



SANCTIFICATION
IN
ACTION

SANCTIFICATION

“The act of becoming more personally dedicated to God; especially becoming more distinct, devoted, or morally pure”

Bible Sense Lexicon x

BACKGROUND

- Nancy's dementia
 - Growing in 2019-2020
 - Diagnosed October 2020
 - Under care of neurological and neuropsychological professionals
 - Strong plan to keep her at home with medication support
 - Trial and error to slow down and control symptoms x

HOW DOES SANCTIFICATION FIT IN ??

First - Understand caregiver challenges

- Four major cognitive losses in dementia
 - Understanding why
 - Seeing cause and effect
 - Handling sequences, dates, clock time
 - Prioritizing to what's important and not
- Additional problems
 - Anosognosia – Majority of patients are unaware they have a problem
 - “mindlessness” – unaware of current actions
- Impact on the caregiver
 - Need for constant oversight grows
 - Lack of cooperation with support efforts, guidelines, rules
 - Declining sleep
 - Heightened anxiety levels x

HOW DOES SANCTIFICATION FIT IN ?? (cont'd)

These set up a growing list of frustrations for both

- Debates then arguments over meds, food, hydration
- Her frustration at being managed, loss of independence
- Her need for female contact - but couldn't decide on effort
- Couldn't reach agreement on slightest things
- Wandering outside late at night after bed time
- FINALLY My anger at defiance, heightened by little sleep x

HOW DOES SANCTIFICATION FIT IN ?? (cont'd)

- Through all this, God finally got through to me
 - **WHY WAS I MAD AT HER ??**
- I was guilty of breaking a cardinal rule of dementia
 - The patient will reflect the mood of the caregiver
 - I was fueling the whole anger environment
- And I was guilty of scripture warnings against unjustified anger in many passages
- This led to months of study
 - Understanding anger and letting God deal with it
 - The concrete need for “dying to self” and “humility”
- **CONCLUSION**
 - I was angry at her because her actions interrupted **MY** goals !
 - I asked God to show me how to overcome this x

SPIRIT-LED APPROACH

- I was once again made aware of Eph 4.2

Conditioners for successful
tolerance



... with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, showing tolerance for one another in **love**

The two “foundational”
characteristics needed to foster
the middle three towards
tolerating another

SPIRIT-LED APPROACH *(cont'd)*

- Humility was the answer to attaining the rest
- Spirit guided me to Andrew Murray's works
 - Over 200 works of pragmatic application of Christian living principles presented in the New Testament
 - His main theme throughout was understanding the "self"
 - Specific works focusing on my problem were fed me in succession...
 - *The True Vine*
 - *Humility: The Beauty of Holiness*
 - *Absolute Surrender* x

THE TRUE VINE

John 15.1-5

- Jesus describes a model for spiritual growth
 - He is the Vine
 - We are the branches
 - The Father tends to the Vine and branches
- Basic truth - Teaches us perfect confidence
 - God does it all
 - We ourselves in His hands and trust Him x

THE TRUE VINE (cont'd)

What are the roles in this model ?

- The Vine
 - Bearing, strengthening, supplying, and inspiring all His branches.
 - Branch is entirely dependent on the vine
 - Keeps the fruit off the ground > Avoid Disease & sunlight
 - Creates and provides the life-giving sap > Creates, nourishes fruit
- The Branch
 - Stay attached to the Vine
 - Carry the sap to the fruit
 - Don't impede the sap
 - Note 15.4 "Abide in Me ..."
- The fruit
 - The branch bears it for the owner
- The model's purpose: bring God's saving love to men x

SO HOW DOES THIS DEAL WITH MY ANGER ??

