

The Third Angel

A Peculiar people called and chosen to and for sanctification

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." I John 4:16. True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God. Sanctification means habitual communion with God. It means living in God by love and in love.

"The most precious fruit of sanctification is the grace of meekness. When this grace presides in the soul, the disposition is molded by its influence. There is a continual waiting upon God and a submission of the will to His. The understanding grasps every divine truth, and the will bows to every divine precept, without doubting or murmuring. True meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the word of God, as Lydia's was opened. It places us with Mary, as learners at the feet of Jesus. "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psalm 25:9). {SL 14.2}

(2Th 2:13) But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

And Jesus prays for it in **Joh 17:17** Make them holy by the true word: your word is the true word.

Inspiration adds, "This sanctification we must all experience, else we can never gain eternal life. It is obtained by a union with Christ, a union which no power of Satan can break. {RH, July 25, 1899 par. 17}

The inspired apostle addresses us in IPe 1:1) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (IPe 1:2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Ellen white under inspiration wrote, "The law is an expression of God's idea. When we receive it in Christ, it becomes our idea. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. "Great peace have they which love Thy law: **and nothing** shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165), cause them to stumble. {IMR 131.2}. A peculiar people with a peculiar experience receiving the sanctification of the Spirit.

The apostle continues, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were

appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." I Peter 2: 1-9. **That ye may grow thereby:** if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The apostle states in (1Th 4:3) For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication; I Thessalonians 4:3-7. This word points out an impediment to growth and sanctification.

He continues (1Th 4:4) **that each one of you know how to possess himself** of his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

Self governance under God is a fruit of and in the process of sanctification by the Spirit.

(1Th 4:7) For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. . . . Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, **but was manifest in these last times for you**, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; **that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit** unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Peter 1:13, 18-23.

(1Th 4:9) But concerning love of the brethren ye have no need that one write unto you: **for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another;**

Taught of God. The heavenly class. The last class on this present earth

Further (1Th 4:10) for indeed ye do it toward all the brethren that are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, that ye abound more and more;

The word says abound more and more. But more and more would mean much more I think.

Consider this word, (1Th 4:11) and that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands, even as we charged you;

And again in (1Th 4:12) that ye may walk becomingly toward them that are without, and may have need of nothing." **That ye may walk becomingly toward them that are without. Can it be done. It's a peculiar walk accomplished by a peculiar people through the sanctifying power the Holy Spirit. We have a companion who has done it and who has the power to do it in us and through us.**

Here is the divine admonition on sanctification given in Eph:4:28-32, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you Eph: 4 : 29-32."

Ellen white by inspiration explains this divine word in depth, "We are counseled to let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth; but a corrupt communication is not simply something that is vile and vulgar. It is any communication that will shut from the mind the view of Christ, that will blot from the soul true sympathy and love. It is a communication in which the love of Christ is not expressed, but rather sentiments of an unchristlike character. It is that which brings oppression upon men, women, youth, and children, for whom Christ has given his life. It is in the decisions that are formulated against those who need help, and who will perish if they are left to die {SSW, January 1, 1896 par. 3}. Could a more powerful appeal be made by the heavenly comforter of truth to do away with all corrupt communication now and forever and be forever sanctified?

Now ITh 5:23 And may the God of peace himself make you holy in every way; and may your spirit and soul and body be free from all sin at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The inspired thoughts continue, "While men and women professing godliness are diseased from the crown of their head to the soles of their feet, while their physical, mental and moral energies are enfeebled through gratification of depraved appetite and excessive labor, how can they weigh the evidences of truth, and comprehend the requirements of God? If their moral and intellectual faculties are beclouded, they cannot appreciate the value of the atonement or the exalted character of the work of God, nor delight in the study of his word. How can a nervous dyspeptic be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh him for a reason of the hope that is in him, with meekness and fear?-- T Vol. I, p. 488. {HL 55.4}

Inspiration writes, "The children of God cannot glorify him with sickly bodies or dwarfed minds. Those who indulge in any species of intemperance, (lack of self governance) either in eating or drinking, waste their physical energies and weaken moral power.-- C. T. p. 53. {HL 55.2}

Here are a couple questions from the inspired pen brethren, "Are you standing on the foundation laid by Christ? Have you faith in him, who is made unto us "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"? His word is true, and it requires those who believe in him to be sanctified, soul, body, and spirit. Sanctification is the measure of our completeness. The moment we surrender ourselves to God, believing in him, we have his righteousness. We realize that we have been redeemed from sin, and we appreciate the sacrifice made to purchase our freedom. {RH, July 25, 1899 par. 13}

These divine promises are for our sanctification, (ITh 3:11) Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way unto you: (ITh 3:12) and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we also *do* toward you;

Further in (ITh 3:13) to the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

Oh what a privilege and joy to be called to sanctification. Should we not be glad, should we not be the happiest and the most peculiar people on earth? It's not a dreary thing brethren it's a heavenly experience. Unblamable in holiness. Unimaginable joy.

