

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 13 – The Holy Spirit – & Sanctification

Outline By: Mark Knowles 9/15/19 AM

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. (1 Peter 1:2)

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

What does the Holy Spirit sanctify us to do? There are many possible answers to that question, but I have only chosen one that I believe every Christian including myself struggles with more than any other. The challenge is found in Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Selfishness is the root of nearly all our sins. It diminishes God and places self on the throne of our lives. There is only one power that can free us from the tyranny of self-interest, and that is the transforming and sanctifying power that comes when we lay our lives at the foot of the cross, get born again from above, and receive the Holy Spirit.

And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." (Mark 8:32-33)

The hard part of sanctification is denying self. Cross bearing requires that self gets left behind. The story of Achan in Joshua 7 and his decision to steal those forbidden articles in the battle of Jericho, is a great example of what it means to be self-focused. The very nature of self-centeredness means that it is never isolated to the person guilty of it – it has a negative impact on everyone who surrounds the selfish person. The process by which the Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome self-centeredness begins with convicting us of our sin.

Selfishness is insidious because it is so easily detected in others and practically impossible to detect in ourselves. That is why it takes the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to convict us of it. Once we have been convicted, we have to make the deliberate choice to obey that conviction.

The call of the gospel is a call to be a Christ-centered people, more like the disciples who literally followed the Lord. It is only this kind of discipleship that can face the destructive self-interest of this age and overcome it.