God the harder it is to give in to sin. When you live close to God, he sorts out your bad attitudes, anger, pride, lust, doubt, selfishness etc! It’s hard to live in his presence and hold onto sin. The only way you can hold on to sin is to stay out of his presence. You’re wasting your time to try and change people’s behavior through imposing external restraints. Rather help them get into the presence of God. The only way you can do that is by teaching them grace! Grace ignites the passion in the spirit of a born again believer to encounter God more. That passion was put in us the moment we got saved. It just gets choked by worldly distractions, legalism and condemnation. When you identify with that God given desire in a Christian to encounter God and just teach them acceptance grace, you’ll see how they come alive! Watch how God begins to change them.

Here's the process:

The more we hear about grace, the more we realize there are no obstacles in the way for us to encounter God. The more we encounter God the more we are transformed into his likeness. That's the basic principle behind this whole book!

Therefore sanctification is basically all about getting established in grace! To become established in grace, you need to be in a grace environment. A legalistic environment does not help! You need to be listening to grace teaching and be surrounded by grace-filled people who don't speak with judgment, but rather with grace-filled words. Saturate yourself with grace, start teaching it to others. You'll find that's when it really starts to stick. As you read the Bible, start seeing it through grace lenses. Listen to grace preachers who don't just have a grace series but who actually preach from a platform of grace, where everything they say comes from a foundation of grace.

We at City Church International, our church in Hong Kong, have been accused of preaching an unbalanced message, always teaching about the

new covenant! What else is there to teach? What are you teaching if you're not teaching the new covenant? Even when you teach from the old covenant, you need to make sure it's new covenant teaching! You have to ensure that you are revealing the shadows and types of the old covenant and how they have their fulfillment in Christ and in the new covenant! Don't leave the new covenant to tell Christians all about the things they are supposed to be doing! If you have to tell Christians about things they should be doing, make sure it is thoroughly grounded in new covenant grace theology.

A grace environment is so absolutely vital for sanctification. The old covenant brings death and darkness, but the new covenant brings life and light (2 Corinthians 3). A plant can't grow in a dark cupboard with no light or nutrients, put it in the light, feed it, and it will flourish.

Since the process of sanctification is really all about being established in grace and living in grace, we could just drop the whole idea of sanctification or even ignore it altogether and just preach true grace and you'd find sanctification happening in the lives of Christians automatically! If more preachers could

stop focusing on holiness and service and obedience to God and simply preach pure grace they would see the results are holiness and service and obedience to God in people's lives!

You don't have to pull on the branches of a plant to help it grow! Just give it light, feed the roots, and it will grow.

Chapter 5: The full extent of sanctification.

It's so much more than just not sinning!

Living a holy life should not be defined as living without sin. That's what the religious world has made it because it still thinks we're under the old covenant and tries to get us to live under that covenant. *Holiness is not about living without sin.* God was holy before sin ever existed. God's holiness could not be referenced to sin because there was no sin to begin with. What is holiness then? Holiness is who God is. God is holy, and when we are separated unto God and come into him, we become holy. *Living in God is holy living.* Holiness isn't about living without sin, it's about living in God! It's about living from our position in Christ. *Positionally* we are completely holy because we are in Christ. *Conditionally* we are living out our position in Christ. The more we live from our eternal position in Christ, the more we are living holy in our earthly condition. The less we live from our position in Christ, the less holy we are living in our condition here on earth.

Living unholy is to live out our condition from our condition. Living holy is to live out our condition from our position.

Sin is not unholiness, it's the byproduct of unholiness! Sin is the byproduct of not living from your position in Christ. If we lived perfectly from our position in Christ we would never sin while we are here on earth!

