

Kingdom Prayer for Sanctification, 2

Have you ever resolved to obey God fully, love everyone, return a blessing for a curse, remain calm in any disagreement, only to have it end in a steamy stink pile in a matter of minutes? If yes, we need to understand the work God undertakes in sanctifying us, and why he requires that we go through it. Of course, God could glorify us and skip sanctification altogether, but he wants us to understand more about the extent of our corruption and his holiness.

John Piper, the well-known reformed Baptist preacher, contends that 95 percent of our life is unpremeditated, meaning that our words and actions spill out spontaneously. He grants that the 95 percent number is his, and he invites us to use our own estimate. The point is that the root of our sin is so deep that we cannot control it on the surface. It just spews forth. We must be transformed by the complete renewal of our minds. God's revealed will for us is found in the Bible and is expressed there in final and decisive authority.

Romans 12:2

²Do 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.

Luke 6:45

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Once born again, the new Christian begins the long, challenging, sometimes humiliating process of becoming holy. We have been justified by faith in Christ, and finally we want to please him, but we are still fallen and we do not have the power to do it. So we pray for God's power to work in us, to change us.

My glorious and gracious Father, I want to live to obey and please you, but just as I couldn't save myself, I can't fully obey you as you command. I pray that you will give me the grace to love your Word and that you will compel me to read it carefully and studiously. Make reading your Word a joy to me that I refuse to do without. Renew my mind completely; rip out my root sins, show them to me and horrify me with their filth. Make me hate my sin and earnestly confess them all, with complete confidence that the blood of Jesus has paid for all of them. Teach me the way of righteousness and provide the power to change even me. I pray in the name of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.