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**Sanctification:  
The Forgotten Phase of Salvation**

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**Hillsboro, MO**

## **Sanctification: The Forgotten Phase of Salvation**

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Second Edition

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# ***Sanctification—the forgotten phase of salvation***

The 3 Phases of Salvation:

1. **Justification**—*Just-as-if-you-never-sinned* ; a judicial term where the guilty party is declared free from guilt and punishment—**SAVATION FROM PENALTY OF SIN (redemption through Jesus' blood)**
2. **Sanctification**—Process of becoming holy ; *being set apart from the World and unto God's service*. It began in the past at salvation, is presently [progressively] working in your life, and will be continued in the future as you follow the Lord—**SAVATION FROM POWER OF SIN**  
This is the process of transformation and empowerment by God for the breaking down of Bondages—Strongholds in your life. It takes time, in fact, our entire earthly existence
3. **Glorification**—Made perfect, “glorified” ; A perfect, incorruptible body (a gift from God); *finally and fully conformed to image of Jesus Christ*—**SAVATION FROM PRESENCE OF SIN** (no longer tempted and having to endure)—this will take place when the Believer gets to Heaven

We are all saved by GOD'S GRACE **through** FAITH (believing and trusting in Jesus Christ):

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

We are immediately forgiven when we repent of our sins and place our faith in Christ. It is just as if we had never sinned in God's eyes because Jesus blood covers our sin! However, our salvation is also progressive, that means that it continues to change us over time. We are justified at the moment that we turn in faith and repentance to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. But even though all sin has been forgiven, we still struggle with bondages to sin. It is over time that sanctification, the process of becoming holy—of being set apart from the world and unto God's service—that we continue to undergo personal transformation to become more Christ-like.

Sanctification is often misunderstood by Christians. One may live as Christians for years and continue to deal with sins, strongholds, and false thinking patterns; yet sanctification is the promise that as we submit to **the Lord, He will continue to renew our minds and transform our soul (mind, will, and emotions) as well as mold our character to be conformed to the image of Christ.** He will transform us by His power. Sanctification is a wonderful gift! It is a journey of transformation with the Lord! It is not all easy, in fact, the journey is sure to be full of many challenges, valleys of shadow, and testings of your faith, but it is one of blessing and growth in our relationship with the Lord as well.

One can say that *God expects progress in our lives, not perfection* because of this theological term (sanctification). I am not saying that God just disregards our sin or says that it is "ok" because we are in a process of growth, but I am saying that the Lord is merciful as we remain *humble* and seek Him first (Matt 6). If we maintain an attitude, a heart posture of humility, the Lord will bless us and guide us; but if we walk in *pride*, we can be sure that we will fall!

Lastly, sanctification is a process of inside change that produces outside conformity to that change. In other words, when we are first saved, **Jesus changes our heart (spirit)**. We were spiritual dead but now we are alive in Christ (Eph 2:1)! *But it is over time* ***that the Holy Spirit convicts us and our actions and lives begin to match up with our heart.*** The change takes place on the inside first and then works itself out. But sanctification is not only the miraculous work of the Lord, it also involves our continual surrender to the Lord. It is not extreme grace which says “I have accepted Christ and have no responsibility because God will change me.” Nor is it legalism which says that “I will change myself by following a strict regimen of rules.” The godly man avoids all extremes (Ecc 7:18). Sanctification is a balance; it mixes our personal responsibility with an acknowledgement that it is the Lord that truly brings the change. The Lord says, “Be Holy for I am Holy (1 Peter 1:16),” this means that holiness is a choice, yet the Word also says that our holiness is from Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30). The extreme parties are those who say that holiness completely depends on personal choice (legalism) or completely depends on a miraculous work of God alone (extreme “cheap” grace). The balance is that *Christ alone provides for our holiness, but we have a choice to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God*—sanctification: it’s the **process** of becoming holy (Rom 6:13).

## BY Faith—Not by Sight

Kenneth “Trey” Zimmerman III

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**Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12**

This month's topic is on Faith. In 1 Corinthians 5:8 it says “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” In other words, we don't need to see everything God's doing, we just have to be faithful and believe that what He's doing is for our own good. We just have to have faith and follow God.

**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it the gift of God  
Ephesians 2:8**

We're saved by faith in Jesus. We aren't saved by our own works. If we could save ourselves, Jesus would have died in vain. If we had to be saved by our own works we're doomed. In Romans it says “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (3:23, KJV). And in Romans 3:24-25 it says

**Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.**

Walk BY faith, not by sight.

## About the Author

**Ryan M Marks** (B.A. in Communications and pursuing an MTS in Theology from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary) has taught in two local churches and served as an evangelist throughout Missouri. Having begun preaching and writing at 15 following the Lord's call, Ryan has authored a number of books. He serves as Director of and contributor to the blog and online ministry of [FocusingOnTheMarkMinistries.com](http://FocusingOnTheMarkMinistries.com) which provides resources for evangelism and discipleship globally.

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