The religious world has made 'not sinning' equal 'holiness' and they have made that the most important issue for the church. The religious spirit across the world is trying to put pressure on leaders to preach more about holiness and getting rid of sin. It seems so virtuous, yet it is so deceptive! Many are blindly falling prey to the religious spirit. The religious spirit does this because it wants to get your focus on sin and on your efforts on getting rid of sin. As long as your focus is on that, it's not where it should be, on Christ and your position in him. The chief goal of the religious spirit is to get you out of grace and back under law. Because under law you strive in the flesh, your faith is in yourself and your righteousness, and you live unaware of your heavenly position. That's exactly where the devil

wants you! What's a great strategy to get Christians off track and pursuing something that is a deceptive diversion to their calling? Take something they're meant to be pursuing and pervert it so that it looks like they are pursuing the right thing when in fact they have been fooled down some dead end road.

Now I do believe living holy is the issue, but not the way it has commonly been defined as living without sin. When you define holiness as living without sin then people automatically think that if they stop sinning then they are holy. But living without sin is not the means to holiness, it's the fruit of holiness! Holiness is simply living from your position in Christ. That's it! The byproduct of that kind of living is that you will automatically sin less. The church needs to understand this and read the Bible through these lenses. Otherwise when we read about being holy in the Scriptures, all we will see is that holiness adds up to sinning or not sinning.

Almost every time they talk about sinning less, it comes in a context of understanding of the heavenly position we were brought into through the grace of God (eg 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:21,22; 1 Peter).

What these scriptures are actually trying to say is that if we live from our position in Christ we will not only overcome sin, but we will see heaven coming to earth through our lives! God didn't leave us on earth to see how much sin we could overcome! He left us on earth so that he could bring heaven to earth through our lives and see his kingdom break in with supernatural power to bring all things under the headship of Christ!

I believe that God wants to shift our thinking back to what true holiness is, and not the distorted idea of holiness: Not living without sin, but living from our position in Christ, and that the byproducts of that will be overcoming sin and walking in the works Jesus did and greater. These byproducts aren't actual holiness. They are the result of holiness, and not the cause, as the religious mindset goes, but the natural consequence of living from our position in Christ.

Can you see how the word holiness has been perverted in our thinking? As soon as we hear the word holiness, we think sin. We think what we have to do. We think about ourselves; what we must do. But the word holiness should cause us to

immediately focus on him. That he is holy and we're in him, therefore everything, and I mean everything that flows from a place in him is holy. That's what being rooted in Christ is. Positionally we are in Christ, but the more we become aware of that position, the more our condition becomes rooted in Christ, and the natural consequence will be that the fruit of being rooted in him will show up in our lives! Religion will have you focus on the fruit and trying to produce it. Forget trying to produce fruit. Just get rooted in Christ and it will be impossible to not have fruit!

Bill Johnson says, "Our destiny is to go to heaven, but our assignment is to bring heaven to earth."

I wish I had said that! That's not just a nice notion, it's an absolute reality that God wants to bring us into.

We could say it like this, "We've already achieved our destiny because we are already seated in heavenly places in Christ. The life we live from now on we live from the heavens back to earth bringing heaven with us."

You could say, “The more we live from the heavens, the more the heavens will show up in our lives.”

So the process of sanctification, then, is not about learning how to sin less and less, it’s about learning how to live from our heavenly position more and more!!!

That is a process of progressive revelation. As revelation comes we awaken to the light. We become aware of what is ours in Christ. Faith erupts in our hearts and moves us into more of what is ours positionally. This faith also causes us to aggressively lay a hold of the things that are ours!

Sanctification, then, happens both passively as well as actively. On the one hand the more we get revelation about the heavenly realm where we are seated, the more that reality flows into our lives automatically. Whereas on the other hand the more we become aware of what is ours in Christ the more we can take a hold of it and enforce it into our current condition on this earth.

True sanctification doesn’t tell you what you have to do, it reveals to you what is now possible and what

has been made available to you because of your position in Christ!

There is a profound scripture in Colossians 2:9-10 that the natural mind cannot comprehend. We need power from on high in our spirit to give us revelation so we can comprehend it. It says, “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

“...and you have been given fullness in Christ...”

