



April 28, 2024



God Is Working in my life

23 "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. 25 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

Review-

Paul had just rattled off a huge list of things we are supposed to do, now he tells us how we are supposed to do it.

GOD IS:

- **Sanctifying me** God of **Peace**

ἁγιάζω | **hagiázō**, hag-ee-ad'-zo; from **G40**; to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:—hallow, be holy, sanctify.

John 17:17- Sanctify G37 them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

20:32- And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 26:18- To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified G37 by faith that is in me.

Ephesians 5:26- That he might sanctify G37 and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

1 Peter 3:15- But sanctify G37 the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Positional sanctification and practical sanctification

Philippians 1:6; 2:12, 13

The emphasis here is on completely: “The adjective (holoeleis), occurring only here in the New Testament, is a compound of holos, ‘whole, entire,’ and telos, ‘end.’ Its basic connotation is ‘**wholly** attaining the end, reaching the intended goal,’ hence has the force of no part being left unreached.” (Hiebert)

Paul made it clear that sanctification is God’s work in us. He puts this emphasis in the words Himself, in be preserved, in He who calls you is faithful, and in who will do it. This emphasis completes Paul’s previous exhortations. In all that he told the Christian to do in 1 Thessalonians 4:1 through 1 Thessalonians 5:22, he never intended that they do those things in their own power.

More Christians are defeated on account of self-reliance than on account of Satanic attack.

“The way in which he effects the transition... indicates that it is only in the power of the God on whom he calls that his exhortations can be brought to fruition. ‘I have been urging you to do certain things, but it is only in God’s strength that you will be able to do them.’ (Morris)

Because the soul and spirit both have reference to the non-material part of man, they are easily confused. Often an experience intended to build up the **spirit** only blesses the **soul**. There is nothing wrong with soulish excitement and blessing, but there is nothing in it that builds us up spiritually. This is why many Christians go from one exciting experience to another but never really grow **spiritually** — the ministry they receive is **soulish**.

Sanctification occurs chiefly in the heart, the mind, the inner being. It is not concerned with modifying one’s outward behavior—even if that behavior were in line with God’s law—apart from the changed heart (cf. [Rom. 3:21–23, 28; 4:4–5; 5:1–2](#)), nor is it circumscribing one’s attitudes and actions to an arbitrary code of ethics (cf. [Rom. 14:17; Col. 2:16–23](#)). Sanctification does affect a Christian’s outward actions (cf. [John 15:4–5; Eph. 2:10](#)), but it is essentially an inward grace. It is illustrated by what the apostle Peter wrote to believing wives: “Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the

hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God” ([1 Peter 3:3–4](#)).

Christians must remember that sanctification is God’s priority for their lives. It is His will for them ([1 Thess. 4:3](#); cf. [Heb. 12:14](#)) and the result of Christ’s death on their behalf—“who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” ([Titus 2:14](#)). All believers are to live for sanctification. They have no other goal in life than to be like Jesus Christ: “The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked” ([1 John 2:6](#)). ([First & Second Thessalonians MacArthur New Testament Commentary](#))

Dichotomy vs. trichotomy of man debate.

Body- world conscious

Soul- self conscious

Spirit- God conscious

➤ **Preserving me**

τηρέω tērēō, tay-reh'-o; from τερός terós (a watch; perhaps akin to G2334); to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon; and thus differing from G5442, which is properly to prevent escaping; and from G2892, which implies a fortress or full military lines of apparatus),

It is God Who saves, so it is God Who keeps. God called us in the first place, and He will preserve us to the end of this age and to the endless ages to come!

Matthew 28:4- And for fear of him the keepers G5083 did shake, and became as dead men.

John 14:23- Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep G5083 my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth G5083 not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

➤ **WORKING IN ME**

Faithful

24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Ray Pritchard asks "How many people do you know who do exactly what they say? Before you answer, let me rephrase the question? How many do you know who do exactly what they say every single time? Now before you answer, let me rephrase it

again. How many people do you know who do exactly what they say every single time and do it with such thoroughness and perfection that you never have to worry about anything they say or do? Again, before you answer, let me ask it one more time: How many people do you know who, no matter what the circumstances and no matter how they feel, will always do exactly what they say they will do every single time and do it with the same thoroughness and perfection that you never have to worry about anything they say or do because you know if they say it, they will definitely do it without fail, without change and without excuse?...

God's faithfulness means that because he is the truth, everything he says and does is certain. That means he is 100% reliable 100% of the time. He does not fail, forget, falter, change or disappoint. In the words of Lewis Sperry Chafer: He not only advances and confirms that which is true, but in faithfulness abides by his promises, and executes every threat or warning he has made. He says what he means and means what he says and therefore does everything he says he will do.

But the Lord is **faithful**, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ([2 Thessalonians 3:3](#))

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and **faithful** high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ([Hebrews 2:17](#))

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called **Faithful** and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ([Revelation 19:11](#))

William Hendriksen rightly observes that "Divine faithfulness is a wonderful comfort to those who are loyal. It is a very earnest warning for those who might be inclined to become disloyal." Indeed, God's **faithfulness** exhibits His holy character as worthy of the love and confidence of man and assures us that He will fulfill all of His promises to bless as well as to justly judge sin.

MAKE SURE TO:

Pray

- **Spurgeon** wrote "If I were allowed to offer only one request to you, it would be this: "Brethren, pray for us." Of what use can our ministry be without the divine blessing, and how can we expect the divine blessing unless it be sought for by the church of God? I would say it even with tears, "Brethren, pray for us." Do not restrain prayer. On the contrary, be abundant in intercession, for only so can our

prosperity as a church be increased, or even continued....Dismiss me or else intercede for me."

• **Between the humble and the contrite heart and the majesty of heaven there are no barriers; the only password is prayer.**

- If you are swept off your feet, it's time to get on your knees.
- The following phrase was scrawled on the wall of an underground bomb shelter during the blitz in London (1940)- ***If your knees are knocking, kneel on them.***
- The man who kneels to God can stand up to anything.

Puritan **John Bunyan**- ***Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.***

Value

2 Corinthians 13:13; 3 John 1:14

Encourage

Colossians 4:16

Ill. Share the Scriptures with others! Bob