We have these comforting thoughts from God in (Eze 20:12) Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Jehovah that sanctifieth them.

Perfection and the spirit of holiness cannot be attained with diseased bodies and minds. -- T. Vol. I, p.554.

God tells us how He feels about us in the following passages. (Isa 29:22) Therefore thus saith Jehovah, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale. (Isa 29:23) But when he seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name; yea, they shall sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall stand in awe of the God of Israel. (Isa 29:24) They also that err in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmur shall receive instruction.

“When we are able to comprehend the character of God as did Moses, we too shall make haste to bow in adoration and praise. Jesus contemplated nothing less than "that the love wherewith Thou hast love me" [John 17:26.] should be in the hearts of his children, that they might impart the knowledge of God to others. {CE 75.1}

In Hosea 14:5, 7. **Hos 14:5** I will be as the dew to Israel; he will put out flowers like a lily, and send out his roots like Lebanon. **Hos 14:7** They will come back and have rest in his shade; their life will be made new like the grain, and they will put out flowers like the vine; his name will be like the wine of Lebanon.

“Christ demands undivided heart-service,—the entire use of mind, soul, heart, and strength. " For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." When we make this surrender, Christ sets our minds at rest, and consecrates our hearts and hands to his service. His wisdom gives us spiritual life, and enables us to manifest love to God and to one another. We reveal his grace in our characters; for we have his life. He presents us spotless before his Father; for we are sanctified through his blood. We are purged from dead works; for Jesus takes possession of the sanctified soul, to renew, sustain, and guide all its impulses, and give vitality to its purposes. Thus we become temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. {RH, July 25, 1899

Our salvation is complete, because it is founded on the accomplishment of a plan laid before the foundation of the world. Before Christ came, a ceremonial holiness could be obtained by offering the blood of bulls and of goats; but these sacrifices could not cleanse the conscience. They were but a representation of Christ, the great sacrifice. The substance of all the sacrifices and offerings, he came to this world to do God's will by offering himself. He came as the world's Redeemer, to stand at the head of humanity. The Holy Spirit comes to man through Christ. We are given a decided testimony regarding the value of Christ's offering. God's word declares, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It was a whole and entire sacrifice that was made for us. {RH, July 25, 1899 par. 14}

IPe 5:10 But God shows undeserved kindness to everyone. That's why he appointed Christ Jesus to choose you to share in his eternal glory. You will suffer for a while, but God will make you complete, steady, strong, and firm.” Will we let him? Isn't it time we let him? John says it is the last time, believe him.

Indeed a peculiar people indeed a sanctified people a victorious people a people wondered at.

(Heb 11:27) By faith he went out of Egypt, not being turned from his purpose by fear of the wrath of the king; for he kept on his way, as seeing him who is unseen.

This is the way of life – the sanctified way of living for the peculiar people of God.

There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So it was in the days of

Noah; so with Lot; so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days. Again the voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity. {PP 166.4}

Let the student take the Bible as his guide and stand firm for principle, and he may aspire to any height of attainment. All the philosophies of human nature have led to confusion and shame when God has not been recognized as all in all. But the precious faith inspired of God imparts strength and nobility of character. As His goodness, His mercy, and His love are dwelt upon, clearer and still clearer will be the perception of truth; higher, holier, the desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought is transformed by intercourse with God through the study of His word. Truth is so large, so far-reaching, so deep, so broad, that self is lost sight of. The heart is softened and subdued into humility, kindness, and love. {MH 465.3}

Would you become assimilated to the divine image? Would you be one who is hungering and thirsting after righteousness? Would you drink of the water which Christ shall give you, which shall be in you a well of water springing up into everlasting life? Would you bear fruit to the glory of God? Would you refresh others? Then with heart hungering for the bread of life, the word of God, search the Scriptures, and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. **Your soul's sanctification and righteousness will result from faith in the word of God.** which leads to obedience of its commands. Let the word of God be to you as the voice of God instructing you, and saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." {ST, September 5, 1895 par. 6}

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Then the coming of Jesus. Then sin would have an end, and we would enjoy sanctification forever, with no devil to tempt and lead us astray. And the blessed and eternal results will follow forever. This promise will hold and uphold us for all eternity thank the Lord. Hear God's sweet voice as he speaks hope and peace to us. Listen intently. (Eze 37:27) My tabernacle also shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.(Eze 37:28) And the nations shall know that I am Jehovah that sanctifieth Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God. Zechariah 13:9.

Therefore **the redeemed of the Lord** shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and **everlasting** joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11.

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