Can you comprehend that? Right now, *positionally* in Christ, you have been given all the fullness of God! Other translations say we have been made complete in Christ. What does that mean? You need God to open your heart wide and show you what that means. I believe it means “not lacking anything”. All of the spiritual riches of God are yours. You don’t have to achieve anything else positionally. You have the maximum of all that God is and can give you! It’s already yours: 100% righteousness, 100% perfection, 100% obedience, 100% love, 100% faith, 100% authority, 100% health, 100% riches, 100% victory over your enemies, 100% victory over sin, 100% passion for God, 100% access to God all the time! There’s no more to have or get. You are not

incomplete. You already have everything in Christ. You are complete in Christ. Wow!

Ephesians 1:3 “...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

Ephesians 2:6 “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”

Colossians 3:1-3 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

So we know now that positionally we already have fullness in Christ. But look at the following scripture:

Ephesians 3:16-19 “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- *that you*

may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Colossians says that we “have been given fullness in Christ.” But here it’s saying “so that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

In one case we have it. In the other case we don’t have it yet but we can have it. I think it’s simple: *Positionally* we have been given absolute fullness in Christ but *conditionally* we’re not living in the fullness of all of that yet. But the fact is we can. It’s available. We just need to know how to access it and walk in it. As we do, all the fullness of who God is and what His kingdom is begins to flow through our lives into this earth! Wow! Talk about the secret key to great power, victory, health, wealth and world transformation!

See the more you find out about your *position*, the more you find out about your *potential*. Do you know that you have the potential to live in 100% victory over sin? You have the potential to walk in divine health! You have the potential to receive great wealth! You have the potential to finance nations! You have the potential to walk in the glory realm 24

hours a day! You have the potential to continually hear the voice of God! You have the potential to raise the dead! You have the potential to do greater works than what Jesus did! Do you know that you have the potential to do all that God has planned and purposed for your life? It's true!

So how do we live from our heavenly position out through our earthly condition?

1) Be born again. It can only start from there. Romans 8:9 says that when we get born again, we move from being in the flesh to being in the spirit. That means we've moved from living from our flesh to living from our spirit positionally. That is what makes it possible to live from your heavenly position out through your earthly condition.

2) Pray in tongues. This is greatly underrated in the body of Christ but is such a powerful thing to do. 1 Corinthians 14 is a good chapter on the power of praying in tongues. Basically praying in the spirit (tongues) edifies you. Meaning it builds you up spiritually. Praying in tongues doesn't make your spirit stronger, it makes it stronger in its influence over your mind and your body. It brings your spirit

into ascendancy over your mind and body. That it dominates you and has more influence over you and what you think and do. Praying in the spirit edifies you not in the way that it changes your mind or body but that it causes your spirit to rise up in greater influence over your mind and body. It moves you from the natural realm into the spirit realm and makes you more aware of your spirit and the Holy Spirit.

Once you start praying in tongues on an occasion, keep going until you get breakthroughs in your spirit. You'll feel the surge. Sometimes you'll even feel the atmosphere change. Just keep going. It only gets better. Press through into deeper levels. As you do you so sensitize yourself to the Holy Spirit that it becomes very easy to hear the voice of God. If you want to become more aware of the spirit realm, pray in tongues. It can release a lot of the gifts of the Spirit to start operating through you. I often get downloads of revelation as I'm praying in tongues. It's amazing that you can be praying in tongues yet receiving at the same time. It's because the spirit realm is multi dimensional. I honestly don't know where I would be as a Christian without this

powerful gift operating in my life. I often pray in tongues while doing regular things. Driving, working, walking, in the shower, in my room alone, even at church! It's not a luxury or an optional extra as a Christian, it's an absolute necessity! If this gift isn't operating in your life, I urge you strongly, get it operating! Read books about it. Talk to your pastor or find out from mature Christians who know about it. It will have a profound effect in helping you live from your heavenly position.