Background understanding - The need for Sanctification

- Our sins were paid for by Christ on the cross
 - Gave us salvation, righteousness, justification
- But we sin daily
 - Interrupts our spiritual growth > fruit of the Spirit
- Our normal approach to spiritual growth
 - Holy Spirit convicts us of a sinful practice, habit, event
 - We try to avoid it and ask the Spirit to help > coach, aide
 - Won't work because there's still some of our effort involved
 - We get frustrated and lose enthusiasm to improve
 - Try to avoid sin harder, same results x

SO HOW DOES THIS DEAL WITH MY ANGER ?? (cont'd)

What the vine & branch model says should be happening

- The "sap" (Holy Spirit) wants to pass through the branch (believer)
 - He doesn't want us to help > it impedes His "flow"
 - Our own effort + Spirit's aid = imperfection
 - Interfering with His work grieves the Spirit
- Remain attached to the Vine > study/practice the word, pray
- John 15.5 > " ... apart from Me you can do nothing"
 - He's not a Helper but the **only** Doer x

OVERVIEW: HOLY SPIRIT & SANCTIFICATION

Foundation for the sanctification process

(Ezek 36.26-27)

- God created man's heart for His indwelling
- Man's heart was defiled and God could not tolerate being in it
- Salvation through Christ gave man a new spirit to replace the old
- Then God could put His Holy Spirit into a man's new heart
- Jesus said He came that we might have life more abundantly > enabled by Holy Spirit x

OVERVIEW: HOLY SPIRIT & SANCTIFICATION

(cont'd)

- Holy Spirit's full role

- Eph 3.16
 - " that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit **in** the inner man"
- Gal 5.22
 - "But the fruit **of the Spirit** is..."
- Activating the Holy Spirit for spiritual growth
 - Any success requires the same faith in the Spirit's work as for salvation
 - Believe and ask for His 100% filling & control as the prompt to sin 1st takes place
 - He is activated by ...
 - ...our complete admission we are incapable of any successful attempt at improving ourselves even with His help
 - "death of self" x

UNDERSTANDING “DEATH OF SELF”

Scripture says ...

- Matt 16.24
“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”
- Gal 5.24
“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”
- John 12.24
“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”
- Gal 2.20
“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God x

UNDERSTANDING “DEATH OF SELF” *(cont’d)*

Andrew Murray elaborates ...

- “This is the true self-denial to which our Saviour calls us, the acknowledgment that self has nothing good in it, except as an empty vessel which God must fill”
- “The moment God finds the creature abased and empty, His glory and power flow in to exalt and to bless”
- “The death to self is not your work, it is God’s work” x

UNDERSTANDING “DEATH OF SELF” (cont’d)

And summarily ...

" Place yourself before God in your utter helplessness; consent heartily to the fact of your impotence to slay or make alive yourself; sink down into your own nothingness, in the spirit of meek and patient and trustful surrender to God. Accept every humiliation, look upon every fellow-man who tries or vexes you, as a means of grace to humble you. Use every opportunity of humbling yourself before your fellow-men as a help to abide humble before God. God will accept such humbling of yourself as the proof that your whole heart desires it“

- Andrew Murray x

UNDERSTANDING “DEATH OF SELF” (cont’d)

Murray added this as the essence of Absolute Surrender

1 Ki 20.1-4

"And Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Ben-hadad, Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine and all that I have.” ^x

APPLYING THE TEACHING

The believer has two natures – new and old

- Rom 8.6
"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace"
- Rom 8.7-8
"...because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it **is not even able to do so**, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God"
- Rom 8.13
"... by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
- Bottom line
 - Any effort to partner with Spirit is still working from the flesh = tainted
 - Success comes only by giving Spirit full control x

APPLYING THE TEACHING *(cont'd)*

Jesus is the Master Model of allowing 100% Holy Spirit Control

- Lk 4.1
"Jesus, **full** of the Holy Spirit..."
"...was led around by the Spirit"
- 4.2-13
 - Jesus responds to Satan's prompts to sin by quoting truth from the Spirit's word
- 4.14
"And Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of** the Spirit..."
- Not surprising that Jesus allowed Spirit control
Jn 5.19 "...the Son can do nothing of Himself..."
- Phil 2.8
"...He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death..." x

APPLYING THE TEACHING (cont'd)

