

Nuts and Bolts of Sanctification - Vivification

April 7, 2019

Ephesians 2:10 ESV

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Sanctification is God's work; there is nothing intrinsically we add to His workmanship.
- Sanctification is God's work which requires our unconditional surrender. Without our participation, God's work will not be accomplished.
- Good works under the Old Covenant are not the same as good works under the New Covenant.
 - OLD COVENANT WORKS (*works of the Law*) - produced by self-will and self-discipline to be accepted into relationship with God
 - NEW COVENANT WORKS - produced by the indwelling Christ and Holy Spirit because we are accepted into relationship with God

"**SANCTIFICATION** begins in regeneration... This work, which begins in the new birth, is carried on in two ways: **MORTIFICATION**, whereby the lusts of the flesh are subdued and kept under; and **VIVIFICATION**, by which the life which God has put within us is made to be a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. This is carried on every day in what is called 'perseverance'...
—Charles Spurgeon

MORTIFICATION

Colossians 3:5-6 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

1. Crucified in Christ

- Not theoretical but literal - not rhetorical but in power.
- Until our death in Christ on the cross becomes our reality by faith, any spiritual discipline will be powerless.
- This is the point where self-will and self-control stop, and the power of the cross becomes real.

Romans 6:6 ESV

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Romans 6:11-12 ESV

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

2. Repentance

- The sinfulness of human depravity rebels against absolute Truth by justifying, excusing, rationalizing and defending its disobedience.

- **Repent** (*metanoēō*)
 - to change one's mind for better
 - heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins
- **Confess** (*homologeō*)
 - to say the same thing as another
 - to agree with

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

3. Abstinence

- *Feed the fleshly desires and they grow in strength. Abstain from the fleshly desires and they grow weaker.*

1 Peter 2:11 ESV

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Proverbs 27:12 ESV

12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

2 Peter 2:7-9 ESV

7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

VIVIFICATION

Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1. The Word of God

- *It is impossible for sanctification to occur without a continual hunger, dependence and feeding upon God's Word.*
- *The Word of God supplies the life and power of sanctification, to bring true transformation from the inside*

out, starting in our deepest motives and thoughts.

1 Peter 2:2 CSB

2 Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation.

John 17:15-17 ESV

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify (hagiazō - separate from the profane and dedicated to God) them in the truth; your word is truth.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2 Corinthians 3:3 ESV

3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:7-9 ESV

7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,

8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be CONFORMED to this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWAL of your mind, that by TESTING you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Abiding in Communion

- Relationship (abiding in communion) is the divine conduit by which we receive God's life and power.

John 15:4-5 ESV

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

"The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in his divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at any moment, without limiting the conversation in any way. This is especially important in times of temptation, sorrow, separation from God, and even in times of unfaithfulness and sin." —Brother Lawrence

“When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us, we shall be ushered into a new level of spiritual life...”
—A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, “A New Level of Spirituality”

Galatians 5:16 ESV

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

3. God’s Chastening

- *Welcome each circumstance, temptation and trial which God, in His sovereignty, either permits or orders, as a heavenly tutor sent from your Heavenly Father.*

“Jacob went from resisting to clinging. As the day broke, the Angel would be gone; but He could not, because Jacob clung to Him with a death grip. The request to be let go indicates how tenaciously the limping patriarch clung to Him for support. He had abandoned the posture of defence and resistance; and fastened himself on to the Angel - as a terrified child clasps its arms tightly around its father’s neck.”

—F. B. Meyer, *Royal Purposes, Lamed Purposefully*

Psalm 119:67 ESV

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

Psalm 119:71 ESV

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

1 Peter 4:1-2 ESV

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Hebrews 12:11-14 ESV

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 5:14 ESV

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.