3) Get grounded and established in grace. We need constant and deep revelation of our position in Christ. This really is all about becoming aware, by supernatural revelation, of who we are and where we are. Children of God, perfect in Christ and seated in heavenly places!

4) Fix your eyes, heart and mind on heavenly things.

That's active. That's pursuing it.

Colossians 3:1-3 "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

The more you focus on earthly things the more you live from the earthly realm. The more you focus on heavenly things, the more you live from heavenly realm.

5) Encounter him through worship and prayer.

Don't worship or pray to earn his presence, simply enter his presence in worship and prayer. I can instantly step into his presence anytime of the day because he's living in me and I'm so aware of him. But there are different intensities of his presence and to go deeper you need to press in and press through a bit. We should feel so at home in his presence. I feel naked without his presence. Now I know that he's in us and we just need to trust that even if we can or can't feel a thing, but I'm not satisfied with that. I must feel his tangible presence in my life. I want to feel it when I'm witnessing, when I'm worshiping, when I'm praying, when I'm counseling, and most certainly when I'm leading a Sunday meeting. His presence guides us, changes us, empowers us and distinguishes us. His presence is most precious. I'm not satisfied with low level presence as so many Christians are. I'm not satisfied with his omnipresence, I want his manifest

presence. Do you know the difference between them? When his manifest presence comes in the room even the unsaved feel it! Demons feel it! Don't buy into that low level presence of God stuff. Pursue his presence. Get into his presence. Soak in his presence, move in his presence. Live in his presence. Live from his presence.

6) Get to know the Holy Spirit really well. Walk with the Holy Spirit. He is your best friend. Talk to him. Discern his presence. Listen for his voice. He's The Spirit of Truth. He testifies to the Gospel. He strengthens your inner being with power to know and understand the finished work of Jesus and the love of God towards you to cause you to be filled with the measure of all the fullness of God. I live every day of my life aware of the Holy Spirit's presence. I talk to him every day and feel his guiding and leading. I feel his anointing. I know how to let it increase by simply opening myself to him and he comes. Every time I ask him to make something clear to me and I listen, he speaks and does just that. How many preachers, when they pray, ever reference the Holy Spirit? Yet he is the contact person of the trinity here on earth. Speak to Him. Get to know Him. He's awesome. He's

God the Holy Spirit living in you! And there is so much more I could say about the Holy Spirit but I think that's a whole other book!

7) Give what you have away.

Let the heavens flow. Step out with what you have. Exercise it! Take hold of it. Enforce. Command. Stand on. Make use of. Press into. Lay hold of. Release. Faith is the substance of things unseen. You can't see all that is yours in the heavens, but it is yours, so believe it and walk in it. You are righteous. You are healthy, wealthy, and victorious over your enemies, victorious over sin, full of His faith, full of His love, full of His power. It's all yours! Lay hold of what's yours! Get it flowing by confessing it and acting on it.

8) Contend to live from the heavens! Keep putting yourself in a place where you need heaven to come. Where you need the supernatural to break in. Your assignment is not found within comfort zones! Our assignment doesn't happen because we're sinless. It happens because we contend for it! And we're contending to manifest what is ours in heaven here on earth. We contend not by thinking we need to

attain it, but believing it's already ours. Grace tells us what's available to every Christian to be able to walk in now. Law puts it out of reach. Eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil cut Adam and Eve off from the tree of life. Grace restores us back to glory and to the tree of life so that we may bear fruit for God.

Now, it's wonderful that we're born again and guaranteed of going to heaven. But if our Christianity is limited to just that then somehow we've been tricked out of an incredible assignment that God has chosen us for! When I hear about good works that God has prepared for me I don't feel burdened, I feel excited! What a privilege that God has set me aside for great works and set aside great works for me! I know that it is God's will for heaven to invade earth now! And I know He wants to do it through His church, which includes me!

