

Spiritual Battles

Essential Aspects of the Process of Sanctification

Introduction:

Why do we need to do this study? Several reasons. **First**, too often Christians are ignorant of how to fight the spiritual battles they find themselves in. **Second**, too often Christians grow discouraged in their Christian life. **Third**, there are harmful alternative approaches to the Christian life that recycle through our Christian subculture. **Fourth**, Christians need to recognize that battling spiritually is not evidence of defeat, but rather a normal part of a healthy Christian life.

Part 1—What is Sanctification?

Sanctification for some unbelievers (but not unto salvation)—1st Corinthians 7:14

This refers to a setting apart for a unique working of God in the life of the unbeliever because of the believer in the home.

Sanctification for the genuine believer

- 1) Verb [*hagiazō* # 37]—used @ 13/29 x to refer to Christians
 - a) Past—having been set apart positionally
 - i) Acts 20:32
 - ii) Acts 26:18
 - iii) Romans 15:16
 - iv) First Corinthians 1:2
 - v) First Corinthians 6:11
 - vi) Hebrews 10:10
 - vii) Hebrews 10:29
 - viii) Hebrews 13:12
 - ix) Jude 1:1
 - x) Cf. Romans 8:14-17; 1st John 3:1
 - b) Present—being set apart in an ongoing manner
 - i) First Thessalonians 5:23
 - ii) Hebrews 2:11
 - iii) Hebrews 10:14
 - iv) Cf. Proverbs 4:18; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:18; 1st John 2:29
 - c) Future—the hope of being set apart at a time yet to come
 - i) First Thessalonians 5:23 (cf. 1st Corinthians 15:52-54; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 3:20-21; 1st John 3:2)
- 2) Noun [*hagiasmos* # 38]—holiness, sanctification, being set apart
 - a) Romans 6:19
 - b) Romans 6:22
 - c) First Corinthians 1:30
 - d) First Thessalonians 4:3
 - e) First Thessalonians 4:4
 - f) First Thessalonians 4:7
 - g) Second Thessalonians 2:13
 - h) 1st Timothy 2:15
 - i) Hebrews 12:14
 - j) First Peter 1:2
- 3) Adjective [*hagios* # 40]—NT believers are called “saints” (set apart ones) @ 50 x
 - a) Acts 9:13, 32, 41; 26:10; Romans 1:7; 8:27; 12:13; 15:25-26, 31; 16:2, 15; 1st Corinthians 1:2; 6:1-2; 14:33; 16:1, 15; 2nd Corinthians 1:1; 8:4; 9:1, 12; 13:13; Ephesians 1:1, 15, 18; 2:19; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18; Philippians 1:1; 4:21-22; Colossians 1:2, 4, 12, 26; 1st Thessalonians 3:13; 2nd Thessalonians 1:10; 1st Timothy 5:10; Philemon 1:5, 7; Hebrews 6:10; 13:24; Jude 1:3
- 4) Noun [*hagiotēs* # 41]—holiness
 - a) Hebrews 12:10
- 5) Noun [*hagiosunē* # 42]—holiness
 - a) 2nd Corinthians 7:1
 - b) 1st Thessalonians 3:13

Who is responsible for sanctification taking place in your life?

- 1) **You** are responsible for your holiness
 - a) Romans 6:19—present your members as bondslaves to righteousness unto holiness
 - b) Romans 12:1-2—encouraged to do four things (four infinitives): to present your bodies, to not be conformed, to be transformed, to test and approve
 - c) Second Corinthians 7:1—accomplishing holiness in the awe of God
 - d) Philippians 2:12—work out your salvation with awe and reverence
 - e) Hebrews 12:14—pursue holiness
 - f) First Peter 1:15-16—be holy
 - g) Second Peter 1:5—add in your faith, having applied every effort
- 2) **God** is responsible for your holiness
 - a) God's WORK
 - i) The work of God the **Father**—John 17:17, 19; 1st Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13; 1st Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 2:11
 - ii) The work of God the **Son**—Ephesians 5:26
 - iii) The work of God the **Spirit**—Romans 15:16; 2nd Thessalonians 2:13; 1st Peter 1:2
 - b) God's WILL
 - i) Romans 6:22
 - ii) 1st Corinthians 7:34
 - iii) 2nd Corinthians 3:18
 - iv) Ephesians 1:4
 - v) Ephesians 5:27
 - vi) Philippians 3:21
 - vii) 1st Thessalonians 4:3

So, who is to blame if/when we fail?