Continuous living mode

- Choose what is suitable to God and reject what is ungodly
 - Phil 4.8
"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."
 - Use the word to recognize the temptation and call on the Spirit to fill you and take control > no self resistance
- Die to your own ambitions - small, medium, and big ^x

APPLYING THE TEACHING (cont'd)

- David speaks about God being our God, our Fortress, our Refuge, our Strong Tower, our Strength, and our Salvation
- Consider God's provision in light of giving Spirit full control
 - 2 Cor 9.8
"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;"
 - Phil 4.19 "...God will supply all your needs..."
 - Phil 2.13
"for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."
- "God must work in us before He can work through us"
- Warren Wiersbe
- **Bottom line: Branch must allow Spirit 100% control to produce fruit** x

APPLYING THE TEACHING (cont'd)

- The Spirit is ready to take over ... if we let Him
 - Rom 8.9

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. ..." *NIV*
 - Gal 5.22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control..."
 - Phil 2.13

"...it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure".

 - No hint of a partnership here ... it is all God !
 - Murray: When God has worked the renewed will, God will give the power to accomplish what that will desires
 - Gal 3.5

"So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing **with faith?**" *x*

APPLYING THE TEACHING (cont'd)

- 100 % filling by the Spirit necessary for success
 - Eph 5.18
 - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit"
 - "filled"= Gk pleroo /play·ro·o/ > to be filled to the full > 100 %!
 - Col 3.15a
 - "Let the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts... "
 - Rom 12.1-2
 - "Therefore I urge you, brethren ... to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice"
 - "**present**" = to place a person or thing at one's disposal > Holy Spirit
 - "...And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ..."
 - "**be transformed**" = Holy Spirit does the transforming.. Given 100% control x

APPLYING THE TEACHING (cont'd)

- The Spirit waits to be depended upon
 - Murray: “The new will is a permanent gift, an attribute of the new nature. The power to do is not a permanent gift, but must be each moment received from the Holy Spirit. It is the man who is conscious of his own impotence as a believer who will learn that by the Holy Spirit he can live a holy life”
 - Gal 5.16-17
 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit... so that you may not do the things that you please"
 - When a Christian does yield to the Spirit's 100% filling & control...
 - promise is that he "...will not..." > the double negative (Gk ou mē) is emphatic
 - "...carry out the desire of the flesh" > complete, fulfill (Gk teleo /tel·eh·o) x

A BIG CAUTION !

- It will work very little if you interfere with the Spirit, i.e. impede the flow of the “sap”
 - 1 Thess 5.19 “Do not quench the Spirit “
 - Eph 4.30 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...”
- “Before we can be filled with the Spirit, the desire to be filled must be all consuming . . . The degree of fullness in any life accords perfectly with the intensity of true desire. We have as much of God as we actually want”

A. W. Tozer
- “As the Hebrews were promised the land, but had to take it by force, one town at a time, so we are promised the gift of self-control, yet we also must take it by force”

Ed Welch, “Self-Control: The Battle Against ‘One More’ “ x

SUMMARY

- Holy Spirit is fully in us
 - Christ gave believer a new spirit
 - Christ also sent His Holy Spirit to live in that spirit
 - He is available and active in conviction and in teaching
 - BUT ... He must be activated in faith to take over control
- Personal effort at spiritual growth gives limited results
 - Believer's personal abilities and will are imperfect
 - Impact will be failure of attaining the mark God wants
 - Getting in Spirit's way by “helping” quenches His work in us
 - Answer is to remove all self efforts and **ASK** Spirit for 100% filling and control, then follow His instruction x

CONCLUDING THOUGHT

George Müller, famed orphanage director of Bristol, England, was once asked the secret of his service. It was known far and wide that God had met his needs at the orphanage without his making them known. How did he exist like this? The simple answer startled the questioner.

Müller replied,

“There was a day when I died, utterly died.” As he spoke, he bent lower and lower until he almost touched the floor, displaying his submission before God. “I died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will,” the great man of faith explained. “I died to the world, its approval or censure. I died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends. And since then, I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.” x