

# **A Prayer for Complete Sanctification**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

## II. The nature of sanctification.

A. Sanctification means to separate from sin to holiness.

B. In the Old Testament many things were set aside for a holy purpose. (Exodus 19; 13; 28; Ezekiel 37:28; Joel 1-3; Job 1:5; 1 Samuel 16; Jeremiah 1; Exodus 19; Genesis 2:3; Exodus 30; 2 Chronicles 7; Joshua 7:20; Leviticus 27; 1 Timothy 4; Romans 6)

C. Aspects of sanctification.

### 1. Positional.

- a. This is past.
- b. When a person is saved, he is set apart for God.
- c. A person receives a new nature at salvation also.
- d. A person is covered with Christ's righteousness. (Hebrews 10, 1 Thessalonians 4:7)

### 2. Ultimate sanctification.

- a. This is future.
- b. The flesh will be lost and incorruption is taken on. (1 Corinthians 15:52-54, Philippians 3:21)
- c. This is fixed.

### 3. Experiential sanctification.

- a. This is present.
- b. This is flexible.
- c. This is where we are at right now.

D. A sanctified person bears God's name and image.

III. The source of sanctification: the God of Peace. (Colossians 1; Ephesians 3:8; Romans 15:33; 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11)

- A. God sanctifies by truth. (John 17:17)
- B. God sanctifies through suffering. (1 Peter 5:10)
- C. God himself sanctifies.

IV. The extent of sanctification: through and through. It takes all of you to become a Christian, but it is entirely a work of God. (2 Peter 1, Isaiah 55:9, 1 Corinthians 15:9, Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:29, Philippians 2:12, Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 3:13)

V. The component of sanctification: both the spirit and the body are to be included. (Hebrews 3:23)

- A. The soul and the spirit are not separated Scripturally.
- B. Paul sees the person as two parts: body and spirit. (Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 5:3, 5; 7:1; Colossians 2:5)
- C. Hebrews 4:12 does not necessarily make a distinction between soul and spirit. They were not separated from each other—they are both cut.

VI. The goal is complete sanctification. (Ephesians 5:26)

VII. The culmination of sanctification is the coming of Jesus Christ.

VIII. The security of sanctification is in God's promise. God is faithful to do what he said. (1 Corinthians 10, Philippians 1:6)

IX. The process of sanctification.

- A. It is twofold.
  - 1. Negative: the purging out of sin.
  - 2. Positive: spiritual refinement of the soul called the renewing of the mind. (John 15)
  - 3. It is accomplished by the word.
- B. It lies chiefly in the heart.
- C. It is a beautiful reality. (Psalm 110:3, Exodus 15:11)
- D. It is an ongoing reality. (1 John 3:9)
- E. It has degrees.
- F. It can be counterfeit.
  - 1. Moral virtue.
  - 2. Religious superstition.
  - 3. Restraint.

4. Conscience.

G. It is essential.

1. God calls us to it. (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

2. It proves our salvation. (2 Thessalonians 2:13, Ezekiel 36)

3. It is necessary for heaven. (Hebrews 2:14)

H. It protects us from polluting holy things. (Titus 1:15)

I. It is the priority of our lives. (1 Thessalonians 4:3, Titus 2:14, 1 John 2:6)

X. Signs that we are moving along.

A. Those being sanctified remember a time clearly when they were not.

B. Those being sanctified experience the power of the Spirit. (Romans 8:9)

C. Those being sanctified have strong antipathy for sin.

D. Those being sanctified seek to do spiritual duty out of love for God. (2 Corinthians 5:14)

E. Those being sanctified show a disciplined life. (1 Peter 1:15)

F. Those being sanctified have a strong desire to serve Christ.

G. Those being sanctified love the Word of God.

H. Those being sanctified seek holy company. (Psalm 51:10)

**Application Questions:**

1. Why is it important to understand the different ways that Scripture talks about sanctification?

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2. Which principle for the process of sanctification do you find most helpful?

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3. Does your life show signs of sanctification? Explain.

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