- 1) Not God
- 2) Us (cf. 2nd Peter 1:8-10)
 - a) Christians can be disobedient [*parakoe* # 3876] to God and to people—2nd Corinthians 10:6
 - b) Christians can be convicted (proven guilty) [*elengcho* # 1651] of sin
 - i) By God
 - (1) By God of all believers—Hebrews 12:5
 - (2) By Jesus Christ—Revelation 3:19
 - (3) By God through the Word—2nd Timothy 3:16; James 2:9
 - ii) By other Christians
 - (1) Believer with believer—Matthew 18:15
 - (2) Of sinning elders—1st Timothy 5:20
 - (3) Of all believers—Titus 2:15
 - c) Christians can have actual guilt [*enochos* # 1777] before God when they sin—1st Corinthians 11:27; James 2:10
 - d) Christians can be admonished [*noutheteo*, *nouthesia* # 3560, 3559] concerning their sin—Acts 20:31; Romans 15:14; 1st Corinthians 4:14; 10:11; Colossians 1:28; 3:16; 1st Thessalonians 5:12, 14; 2nd Thessalonians 3:15
 - e) Christians can confess [*homologeō* # 3670] their sins—1st John 1:9
 - f) Christians can have shame/embarrassment [*entropē* # 1791] concerning their failure—1st Corinthians 6:5; 15:34

The importance of diligence

- Word group: the root *speudo* [# 4692]; *spoude* [# 4710]; *spoudazo* [# 4704]; *spoudaios* [# 4705]; *spoudaioteron* [# 4706]; *spoudaioteros* [# 4707]; *spoudaioteros* [# 4708]
- 1) Consider the admonitions of the Word of God for believers to exercise Godward diligence and discipline. Consider the imperative forms of.
 - a) The apostolic representative Timothy is commanded to make every effort to present himself approved to God (2nd Timothy 2:15).
 - b) Paul twice commands Timothy to make every effort to come quickly to the aged apostle Paul during his last days (2nd Timothy 4:9, 21).
 - c) The apostolic representative Titus is commanded to make every effort to me Paul in Nicopolis during the winter months of 66-67 AD (Titus 3:12).
 - d) The apostle Peter commands his readers to make every effort to be sure of their calling and election (2nd Peter 1:10).
 - e) Peter commands his readers, in light of sound eschatology, to make every effort to be found in peace without spot or blemish (2nd Peter 3:14).
 - 2) Consider also the expected obedience to such as:
 - a) Not lagging in diligence (Romans 12:11)
 - b) Genuine repentance produces diligence (2nd Corinthians 7:11)
 - c) Abounding in diligence is part of God's grace (2nd Corinthians 8:7, 8, 16)
 - d) Part of a God-honoring Christian lifestyle is making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).
 - e) The writer of Hebrews exhorts his readers to make every effort to enter the rest God has provided so that no one may fall by the same example of disobedience as OT Israel (Hebrews 4:11).
 - f) The writer of Hebrews strongly desires each individual reader to show diligence (Hebrews 6:11).
 - g) Diligence is essential to spiritual growth (2nd Peter 1:5)
 - 3) Consider:
 - a) Titus was commended for being diligent (2nd Corinthians 8:17).
 - b) An unnamed believer was commended for being diligent (2nd Corinthians 8:22).
 - c) Paul argues that he was willing to make every effort to meet the needs of the destitute (Galatians 2:10).
 - d) Paul reminds the Thessalonian believers that he made every effort to see them in person (1st Thessalonians 2:17).
 - e) Onesiphorus was commended for being diligent (2nd Timothy 1:17).
 - f) Peter makes every effort to ensure that his readers have a reminder of his teaching after his exodus from this earth (2nd Peter 1:15).
 - g) Jude, Jesus' half-brother, was diligent to write to his readers (Jude 1:3)
 - 4) Remember 1st Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:14; 12:11