



*Series Title—Spiritual Growth*

*Part Nine—Be Sanctified*

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7*

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*Objective Sentence:* Everyone can grow spiritually by making nine commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ: (1) Where it all Begins (2) Give Your Full Attention (3) Make a Calendar Clock Commitment (4) Love the Church (5) Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit (6) Be A Witness for Christ (6) Witness you're your Words (6) Witness with Your Life (7) Be A Servant (8) Give (9) Be Sanctified.

*Introduction; Pastor Dan:* Why doesn't God instantly snatch every trace of sin out of our lives the moment you and I invite Jesus to become our Lord and Savior. God instantly delivered me from an addiction to tobacco the night I made my first commitment to Him. But three other vices took me years to conquer—alcohol, lust and resentment. Why didn't He take everything plaguing my life when I made that first commitment to Him? I've come to believe that He lets things remain in us so that we will learn to trust Him; so that we will experience His amazing grace; so we will seek Him and learn to believe His word. God focuses on our heart and leaves the rest of the house [body and soul] for us to clean through His power. If God hasn't taken some things out of your life; they have been left there so you might seek Him, experience His power and take it out yourself. If God does everything for us we will become like spoiled children whose parents do everything for them and they learn to do nothing for themselves.

**#1. *Be Sanctified*** (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5,7 *It is God's will that you should be sanctified, that you should avoid sexual immorality and each of you should learn to control his or her own body in a way that is holy and honorable; not in the passion of lust like the people who don't know God, for God has not called you to be impure but to live a holy life. Therefore whoever rejects this instruction does not reject man but God who gives you His Holy Spirit.*)

- A. **Pastor Dan:** *There are two aspects of salvation: one has to do with what God has accomplished for us through His death on the cross [God's work of justification] and the other has to do with what we accomplish through our relationship with Jesus and His relationship with us [our work—sanctification].*
- B. **Pastor Dan:** *God empowers our lives by His Spirit so that we can keep that which He commands us to do. Our challenge is to draw close to Him even when we have fallen flat on our faces. Brother Lawrence: When I fail in my duty I simply admit my fault saying to God, I shall forever do likewise if You leave me to myself. Pastor Dan: Pray your problems out of you but don't all your problems to keep you from prayer. For if you do not pray then you will not have power and if you do not have power then you will be overcome by your problems and fail.*
1. **Character** (2 *Corinthians 3:18* And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.** *E. Stanley Jones:* We are transformed into the image of that on which we habitually concentrate.)
- a. **Ralph Waldo Emerson:** What lies beyond us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
  - b. **Steven Covey:** Sow a thought reap an action; sow an action reap a habit; sow a habit reap a character; sow a character reap a destiny.
  - c. **Matthew 16:24** He or she that saves their lives shall lose them and they who lose their lives for my sake shall find them. Unless you take up your cross and follow me you have no part with me
  - d. **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave His life for me. **A. W. Tozer:** There are three marks of those who are being crucified: (1) One, they face only one direction. he. (2) Two, there is no turning back. (3) And three, they no longer have any plans of their own.
  - e. **Romans 8:11-17** If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore ladies and gentlemen you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live according to the flesh you will die but if you through the Spirit put to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive a Spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead you received God's Holy Spirit when He adopted you as His very own sons and daughters. And now we call Him Father, Our 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 joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.
  - f. **Helen Keller:** Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.

- h. *Pastor Dan:* When I first came into the church world it was common to hear people talk about being saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. The definition of sanctification: (1) **To set apart** or consecrate for sacred use; (2) To make holy; purify. Synonyms: Purification, dedication, exoneration, absolution, vindication, regeneration. *P.C. Nelson:* Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil by dedicating oneself to God.
- i. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For God made Jesus who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. **Conduct** (**Colossians 3:1-6** *If then you have been raised with Christ seek those things which are above ... for you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God. And when Christ who our life shall appear we shall also appear with Him in glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.*)

- a. *Pastor Dan:* Conduct is the rule with which we measure character.  
*Author Unknown:* Behavior is the mirror in which everyone shows their image.
- b. **Colossians 2:6-10** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
- c. *Vince Lombardi:* The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.
- d. **1 John 2:15-17** Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and pride of life is not of God but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust in it, but he or she who does the will of God will abide forever.
- e. *Henry Ward Beecher:* We never know how much one loves till we know how much he or she is willing to endure and suffer for us; and it is the suffering element that measures love. The characters that are great must, of necessity, be characters that shall be willing, patient and strong to endure for others.
- f. *James Christensen:* The purpose of Christianity is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy; it makes us great enough for life.
- g. *Pastor Dan:* There are three issues that you and I must deal with in our walk through life. The surface issues—those sins we can see and smell in a person's life. Next are those lying below the surface in the swallow areas of our hearts which are the emotional issues such as inferiority complexes, fear, anger, unforgiveness, depression, and all the negative family members associated with attitude. Then there are the spiritual issues of the heart—the motive behind all that we do.

- h. **Ephesians 5:3-5** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

*Closing and Invitation; C.S. Lewis:* When I was a child, I often had a toothache, and I knew that if I went to my mother, she would give me something which would deaden the pain for that night and let me get to sleep. But I did not go to my mother—at least not till the pain became very bad. And the reason I did not go was this: I did not doubt she would give me the aspirin; but I knew she would also do something else. I knew she would take me to the dentist the next morning. I could not get what I wanted out of her without getting something more, which I did not want. I wanted immediate relief from my pain; but I could not get it without having my teeth set permanently right. And I knew those dentists; I knew they would start fiddling about with all sorts of other teeth which had not yet begun to ache. Our Lord is like the dentists. Dozens of people go to him to be cured of some immediate pain. Well, he will cure it all right, but he will not stop there. That may be all you asked; but if you once call him in, he will give you the full treatment.