

*Men of God:
A Roadmap for Spiritual Growth*

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Session 2: Hindrances and Helps
to Growth Part 2
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Outline

Week 1: Men of God: Hindrances and Helps to Growth Part 1

Week 2: Men of God: Hindrances and Helps to Growth Part 2

Week 3: Men of God: Time and Priorities

Week 4: Men of God: Friendship and Community

Week 5: Men of God: Thoughts and Feelings

Week 6: Men of God: Home and Family

Week 7: Men of God: Work and Play

Week 8: Men of God: Money and Stewardship

1. Considering Sanctification: The Really Good, Bad News

Unless we understand that spiritual growth is not the product of mechanical processes that can be applied in scientifically predictable ways, one of two things will happen in your heart:

- You will content yourself with *doing*, and with *formalities* and *disciplines* and *duties*, and you will take your satisfaction in your performance, and congratulate yourself that you are not like other men

1. Considering Sanctification: The Really Good, Bad News

Unless we understand that spiritual growth is not the product of mechanical processes that can be applied in scientifically predictable ways, one of two things will happen in your heart:

- Convinced that holiness is nothing more than a matter of *human exertion and diligence* you set out to change your ways, tighten up your practice, implement new routines, cultivate new disciplines. *And then you fail.*

2. Sanctification by Grace: God's Work and Ours

“Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.” (WSC 35)

2. Sanctification by Grace: God's Work and Ours

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

2. Sanctification by Grace: God's Work and Ours

“Therefore, my beloved as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)

3. The Phases of Sanctification: Definitive and Progressive

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.” (Romans 6:1-7)

3. The Phases of Sanctification: Definitive and Progressive

“When a person dies he is no longer active in the sphere or realm or relation in reference to which he has died. His connection with that realm has been dissolved; he has no further communications with those who still live in that realm, nor do they have with him. He is no longer *en rapport* with life here; it is no longer the sphere of life and activity for him... In accord with this analogy, the person who lives in sin, or to sin, lives and acts in the realm of sin- it is the sphere of his life and activity. And the person who died to sin no longer lives in that sphere. His tie with it has been broken, and he has been translated into another realm... This is the decisive cleavage that the apostle has in view; it is the foundation upon which rests his whole conception of a believer’s life, and it is a cleavage, a breach, a translation as really and decisively true in the sphere of moral and religious relationship as in the ordinary experience of death. There is a once-for-all definitive and irreversible breach with the realm in which sin reigns in and unto death.” (John Murray, *Definitive Sanctification*, in *Collected Shorter Writings, Vol. 2: Systematic Theology*, [Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 1977] 279)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

“Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and *are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*” (WSC 35)

These, we might call the parts of sanctification, and we need to practice both, by the grace of God. The puritans called them **mortification** and **vivification**: killing sin and living for God.

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Mortification

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:13)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Mortification

“the believer is not so delivered from sin in its lust and defilement but that he needs to be actively engaged in the business of the slaughterhouse with reference to his own sin.”

(Murray, *Progressive Sanctification*, in *Collected Shorter Writings*, 297)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Mortification

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” (Colossians 3:5-10)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Mortification

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” (Matthew 5:27-30)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Vivification

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

Vivification

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”

(2 Corinthians 3:18)

4. The Parts of Sanctification: Dying to Live

God really does promise us that, to the degree that we will study the Word, love the Word, know the Word, and work to believe and obey the Word, to that degree we will be transformed.

The primary means by which the Holy Spirit will make you like Jesus is the Bible.

Link to Resources

<https://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/series-index/men-of-god/>