

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Our presentation will be divided into four parts:

CONVICTION
CONVERSION
SANCTIFICATION
WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

The source of this presentation is the Word of God.

II Peter 1:20-21:

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

CONVICTION

In the first three chapters of the Bible we learn how mankind fell from God's grace.

Genesis 1:1:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Genesis 1:26:

"And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Genesis 2:7:

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2:8:

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed."

Genesis 2:15-18:

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 3:6:

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

Genesis 3:8:

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."

As a result of man's disobedience, the sinful nature entered into the world.

Romans 5:12:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Romans 5:19:

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Romans 7:18-24:

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: But the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Conviction is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to awaken men's consciences to their lost estate and to lead them to repentance and a life of righteousness.

St. John 16:8:

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Acts 2:37:

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

CONVERSION/REPENTANCE

Conviction (guilt for our sins) brings on a decision: Shall I continue in sin or shall I change? How do I change?

Acts 3:19:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Prayer to God/Repentance

Psalm 51:2:

"Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."

Psalm 51:7:

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Have faith in God and receive the gift of forgiveness.

Ephesians 2:8:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

True repentance means to turn from sin (to be converted) and dedicate our lives to God by faith that He is able to forgive and prepare our hearts for His Spirit.

I John 5:4:

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Acts 3:19:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

SANCTIFICATION

The word "sanctify" is defined as: To set apart to sacred purpose or to a religious use; to free from sin.

Sanctification In The Old Testament

Genesis 2:3:

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

Anything that is devoted to or set aside for God and His service is sanctified. There is a double aspect to this meaning. First, a separation from everything that contaminates and perverts. A second positive aspect, is something or someone who is devoted wholly to God and His use. The Old Testament taught that only God is Holy and that things sanctified are those set apart for His service.

Sanctification In The New Testament

The New Testament meaning of sanctification is probably best understood by considering the way it is used in relation to the mission of Jesus. Jesus made it clear that He was interested in cleansing men inwardly, thereby making them fit for fellowship with God. It is the Holy Spirit that accomplishes this work of grace.

John 17:17-19:

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

Luke 11:13:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Do We Need To Be Sanctified To Walk With God?

I Corinthians 3:16:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

I John 3:8:

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

I John 3:9:

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

How Are We Sanctified?

Before we can be sanctified, we must repent of all the sins we have committed against God and receive remission or forgiveness of these sins from Him. Once we understand that God has forgiven all our sins and we are willing to consecrate our all to Him in faith, He will perform a second work in our lives. This work is sanctification by the Holy Spirit of God.

Consecration means the giving of all to God, completely. We rely upon God's work in the soul -- regeneration, the making of a new man, the creating of a new being, the giving of a new life, removing from us the desire to sin.

The total work of grace on the soul of man cures two problems. The first is the forgiveness of all actual sins of the past, the guilt associated with those sins, and the preparing of our soul for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the blessing of the Holy Spirit in our life is the cleansing of our soul from all unrighteousness, which is sin, with a constant abiding presence of God in our life.

I John 1:9:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Acts 26:18:

"To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

II Peter 1:4:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Now that we have made a decision to turn our lives over to God ... We have been forgiven ... We are sanctified What does this mean in our daily lives --

Webster's definition of WALK is: To follow a certain course.

When we're "Walking in the Spirit," we are following the course God has laid out for us.

A Spirit-filled life is a life of working in harmony (together) with the Holy Spirit. Walking together as one. We are not in this alone.

I. The Change

II Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become NEW."

A definite change has taken place in our life. We are NEW creatures in Christ. But everything does not necessarily change. We still have our same jobs, responsibilities, families, etc. We still have to face some of the same things we did before.

John 17:15: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

The difference now is that we have God walking with us to be our guide.

God may also change our direction.

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God has a plan for us far beyond what we can imagine. We must trust that He knows what is best for us.

II Corinthians 3:5: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God."

We are not sufficient within ourselves to walk this way. We need God every step of the way.

II. The Power

God has given us His Power to enable us to live a sanctified life.

Webster's definition of Power is: the ability to do or act; vigor; strength; force.

We can know that we have God's strength -- His force -- behind us!

Ephesians 1:18-22: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his POWER to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty POWER, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet..."

His power is above any other. And it cannot be controlled by us. It is there to help us carry out HIS WILL. Not for our own selfish use (to simply make our lives easier). It is a very REAL POWER within us.

He also gives us "tools" to help us in our daily walk.

HIS WORD:

Colossians 2:6-7: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith..."

Roots -- give nourishment...give life.

We get our nourishment through His Word.

Psalms 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

It is also there for guidance and direction.

PRAYER:

This is our communication with God.

Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread."

We can ask God for what we need each day and He can supply that.

III. THE ONGOING RELATIONSHIP

This relationship is made up of everything we have discussed: Our Commitment to Him,
Trusting in His Power,
Reading His Word,
Prayer.

It is an ongoing commitment to God that no matter what, we will serve Him. It is daily walk where we let God have control of our lives and look to Him for guidance.

The sanctified life is a wonderful one. God deals with us as individuals. No two of us are the same or have the same set of circumstance in life. But our God knows all about each of us and how to deal with our individual situations. If we will be faithful to Him, we can be victorious.

I Corinthians 15:57-58: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

ADDITIONAL READING

CONVICTION:

Acts 16:29-30
Acts 24: 24-25

CONVERSION:

Psalm 51	Malachi 4:5-6	Luke 18:10-14
Isaiah 1:16-18	Matthew 3:8	Acts 16:30-31
Isaiah 35:5	Luke 5:16-26	Romans 5:1
Jonah 3	Luke 15:11-32	II Cor. 7:9-10
		James 5:19-20

SANCTIFICATION

Old Testament:

Exodus 19:10	Jeremiah 1:4-5
Exodus 13:2	II Chronicles 7:15-16
Ezekiel 37:28	

New Testament:

Matthew 5:6
John 3:1-7
Acts 1:8

How Are We Sanctified:

Matthew 5:6	Hebrews 9:11-16
I John 1:7	Hebrews 10:14-17
I John 3:5	Hebrews 13:20-21

Additional Reading (Sanctification):

John 3	Romans 5-8
John 14-17	Ephesians 2-3
Acts 2	II Corinthians 6:16-18
	I John 1-5

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16-26
II John 4-6

Power:

Acts 1:7-8
Ephesians 6:10-17
II Corinthians 4:6-10

Being Victorious:

II Timothy 4:6-8
Romans 8:35-39