

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 2 CHRIST OUR SANCTIFIER

John 17:19

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Sanctifier*. We believe that our purpose was determined even before our formation in the womb. This is conveyed in Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart." Additionally, 1 Peter 2:9 states that we have been brought out of darkness into light to proclaim His excellencies and become His chosen people, a royal priesthood, and His possession. As adherents of Christ's teachings, it is crucial for us to recognize that God has a specific purpose for our lives. In fulfilling this purpose, He sanctifies us through the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We are set apart for holy living in this fallen world and are equipped to carry out His work.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you believe God has a purpose for your life?*
- *Do you feel empowered to fulfill His calling?*
- *How do you manage the conflict between flesh and spirit?*

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HOLY AND SET APART FOR GOD

HEBREWS 10:9-10

As I have traveled about to many churches, I have heard people talk about godly examples in their lives. The greatest godly example is Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus alone has the power to forgive sin as He was the sinless sacrifice who gave His life at Calvary and rose again the third day. In today's passage, we see that Christ not only atoned for sin at the Cross, He also wiped out the Old Testament sacrificial system and instituted the opportunity for the Christ follower to be made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

In The Alliance, we call being “made holy” the process of sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby the Christ follower is set apart from sin unto God and His purposes. Those words were drilled into me as a freshman in 1980 at St. Paul Bible College (now Crown College). The full engagement of the Christ follower in these things, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, cannot help but produce holiness in the Christ follower's life, set apart for God's plan! When this happens, there is great freedom from sin, great excitement in understanding God's personal life plan, great fulfillment in engaging the life of Christ in us and through us, and also a great expectation for the future!

Sanctification is not an add-on to the Christian life—it is God's deepest desire for His son or daughter!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to be born into this sinful world, live a sinless life, and give His life as the perfect sacrifice for all sin, for all time. Thank You that Your plan for Your children does not end with salvation but also includes sanctification. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who can help us to be set apart from sin unto You and Your purposes. Help us, Father, to discover these things and be hungry to live them out in a world that needs You so desperately. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF CHRIST

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

Sanctification is not just a distant goal; it's a present reality for every believer in Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul reminds the church who they used to be—caught in sin, far from God. Then he declares something radical and beautiful: “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified” (v. 11).

Sanctification is the process of being made holy, but Paul speaks of it here as something already done. Why? Because in Christ, God has already set us apart for Himself. The moment we believed, the Holy Spirit began a lifelong work in us—a work rooted in a past event, our salvation, and aimed at a future hope, our glorification.

Notice the order: washed, sanctified, justified. God cleanses us, makes us holy, and declares us righteous. This isn't something we earn; it's a gift given in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit.

That means today, no matter how you feel or what you face, you are not who you once were. You are being transformed daily by the Spirit. Sanctification is not about striving for God's approval—it's about living from the identity He's already given you.

Are you living as someone who has been sanctified? Let God's truth change your mindset today. You've been washed. You've been set apart. Now walk in that holiness with joy and confidence.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, thank You for washing me clean, setting me apart, and making me righteous in Christ. I submit to You today in light of what You've already done, growing in holiness by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

We do not believe in salvation by works—however, do we tend to slide into a “sanctification by works” mindset? A bit of a, “Thanks for saving me, Jesus, but I’ll take it from here” mentality?

Well, of course we don’t say that out loud—but do we tend to act like that is what we believe?

Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. These verses parallel Colossians 2:6, which says, “. . . just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord”—surrender in faith and receive salvation—“continue to live in Him”—surrender in faith again for sanctification. We trust we’ll be with Him in glory and now trust God to shape us for His glory.

We believe in Jesus as our Sanctifier—the One who purifies and empowers us to live a life wholly devoted to God. Through the Holy Spirit, He transforms our desires, aligning our will with His.

God’s purpose is not vague or distant; it’s personal and present. He is working in us so that our actions reflect His love and truth. Our obedience, though imperfect, becomes an offering when it flows from His power within us.

God is the One who creates in us the longing and then gives us the ability to fulfill what He has for us.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Loving Triune God, thank You for prompting me to surrender my heart, my desires, and my plans to You. I invite the Holy Spirit to deepen my desire to obey and trust. Help me to walk in obedience driven from the engine of Your love for me. Fill me with Your Spirit, that my life would reflect Jesus in all I do. Shape my will to align with Yours and empower me to live faithfully in every place You’ve called me. Use me, Lord, for Your Kingdom, Your purpose, and Your glory! Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BEAR WITNESS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

To be sanctified is to be set apart—not only for holiness but for purpose. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24, Paul reminds us that sanctification touches every part of who we are: spirit, soul, and body. It’s not a partial transformation, but a complete one, rooted in the faithfulness of God.

God is not merely interested in changing our behavior; He desires to shape our character so that we can bear witness to His presence in us. Our lives become living testimonies of grace, purity, and power—signposts that point to Christ. True witness flows not from perfection but from transformation, from a life surrendered to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

This work is not ours to accomplish alone. The One who calls you is faithful. Our role is to cooperate with His Spirit, walking in obedience, allowing Him to cleanse and equip us so that we might reflect Jesus to a watching world.

Biblical sanctification is God’s will, and it’s God who does the sanctifying. As 2 Chronicles 29:3–6 illustrates, the people were commanded to “sanctify themselves” and cleanse the temple. Still, it’s only through the Spirit’s power that this work becomes effective.

