



### 3 TRANSFORMATIONAL STAGES OF SANCTIFICATION

**“The generic meaning of sanctification is ‘the state of proper functioning.’ To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer.”**

**“A pen is ‘sanctified’ when used to write. Eyeglasses are “sanctified” when used to improve sight.**

**In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God’s design and purpose.”**

*From Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

#### 1. POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION (Justification)

**At salvation we are made right with God by God:**

1. Forgiving all past, present, and future sins.
2. Adopting us into God’s family as His child.
3. Making us heirs and joint or co-heirs with Jesus Christ.

**This is past and is completed at salvation.**

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him... **Colossians 1:21, CSB**

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

<sup>15</sup> ...[You] have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. **Romans 8:15a-17**

#### 3. PERFECTED OR ULTIMATE SANCTIFICATION

**(Glorification)**

**The final transformation, either at death or when Christ returns, when we are changed to be like Jesus into complete perfection.**

**This is future for all believers and only will be completed when we are with Christ.**

<sup>20</sup> Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

**Philippians 3:20-21, CSB**

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 1:6**

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **1 John 3:1-3**

#### 2. PROGRESSIVE OR EXPERIENTIAL SANCTIFICATION (Transformation)

**The present process where the Holy Spirit helps us to become more like Jesus as evidenced by our everyday walk.**

**This is present and ongoing.**

<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:17-28, CSB**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

1. **WE WERE ALIENATED** from God by sin until He did what we couldn’t do: exchanged our sin for His righteousness.
2. **WE ARE BEING** transformed by the Spirit into the image of His dear Son.

**3. WE WILL BE** like Him for we shall see Him as He is.

**JESUS' "HARD WAY" EXAMPLE**

Drawn from John Townsend's "The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in Doing Hard Things the Right Way"

**This is "the habit of doing what is best, rather than what is comfortable, to achieve a worthwhile outcome.**

**"...This habit focuses on doing whatever is best to reach the good goal, even if it is difficult, uncomfortable, takes longer, and requires more energy."**

**"God originated the Hard Way, and he lives it.**

**All through the Bible, he does the best thing, even if it is a difficult thing.**

**HE NEVER AVOIDS IT.**

**The best example of this is Jesus, who suffered and died for no other reason than his love for a world that didn't want him.**

*But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*  
Isaiah 57:7

*'When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.* Luke 9:51

**"...Ultimately, the Hard Way is simply God's Way."**

**"In healthy individuals, there is a gap, a space, between where they are and where they want to be. This gap is what creates and promotes a desire to change."**

**"Consider the person who has no gap. [He/she] thinks of [themselves] as perfect, ideal..."**

**"Men and women with this kind of attitude, I have found, usually have to experience difficult losses and relational conflicts before they wake up to the reality that we all have a gap, whether we are aware of it or not."**

**"THE PRESCRIPTION LOOKS LIKE THIS:**

**To live the Hard Way, we must experience the gap between where you are and where you want to be. And we must come to believe that dealing with the gap is our problem and our responsibility."**

**REPENTANCE TO TRANSFORMATIVE FULLNESS OR SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNAWARENESS OF EMPTINESS**  
Luke 15:11-24

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.'

- 1. Heading down a path to pain and suffering begins when we seek to fulfill human desires without seeking God's way of providing for them and/or not waiting on His timing.**

*So he divided his property between them.*

- 2. God may put up obstacles by His Word, conviction of the Holy Spirit, and thru godly caring others, but He won't take away our freewill to choose the path they will follow in this life.**

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

- 3. When we move away from where there is personal accountability so to have freedom to live as we please, we risk losing self-control and ending up squandering everything of value.**

<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

- 4. It may take a while, but in the end with all resources depleted, we will eventually experience deep need.**



<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

- 5. When we discover the gap between our need and our resources, our first instinct is often to reach out to those we had unhealthy relationships with, only to find they have no interest in helping us or are simply in no position to help us because they are just as much in need of help as we are.**

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

- 6. However, when we take an honest and comprehensive assessment of our lives, it can help us "come to our senses" opening doors to begin to identify steps to take towards closing the gap between where we are, and the godly well-being God has always had in mind for us.**

<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**7. Many times we underestimate what can happen in our relationships with God, self, and others when we humble ourself and repent.**

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

**8. Our restoration needs to begin with the humble experience of confession of sin, recognition of our unworthiness of God’s mercy, that leads to repentance – changing directions.**

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’ <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

**9. We need to accept God’s forgiveness and look to Him to help us clean up our mess.**

**10. We also need to show thankfulness to God for His mercy, forgiveness, and patient love by committing to being faithful to His ways!!**

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But ...

he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him ...

<sup>29</sup> ... but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

**11. We need to realize how empty and discontented our lives are when “being good” is just for reward.**

**12. We need to be thankful for the blessings that come from simply walking in faith in God’s ways, including minimizing unnecessary self-inflicted trouble.**

**13. We need to rejoice and not be jealous when a prodigal comes home and begins experiencing God’s best, because at one time that was all of us.**

### **BIBLICAL KEYS TO INNER TRANSFORMATION**

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.*

<sup>2</sup> *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

**Romans 12:1-2, CSB**

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own  
understanding.*

<sup>6</sup> *In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.*

<sup>7</sup> *Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.*

<sup>8</sup> *It will be healing to your body*

**[literally “navel”:**

**the essential connection for the source of life]**

*And refreshment to your bones.*

**[Bones give structure and strength to the whole body and contains marrow which its major function is to produce blood cells for healthy life and remove old cells from the circulation.]**

**Proverbs 3:5-8, NASB**

**AT LEAST ONE WAY THIS WEEK I WILL TRY TO PUT THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE IS:**

**Weekly Going Deeper Study Guide**  
**FOR THE GREAT JOURNEY OF INNER CHANGE & OUTER PURPOSE**

- Before beginning each day simply ask God to help you see things that He would have you to see.
- When finished, pray again asking for the faith and the courage to follow His lead in areas He speaks to you about.

**DAY 1:** 1. Without rushing, read through this week's lesson.  
1. Paraphrase in 2 or 3 sentences what in your mind is the main message you get out of this lesson.

**DAY 2:** 1. Carefully read and meditate on each of the scriptures in this week's lesson.  
2. Identify the one that stands out the most to you and rewrite it in your own words.

**DAY 3:** Pick out one verse or passage from this week's lesson (**How about the verse/passage from day #2**) that means the most to you or some other verse that comes to mind related to this week's lesson. Write it on a small card, and try to memorize it or at least read and meditate on it several times through the next days.

The verse(s) I chose: \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 4:** 1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down any things you see that God would want you to avoid, change, or give up.

**DAY 5:** 1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down the most positive thing you see that you would really like to see become part of your life.

**HERE IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN GROUP AS TO HOW PUTTING THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE WENT THIS WEEK:**