

Kingdom Prayers for Sanctification, 5

The maturing Christian quickly learns that overcoming sin isn't easy, and fighting it often seems futile. He wonders why this is taking so long and why it's so hard. All the while, he learns more of his inner corruption and the impotence of human power to change his ungodly behavior.

Maybe God expects me to *really* trust him. Maybe he's *teaching* me that he *is* King and I'm not nearly as wonderful as I thought (think). After all, I can't control my thoughts and words even when I want to. Must I learn to trust God entirely and myself much less? Must I take up my cross and follow him no matter the cost? Whatever notion I had about salvation equaling smooth sailing into port is shattered. Sin and I are the problem, still.

Jesus bought my life with his blood and he demands my praise, worship, obedience and love. My works weren't decisive in my salvation, yet they are evidence of God's saving work in me. May God give me the grace to continually make my calling and election sure, by working out my salvation in fear and trembling, ever seeking to fill my heart with Jesus Christ!

Philippians 2:12

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Lord, you are a faithful teacher, and you use many mysterious and effective ways to assure that I learn. I am so grateful for your salvation and the new heart you've given me, but at the same time, I'm surprised and appalled by the power sin still has in me. The overt, willful sins seem to be mostly over, but the sins of heart, thought and mouth continue to spew forth. I pray that you will purify me to the root of my soul, and cut away the remaining desire of self-righteousness and pride. I want to love you with all my heart, soul and mind, so I will know that you are the utmost desire of my heart. That all the satisfaction worldly pleasures can bring, pale in comparison to you! Give me a heart for you oh Lord, so I will know the truth and will gladly proclaim the Word of the Almighty God! In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