Author, Gordon T. Smith, notes that sanctification is both for transformation and service: “We are sanctified for mission.” As believers submit to God’s Word and Spirit, they are renewed and shaped into the likeness of Christ. Though not yet perfect, we press on, knowing that final sanctification will be complete when we see Jesus face-to-face.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father God, thank You for being the God of peace and for Your faithful work of sanctification in my life. I surrender my spirit, soul, and body to You. Purify me through and through and make me a vessel fit to bear witness of Your truth and love. Help me to walk in holiness, not for my sake alone, but so others may see Jesus through me. May my life be a testimony that brings glory to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BEAR FRUIT

JOHN 15:5

My wife and I live in Temecula, California—a region renowned for its vineyards. Years ago, a friend gave us a single grapevine, which we planted in our backyard. Soon, branches emerged, and within a year, grapes appeared. From that single vine, we now have ten plants, producing hundreds of pounds of grapes annually. The key to this abundance is simple yet profound: branches must remain connected to the vine to thrive; detached, they wither and bear no fruit.

Christ is our Sanctifier! He has set us apart for His holy purposes, to live fruitful lives, marked by fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—as described by Apostle Paul. And He has set us apart for meaningful ministry that inspires others to love God and one another. Yet, we sometimes mistakenly believe this depends on our own efforts. We are tempted to trust less and try harder! But this is not the Lord's way!

In John 15:5, Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Jesus reminds us that true fruitfulness comes from Him alone, not from striving harder but from trusting Him more.

No matter the circumstances, let us remain in Christ through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and unswerving faith no matter the circumstances. As we stay connected to Him, God will produce abundant fruit in our lives.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. You promise that by remaining in You, we will bear much fruit, and apart from You, we can do nothing. Help me stay connected to You. Without You, I am powerless; through You, my life is set apart and flourishes. Guide me to seek You in every part of my life, especially in the area of _____. I'm tempted at times to try to solve this on my own. But God, I can't. You can! Please help. I place my trust in You alone. Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

EPHESIANS 4:23-24

In John 17, Jesus offers a stunningly personal prayer as He prepares for the Cross. His thoughts are focused on us—His disciples—both then and now. In verse 19, He declares, “For their sakes I sanctify myself.” Why? “So that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

Jesus dedicated Himself fully to the Father’s will, setting the stage for us to be set apart for God’s purposes. Through His sacrifice, we gain our identity as beloved children of God, empowered to fulfill His divine plans (see Hebrews 10:10). Christ is our Sanctifier, once and for all.

Christ our Sanctifier speaks to our unique call. Sanctification extends beyond moral purity; it’s about being dedicated to God’s holy purposes. Your life is not random—God knew you before you were born (see Jeremiah 1:5), giving your existence profound meaning.

Yet living as someone “set apart” in a world filled with compromise is challenging. The battle between flesh and spirit is real. At times, we may feel weak, unworthy, or unsure about God’s calling on our lives. In those moments, remember 1 Peter 2:9, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people for God’s own possession . . . called out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

You are God’s possession, and He sanctifies you by His Spirit—not through your strength, but His. Sanctification is not about striving; it’s about surrendering to Him. Jesus has made the way. Now, we walk in it, trusting the Spirit to empower us to live uniquely, love deeply, and shine brightly.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Take time today to honestly answer these questions before God: Do you believe God has a purpose for your life? Do you feel empowered to fulfill His calling? How do you manage the conflict between flesh and spirit?

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus. I am grateful for being set apart. Help me to walk in that truth today—not out of obligation, but out of purpose. Sanctify my thoughts, desires, habits, and heart. May my life reflect the glory of the One who has called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Amen.

THE APPROPRIATION OF FAITH IN SANCTIFICATION

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

I am amazed when I consider the everyday jobs through which Jesus taught profound spiritual truth—from fishermen to farmers, blacksmiths to builders, and shepherds to servants. However, we can all relate to the illustration of an athlete. The goal of the runner is to win the race. This will only happen as they shed their outer clothing, tuck in their racing shirt, clean the dirt off their spikes, and clear their mind of distracting thoughts. Then, with laser focus on the finish line, they can run the race to the max. Likewise, in our journey to become more and more like Jesus, we cannot, in our own strength, consistently pick the best over the good when we set priorities. By sheer willpower, we cannot eliminate the busyness and distractions that assault our schedules. Only by placing our faith in Jesus and trusting Him to keep us on track can we hope to stay on the path our Lord has set before us. When dealing with sin that grows quickly in our lives when unchecked, trusting Jesus alone for freedom is even more essential. We must surrender our struggles and failures daily, and even moment-by-moment, so that our eyes are drawn back to Jesus all day long. What a marvelous truth—Jesus wants us to be like Him. And since one of the Spirit's jobs is to convict us of sin, we can, by faith, trust our Lord to keep us progressing in our journey.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord of my journey, thank You for loving me along the way, not just at the end of the race. I genuinely desire to walk more closely with You, to obey more consistently, and to listen more intently. Again, I place my trust and faith in You to keep me focused on You. I trust in You alone to enable me to prioritize when I get it wrong and when I'm distracted, to return my gaze to You. Holy Spirit, convict me when I slip into sin so I can return to the path You have given me. Amen.