Heaven is the answer to all the questions the earth is asking. Why is there so much suffering? Because heaven has not come to those places yet! Why is there so much sickness? Because heaven has not

fully manifested in those bodies yet. Why is there so much rebellion and evil? Because heaven has not been revealed in those places yet! Why is there so much poverty? Because heaven has not been released in those places yet! Why are so many people bound up by the devil? Because heaven has not been brought to those people yet!

This world needs us, the church, to be a vessel and a portal where the invisible realm manifests into the visible realm. God's desire is that his will would be done on earth as it is in heaven through his church. The earth needs the realm of "as it is in heaven" to break in! That's the glory realm! It's the supernatural realm. Unless that realm breaks in, people are bound by the god of this world, the devil, in their minds and bodies and cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). God is manifesting all over the world in these times, His magnificent glory through His church out into the world. As a result a great harvest is beginning to come in and God is being revealed to the nations. Joshua Mills says that these are the times where "The cup of time and the cup of eternity are being tipped over and now time is running out and heaven is rushing in!"

Wow! There is an increase of the manifestations of the glorious supernatural realm of God in the earth today. Miracles, healings, deliverance and various signs and wonders are increasing around the world. Much of the church gets religious and weird about it yet it is all there in the Bible and we should be getting excited about it. God is revealing himself more and more to the nations and he's using us!

Now, if heaven is the absolute manifestation of God's undiluted glory, and if God wants His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, then why would it be strange that His supernatural glory realm should begin to manifest on earth? If heaven is the unseen realm and earth is the seen realm and heaven is breaking into the earth, don't you think we would start to see some heavenly things? Apart from incredible healings and miracles, we're also seeing an increase of supernatural signs and wonders like the manifestation of gold dust on people, heavenly oil being poured out, gem stones dropping out of the glory realm, angels feathers falling in meetings, beautiful fragrances, winds blowing, fire, rainbows and flashes of light manifesting, and so many other things. It would make sense because the Bible is full

of gold, angels, oils, precious stones, wind, fire, rainbows and heaven is full of those things too. So why would it be strange if God chose to manifest some of those things here on earth supernaturally to show his glory and his superiority over the natural order of things? His signs and his wonders point to a higher truth that he is manifesting heaven in the midst!

Some people have a problem with these things and criticize other Christians about them. But it's not right to criticize what you don't understand and besides that, how can you criticize it if it's God that's doing it?

If we want to see God manifesting heaven in all kinds of ways more and more then we must not be ashamed of what he chooses to do and what things he chooses to manifest. Don't come under pressure, either, that you need to always clarify, "Well we don't worship the signs, they just point to Jesus and we worship Him." I don't think I know one Christian who worships signs and wonders! I'm sure they're out there but all the Christians I know are amazed at the signs and are in awe of Jesus every time they show up! In Hebrew culture the bridegroom sends

precious gifts like gold and gems and oil and fragrances ahead of him to the bride before he comes. Jesus, our heavenly bridegroom, is adorning his bride with glory to display her to the nations of the world before He comes! We were created for glory, by his glory, and to bring glory to Him! His glory is a precious and powerful thing. When the nations see His glory, they will be moved!

Adam and Eve were created in the glory and for the glory. They were created as spiritual beings in the image of God, clothed in flesh. They were naked yet felt no shame because they were clothed in the glory of God. When they sinned, they fell short of the glory, realized they were naked, and hid from God. They realized something terrible had happened. Imagine that extreme, horrible feeling. They tried to make things right by covering themselves in fig leaves, which is just self effort. Much of the church today is not clothed in the glory of God but in fig leaves. They're proud of their works and achievements for God. They're proud of their programs and how well their people behave. They're proud that their meetings are 'together' and 'civilized' and 'orderly'. and they are ashamed of the manifestations of God's

