

A Balanced View of Sanctification

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Sanctification is that part of blood-bought, Spirit-wrought salvation which is planned by our infinite Father to satisfy these deep desires. It is promised in that beautiful beatitude, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Sanctification brings to its possessor not a satisfaction which ends progress or results in stagnation, but it is the satisfaction of real possession in the deep things of God. It is the consummation of a relationship with Jehovah which fills to the full the moral aspirations and spiritual longings of the soul.

Some marked examples of this phase of the experience have come under my observation. I was holding a revival meeting in a fine village church in the thumb of Michigan some years ago where the question of sanctification was little known and less favored. I preached for an entire week without any urge for the altar. The second Sunday morning we reached a climax enabling us to give a very definite and urgent altar call. The response filled the altar. One of the leading ladies of the church, best known and highly respected, in charge of one of the largest adult classes in Sunday school, bowed about the center of the altar.

I recall that as I bowed with the seekers I asked that the hungriest heart there should pray first. The woman referred to responded immediately. She gave expression to a heart cry which pierced the skies and reached the heart of God. Her prayer was quickly answered and in the answer there was a beautiful demonstration of the Spirit which killed the prejudice in the church against demonstrations of the Spirit, and opened the door for the Spirit's work as it had not been opened for many years before. I was in the home of this sister during the week which followed and in visiting with her she said to me, "Brother Butler, I have been a Christian twenty-five years," and then pointing to the door of a bed room off their living room she said, "No one but God knows how many hours I have spent in prayer in that room to find that which would satisfy the deep hunger of my heart. I have had the conviction of need and of hunger all these years, but without any light or knowledge of what I needed definitely, or how to seek and obtain it until you came and preached to us the way of full salvation." She became a living witness to the satisfying fullness of God's sanctifying grace.

Another instance, very marked, in one of our great churches in Ohio. One of the first members of the church to show interest in personal sanctification was a man advanced in years. The first time an opportunity was given for an uplifted hand showing interest in personal sanctification his hand and that also of his aged companion were up. We continued teaching and ministering the Word for several days until finally in an afternoon meeting this splendid brother broke in on our preaching and said, "Brother Butler, won't you please stop preaching and let me come to the altar? I have been a Christian for fifty-four years, my wife and I have lived together and maintained a family altar in our home for more than fifty years. All this time I have been hungry for something more but have never known what it was nor how to seek it, but you have told me and I want to come to

the altar and get the blessing right now."

Needless to say that changed the order of that meeting. He came immediately and a dozen others followed him. It marked the real break in what proved to be a very gracious revival of God's work in that church. Concrete experiences could be multiplied. I think I could almost go to the spot on the highway where years ago driving my pony on a circuit I was led to look up and cry out to God, whom I then loved and had loved and served for years. I recall crying out, "O Lord, there must be some way to know thee as I do not now know thee."

I shall not forget how upon receiving this precious grace, the fullness of Christ so richly satisfied my soul that I hesitated to go to sleep at night for a considerable time lest I should lose my treasure during the night. I discovered, however, as time elapsed that when Jesus is revealed by the Holy Spirit filling us with righteousness, and with the revelation of his indwelling presence, he comes to stay. He will never leave while we are asleep. Glory to his name!

Dear reader, one of the things that would happen to you just now, if in entire abandonment of yourself and your all to God you would trust the cleansing merit of Jesus' blood for your present sanctification, would be a satisfying fullness of his righteousness.

Sanctification in terms of heart experience means further the curing of that deep inner hurt of our moral nature. There is within every breast that deep inner hurt of sin which after all the tests and trials which may come to us from circumstances and from those about us, nevertheless is our greatest source of defeat in our lives. Sanctification is God's remedy for that inner hurt. It is the inward healing of our nature. It brings deliverance and wholeness to the inner life that causes our spirits to exult in God as a God of deliverance. That rich inner healing of soul is a reality which bears fruitage in new and abiding inner victory in our lives. This of course extends to the outer life also, but sanctification means the end of our defeats in our inner life. I do not mean that one cannot suffer defeat after sanctification, but I do mean to say that the inner cause of our defeat is removed and that there is a wholeness and health of soul that brings the exuberance of the fullness of life.

How the justified man often writhes in his spirit because of bondage into which he is brought to some carnal appetite or ambition or desire that enslaves his inner life and sometimes the outer life as well. I have sometimes named as one condition for receiving this grace, the putting the crown on Jesus' brow, making him Lord of all in our lives. I have affirmed in presenting the truth thus that when Christ is crowned within and has absolute control of our whole selfhood, he will subdue the Absalom rebellion of our inner life and silence the voice of every mocking Shimei, and establish a rule where every part of the kingdom is friendly to the king royal on the throne.

I remember one splendid man in a fine church in Michigan where we once presented the truth on Sunday morning from this standpoint, and for years after there was a record to be seen which he wrote on the wall of his

CHALLENGE GOD TO ANSWER PRAYER FOR HIS OWN GLORY

The famous old Hindu woman, Julia, rehearsed to me one night in Nellore, India, that remarkable prayer experience on "Prayer Meeting Hill," when Dr. Jowett and his wife took her and another servant with them for that memorial sunrise meeting. Before day-break they ascended the hill above Ongole to ask God to save Lone Star Mission and the lost souls of India.

The work had apparently failed; the money had failed; the faithful few had held on believingly and courageously and now the only help was in God. This Hindu saint, nearly one hundred years of age, mingled her description with her tears as she told of that most important and thrilling moment of her life. They all prayed and they all believed. They talked and then they prayed again. They wrestled before heaven's throne and in the face of a heathen world, like Elijah on Carmel.

At last the day dawned and the gray streaks were crossing the eastern sky. Just as the sun arose above the horizon Dr. Jowett arose out of the darkness and seemed to see a great light. He lifted his hand heavenward and turned his tear-stained face towards the great heart of love. He declared that his vision saw the cactus field below transformed into a church and mission buildings. His faith grasped and gripped the great fact. He claimed the promise and challenged God to answer a prayer which was entirely for His own glory and the salvation of men.

On that cactus field God built a Church with the largest membership of any church on earth—20,000 members—and if it had not been divided in the years by necessity, there would have been 50,000 members—the greatest miracle of the modern missionary world.

The money came immediately and clearly from the hand of God. The man came immediately and clearly from the call of God, for Dr. Clough, who has passed into the glory, a wonderful glory, was God's choice. On that very field, almost abandoned, he baptized 10,000 in one year, 2,222 in one day.

Prayer Meeting Hill moved the throne of God and made the world to tremble. The battlements of heaven must have been crowded to watch these many workings of a prayer for His glory. This is the privilege and possibility for every man who can speak to God "in His name."

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).—Cortland Meyers.

barn on Monday morning at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, saying that at that moment he crowned Christ King and received the sanctifying gift of the Holy Ghost, the result of which was not only a satisfying fullness in Christ and the inner healing of his heart, but the complete deliverance from the bondage of an appetite that had mocked him and mastered him in his previous experience.

I do not mean to imply that a man is a slave to actual sin until he is sanctified wholly. Far from this. But I am sure that carnality and some of the trappings of the old man in the form of habits that are seen to be sin under the illuminating light of Pentecost remain in many lives until the holy fire of God goes through and refines and purifies.—The Herald.