

^[13] *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

[2 Thessalonians 2:13]

SANCTIFICATION,¹ Is an active verbal noun signifying the process rather than the resultant state of being sanctified or consecrated. It is to *BE SEPARATED* to God and *SET APART* for God, the cause or author of sanctification.. The resultant state of sanctification is the behavior those *SEPARATED* are to practice.

Let us begin by considering 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, where Paul is moved to pray,

^[23] *Now may the God of peace Himself SANCTIFY you COMPLETELY and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

And he is then moved to assure us that,

^[24] *The One calling you IS FAITHFUL; He WILL SURELY DO IT.*

If you would do a word search on *SANCTIFIED* you would discover that as well as being *SANCTIFIED* by the *HOLY SPIRIT*, we are also *SANCTIFIED* by *GOD* Himself, through *FAITH* in Jesus, through the *OFFERING* of the *BODY* of *JESUS*, Jesus' *BLOOD* of the (New) *COVENANT*, in *TRUTH*, through the *WORD* of God and *PRAYER*.

Here in Today's Thought we will focus on the Holy Spirit's part in *SANCTIFYING* the disciple of Jesus. In Romans 15:16 were we read,

^[16] *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the OFFERING of the GENTILES MAY BE ACCEPTABLE, SANCTIFIED by the Holy Spirit.*

I hope you see and understand the *PURPOSE* of *SANCTIFICATION* is to make disciples of Jesus *ACCEPTABLE* to the Father. This is also seen in Romans 6:19 where the Holy Spirit moves Paul to write,

^[19] *I am speaking in human terms, because of your NATURAL LIMITATIONS. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now PRESENT YOUR MEMBERS AS SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADING TO SANCTIFICATION.*

You see, "God has not called us for impurity, *BUT IN SANCTIFICATION*" [1 Thessalonians 4:7]. Most Bible versions here have the word *HOLINESS* which is an antonym for *SANCTIFICATION*.

The Holy Spirit further instructs us in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 that, *God CHOSE you as THE FIRST FRUITS to BE SAVED, THROUGH SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT and belief of the truth.*

This is the reason the Lord *CALLS* disciples *THROUGH* the *GOSPEL* "so that" they "may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" [2 Thessalonians 2:14]. This is why disciples of Jesus are instructed to "STAND FIRM and HOLD TO THE TRADITIONS that" they "were taught" [2:15].

Please closely listen to the need for disciples of Jesus to be *SANCTIFIED* in Hebrews 10:24-29.

¹ Sanctification is Strong's Greek noun 38.

First of all, we are to “*consider how to STIR UP ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE and GOOD WORKS*” [10:24]. It then goes on to instruct us, “*not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some*”. Why is it so important for us to assemble with other believers? It is so we can be “*ENCOURAGING*” to “*one another, and all the more as*” we “*see the day [of judgment] drawing near*” [10:24].

So why do we need to be *ENCOURAGED* to continue in a *SANCTIFIED LIFE*? It is because, “*if we GO ON SINNING DELIBERATELY after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR SINS*” [10:26]. Rather it opens the door for “*a FEARFUL EXPECTATION of JUDGMENT, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries*” [10:27].

Now notice the Old Testament example that the Spirit gives in Hebrews 10:28 where we are reminded that “*anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses*”. Then He warns us, “*How much SEVERER PUNISHMENT do you think WILL BE DESERVED by the one HAVING SPURNED the Son of God, and HAS PROFANED THE BLOOD of THE COVENANT IN WHICH they WERE SANCTIFIED, and has INSULTED the Spirit of grace?*” [10:29].

In 1 Peter 1:1-2 we learn that we are “*CHOSEN*” [1:1], “*according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, IN SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT, IN OBEDIENCE to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood*” [1:2]. The phrase “*sanctification of the Spirit*”, please understand that this means ‘*the sanctification produced by the Holy Spirit*’.

Today I want to close Today’s Thought Hebrews 12:14 and *ENCOURAGE* you to,
*STRIVE for peace with everyone, and for the SANCTIFICATION
WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.*

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to ***know in a greater way*** the ***one*** Who promises in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

Because The *HOLY SPIRIT HELPS SANCTIFY* me! – tom!