glory. They don't expect miracles and signs and wonders; people getting out of wheel chairs, demons coming out and the Holy Spirit moving mightily on people. They feel uncomfortable when you talk about things like angels showing up and gold dust appearing on people, oil and gems manifesting, people being transported, the dead being raised and cripples walking. They get all religious and cautious about these things. Yet they are not aware of their nakedness because they have grown happy with all their fig leaves. I lovingly say that they should feel utterly ashamed! Not of their nakedness but of their fig leaves! God wants us naked. He wants to strip us of all our dependencies, self efforts, self righteousness, religious routines and our ways of doing things that don't require Him, so that He can clothe us with His glory. The reason they're not ashamed is because they think that the glory realm is unusual. They can't understand it because they are still operating from the natural realm. The fig leaf realm. The self effort realm. The realm of the flesh. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil realm. The law realm. In that realm there is a fading glory. The glory realm cannot be understood from the natural realm. It's the heavenly realm. It's a spiritual

realm and needs to be spiritually discerned and understood (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Many people today are ashamed of the glory of God. Why would they be ashamed of that for which they were created? Because they're still living from a natural place rather than a spiritual place. They are satisfied with the fig leaves of natural human effort and can't see their nakedness. If you can't see your nakedness, there's no way you'll contend for the glory of God. Yet the only way to be clothed in the glory is to get rid of all the self righteous fig leaves and be naked before the Lord.

We were created for ever increasing glory. The glory is God's ability, God's favor, God's endorsement and God's grace! The glory is the realm of the impossible made possible. It's the realm that makes everything easy! It makes healing easy, evangelism easy, preaching easy, deliverance easy, resisting the devil easy, loving people easy, transforming communities and cities easy! We shouldn't be ashamed of that realm. Instead, we should be ashamed of not having that realm! The only hope for the church and for the nations is for heaven to invade earth! God wants to use the church to do this! Much of the church is

going to miss out because they're not contending for it or are ashamed of it. However, there are those who are coming into new covenant glory, and God is using them!

The devil managed to trick Adam and Eve out of the glory and he's constantly trying to trick the church out of the glory as well. Why? Because he knows how devastating it is. His kingdom cannot function in the glory realm, and when it comes, he has to go!

Jesus warned to watch out for the yeast of Herod and the yeast of the Pharisees. He was talking about the political spirit and the religious spirit. I don't want to go into it so much but just want to say that the prime agenda of the political spirit is to obscure the finished work of Christ! Herod tried to kill Jesus when Jesus was a baby because he knew the prophecies about the Christ who would deliver his people from their oppressors. The devil knows that Jesus, the king of glory, delivers people from their oppressors. Moses was a type of Christ as a mediator and deliverer who Pharaoh tried to kill when he was a baby as well. The political spirit wants to draw people away from Jesus and wants glory for itself. So it attacks Jesus and tries to

obscure Him. The political spirit is cunningly after the glory of God. It will do anything to trick people out of the glory of God. Why do you think there is such an attack within the body of Christ these days when it comes to signs and wonders, healings, glory manifestations, angels etc? Because so many have been hi-jacked by a political spirit and are now operating by that spirit. We must not give into it for a second! We must not be intimidated or shrink back in fear at all! The King of glory is doing mighty things in the earth today, so let's be part of what He's doing and if it's Him that's doing it then who cares what other people think?

The prime agenda of the religious spirit is to get the church back under law! It's to get you to be satisfied with your fig leaves! If it can get you back under law it gets you back into the realm of self effort and the realm of natural abilities. That's the realm of fading glory and death according to 2 Corinthians 3.

You only need to look around a little to see how rampant the political spirit and religious spirit are in the church. Fortunately God is waking his church up to these things in these days. He will have his church come fully into the New Covenant and ever

increasing glory. The time is upon us where there is a window of grace available to the body of Christ to sort out the issue of the mixture of old covenant and new covenant. God is drawing a line in the sand. Those who resist him and want a mixture will be like the foolish virgins who missed out! Those who come fully into New Covenant will be like the wise virgins. The bridegroom will be with them! Not a heaven and hell issue in regards to eternity but a heaven and hell issue in regards to earth! Will we facilitate heaven coming to earth or hell coming to earth? What is hell? It is judgment and death. What does the law bring? Judgment and death! What is heaven? It is glory and life! What does grace bring? Glory and life!

