

**Message:** We Believe Week 4: Spiritual Growth – My Job or Gods?

**Scripture:** Leviticus 11:44

*"I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy." Leviticus 11:44*

*"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

*"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." Philippians 2:12-13*

### THE "BOTH/AND" OF SANCTIFICATION

1. To trust God to do what only He can do.
2. To own our role in spiritual growth.

### FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT OWNING OUR ROLE IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

#### 1. SANCTIFICATION IS NORMATIVE, NOT OPTIONAL.

*"It is God's will that you should be sanctified... For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life." 1 Thessalonians 4:3a, 7*

*"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14*

#### 2. SANCTIFICATION IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT.

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14*

#### 3. SANCTIFICATION IS EMPOWERED BY GOD.

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3 (EHV)*

#### 4. SANCTIFICATION IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS ALSO, NOT JUST MYSELF.

*"...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." Philipians 2:2-5*