



Lesson 49 – Transformed by Grace

In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, John saw his own deficiencies and was humbled by the revelation. Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master. The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience, that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.

In striking contrast to the sanctification worked out in the life of John is the experience of his fellow disciple, Judas. Like his associate, Judas professed to be a disciple of Christ, but he possessed only a form of godliness. He was not insensible to the beauty of the character of Christ; and often, as he listened to the Saviour's words, conviction came to him, but he would not humble his heart or confess his sins. By resisting the divine influence he dishonored the Master whom he professed to love.

1) What did John teach as an unerring rule for the Christians?

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him _____ himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to _____, even as he walked.

He taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere.

2) What did Paul teach that was similar?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 For this is the will of God, even your _____, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his _____ in sanctification and honour;

The sanctification of the church is God's object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honored by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit.

3) How does this sanctification come?

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in _____ dwelleth in _____, and God in him.

4) How does that journey begin?

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him _____, and take up his cross, and follow me.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light _____, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;



It is the fragrance of our love for our fellow men that reveals our love for God. It is patience in service that brings rest to the soul. It is through humble, diligent, faithful toil that the welfare of Israel is promoted. God upholds and strengthens the one who is willing to follow in Christ's way.

5) What is granted to him who overcomes?

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to _____ with _____ in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We do not know one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.

6) What did Paul say about his spiritual condition?

Romans 7:18-19 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth _____: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I _____.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should _____, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly, we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen.

7) What did Paul write AFTER he saw a vision of heaven?

Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were _____: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have _____: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I _____ toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Angels rejoice to tell his triumphs, but Paul makes no boast of his attainments. The attitude of Paul is the attitude that every follower of Christ should take as he urges his way onward in the strife for the immortal crown.

8) What do we call God if we are deceived?

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a _____, and his word is not in us.



Let those who feel inclined to make a high profession of holiness look into the mirror of God's law. As they see its far-reaching claims and understand its work as a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

9) How does one express love for the Father and Jesus?

1 John 2:4-5 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso _____ his _____, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are _____.

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments _____ in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the _____ which he hath given us.

There are those who profess holiness, who declare that they are wholly the Lord's, who claim a right to the promises of God, while refusing to render obedience to His commandments. These transgressors of the law claim everything that is promised to the children of God; but this is presumption on their part, for John tells us that true love for God will be revealed in obedience to all His commandments.

10) Did John teach that you are saved by obedience?

1 John 3:5-6 And ye know that he was manifested to _____ away our _____; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in the heart, our feelings, our thoughts, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God.

There are many who, though striving to obey God's commandments, have little peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith. They walk as it were in a salt land, a parched wilderness. They claim little, when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God. Such ones do not correctly represent the sanctification that comes through obedience to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. Through the exercise of faith, the believer comes into possession of these blessings. Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.

11) What shall we do in faith?

Matthew 7:7-8 _____, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be _____.

In the secret place of communion, that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. In all ages, through the medium of communion with heaven, God has worked out His purpose for His children, by unfolding gradually to their minds the doctrines of grace.

12) How does God impart Himself to us?

Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is _____ as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the _____, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.



The reason many in this age of the world make no greater advancement in the divine life is because they interpret the will of God to be just what they will to do. While following their own desires, they flatter themselves that they are conforming to God's will. These have no conflicts with self. There are others who for a time are successful in the struggle against their selfish desire for pleasure and ease. They are sincere and earnest, but grow weary of protracted effort, of daily death, of ceaseless turmoil. Indolence seems inviting, death to self repulsive; and they close their drowsy eyes and fall under the power of temptation instead of resisting it.

13) Whose are we?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are _____? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own.

Your sins may be as mountains before you; but if you humble your heart and confess your sins, trusting in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, He will forgive and will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. God demands of you entire conformity to His law. This law is the echo of His voice saying to you, Holier, yes, holier still. Desire the fullness of the grace of Christ. Let your heart be filled with an intense longing for His righteousness, the work of which God's word declares is peace, and its effect quietness and assurance forever.

Can you see God is on your side?

Would you like to see what great things God has planned for you?

When is the time to let the Word change you?