Getting the heavens to come is not about trying to earn them through good works and holiness. It's about resting in the good works and holiness of Jesus on our behalf!

We asked Joshua Mills, when he was with us at City Church, "How can we see more of the heavenly realm breaking in?" He said, "Just talk about the heavens, and look for that realm to manifest. The more you do, the more you show that you're not ashamed of that realm but instead open to that

realm. The more you're open to that realm the more you will see that realm manifesting!" It makes sense too, because the more you focus on the heavenly realm the more you live from that realm!

So we live from heaven to earth! We live from the spiritual realm into the natural realm. Some will just think that's strange, but you are already seated in the heavenly realm and it would be more strange for you to now live from the natural realm trying to get into the spiritual realm.

I could just keep going on and on. There's no way you can ever completely cover a subject like this because it's a progressive revelation of God's ever increasing glory. So while this is the end of this book, it is by no means the end of the revelation of sanctification by grace. God's heart is to reveal to us the fullness of himself, so continue pursuing him, spend time in his presence and you will find that he will open up to you revelation upon revelation.

Conclusion:

Firstly I want to say thank you for reading this book and I hope it has blessed you. I know it's not the final word on the whole matter, just some insights that will help you along your way. At the end of such a book I really feel like just saying to you, "Don't even worry about trying to be sanctified! It really isn't the focus. Let God take care of that. Your main focus should just be him. Get to know him. Receive his love. Do you know that he has such delight in loving you? He really isn't anxious about your sanctification. He just wants to love you. He's not driving you or commanding you. He's not trying to compel you or manipulate you or get you doing stuff. He just wants to love you. I tell you when you see him and encounter him, all the other stuff will come. Your calling and destiny and assignments are not in the future, they're in him, and you're in him now. Live in him and enjoy him now. Don't be anxious about the future. Don't think your destiny and calling are in the future. Live in them now. Enjoy the now. Be content in God now. Be fully satisfied in God now. Be happy

and at peace and at rest in God now. No matter what you go through and face, the secret to contentment is found in him now. Don't live as a prisoner of the past or a slave to the future. Live in the purpose and in the sense that it has all already been achieved in Christ now! God will guide you into your future. He will show you what's next. He will prompt you and reveal and unlock things to you. He will open the doors. He will take care of you. Don't contend for your future. Contend for him and living in him. He will contend for your future!!!"

God has blessed you and you are a blessing!

Ryan

Rufus

Sanctification by Grace

Ryan Rufus.

In this book Ryan shows that sanctification is both an event and a process. That it has already happened to you, and is busy happening to you. He shows us that the starting point of sanctification is to first understand the event, and that if you don't, then sanctification will always tend to move towards legalism.

The event of sanctification places us in our heavenly position in Christ that is perfect in every way. The process of sanctification is where our current earthly condition is being transformed to look more and more like our heavenly position. The way this happens is not through external restraint, laws, disciplines, behavior modification or manipulation, but through simply being established in grace.

The concept of sanctification by grace holds that the grace that saves us is the same grace that sanctifies us. That the supernatural transformation in the spirit of a person, at the point of salvation, is more powerful than any external law or discipline you could apply to a Christian to get them to be holy or live for God. Grace awakens the nature of God in the believer. Grace removes every barrier to God and empowers us to live close to Him. It is through that life of encounter that we are continually transformed, here on earth, into who we truly are in the heavenly realms in Christ.

Ryan lives with his wife Kylie and their four children Renae, Chloe, Kimberly and Asher in Hong Kong. They are a part of the leadership of City Church International.