

## *Synergistic Sanctification – Part 02*

Philippians 2:13

Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

### 1. Introduction

- a. Last week we looked at Sanctification.
    - i. We learned that Sanctification was synergistic both God's sovereignty and Man's actions are required in the Sanctification.
    - ii. We contrasted this with the initial work of Justification (salvation) in which God does the work in the salvific process (monergistic).
  - b. We learned through our study that as far as man is concerned, we should walk in sanctification in:
    - i. Understanding the example of Christ
    - ii. Understanding the love of Christ
    - iii. Understanding the necessity of obedience
    - iv. Understanding our Responsibility
    - v. Understanding the depth of Sin
  - c. Today we look at God's part in the Sanctification Process
    - i. While a believer is "working out" his salvation; God is working "in".
    - ii. Without the reality of verse 13, fulfilling verse 12 would be impossible.
    - iii. **John 15:4-5** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
  - d. There are five key features in God's role in our sanctification.
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2. Verse 13(a) – The Person of God – For it is God
    - a. We have the person of God in the sanctification process
    - b. He is unlike the false gods of this world that are impersonal and remote.
    - c. Our God is presented throughout Scriptures in the personal sense
      - i. He feels, acts, and speak for our benefit
  3. Verse 13(b) – The Power of God – Who works

- a. Think about this glorious truth, God is at work in us in order to insure the sanctification of His saints.
  - b. God calls us to obey and then in His sovereignty gives us the power to obey.
    - i. **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
    - ii. **Romans 8:31-39** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (33) Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (34) Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
4. Verse 13(c) – The Presence of God – in you
- a. God is in us. This is an incredible truth only found in the New Testament.
    - i. When someone is saved, Christ dwells within them by His Spirit.
  - b. **Romans 8:9-10** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
  - c. **1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

5. Verse 13(d) – The Purpose of God – both to will and to work
    - a. God energizes us our will and to perform that which is good
    - b. Will – refers to thoughtful, purposeful choice, not to mere whim or emotional desire.
      - i. God affects our hearts in order to turn us to what is right.
      - ii. God uses two means to move the will of the believer:
        1. **Holy Discontent** – the humble recognition that one’s life always falls short of God’s standard of holiness. The knowledge of sin and its depravation
          - a. **Romans 7:25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
        2. **Holy Aspiration** – God cultivates a genuine desire for righteousness
    - c. Holy resolve leads to holy living. A godly will produces godly work.
    - d. Work – being energized and active in a particular endeavor.
      - i. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
6. Verse 13(e) – The Pleasure of God – for His good pleasure
  - a. God works in our sanctification for His own good pleasure. His will for believers is that they think and do what pleases Him. Although that is accomplished primarily by His own power, when his children seek His will and do His work, it brings Him great pleasure.
  - b. God wants what is best for each individual believer and therefore he works in us to will and to work for that which is right. In doing what is right, we bring pleasure to our Father in heaven. This is a wonderful thought that we can be pleasing to God.
7. Every Christian should understand that sanctification takes his most strenuous effort, but is nonetheless totally dependent on God’s power.
8. Benediction –
  - a. **Luke 17:10** So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'