

## Big Bible Words with Big Meaning "Sanctification"

### Introduction:

1. What is the difference between a 50-yard dash and a marathon?
  - The 50-yard dash, you are running full speed ahead as fast as you can possibly go.
  - In a marathon, you are taking it slower and pacing yourself for the long haul.
2. Many people read their Bible like a 50-yard dash, but this won't work. You may be able to skim the newspaper, but you can't skim your Bible and expect to get anything out of it.
3. Your Bible reading should be more like a marathon - slow and easy, pacing yourself for the long haul.
4. All Scripture is profitable (**2 Timothy 3:16**), but in order to get the profit out of it that God intended, you must **understand** what you are reading. Paul exhorted Timothy, *"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee **understanding** in all things."* **2 Timothy 2:7**
5. A good Bible dictionary and English dictionary will help when you encounter words that you are not familiar with.
6. For the past few weeks, we have been examining some big Bible words that are extremely important for every person to understand.
7. The word I want to focus on today is "sanctification." Let's read **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4** and then answer some vital questions about the word "sanctification."

### First, what does the word sanctification mean?

1. Webster's defines it as, "the act of setting apart for a sacred purpose."
2. If something is sanctified, Strong's defines this as, "to make holy, purify."
3. An Old Testament illustration will help us understand this word. **Exodus 19:23**
  - God's holy purpose was to commune with Moses and give him the covenant of the law.
  - So God set boundaries around the mountain and sanctified it. The people could not come up the mountain. It had been set apart or sanctified for God's holy purpose of communing with Moses.
4. The word sanctification is closely tied to the word "holy." **Leviticus 11:44a**
  - In **1 Thessalonians 4:3**, the word "sanctification" is the same word translated in verse 7 as "holiness."

### Second, do I need sanctification?

1. The very moment you trust Christ as your Savior, you are spiritually placed in Christ. God no longer see you as "**in your sins**," but He sees you **in His Son**, in Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:2**
  - The moment you call upon Jesus to save you, you are set apart or sanctified in Christ Jesus.
  - With this "set apart" status, comes a new position. You are no longer viewed by God as a **sinner**, but as a **saint**. **1 Corinthians 6:11** (past tense)

2. So if you are saved, you **have been** sanctified. It's a done deal that is based on Christ's finished work. **1 Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 10:10**
3. You have been delivered from this evil world (**Galatians 1:4**) and set apart for God. You now belong to God. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
4. If you have never been sanctified in Christ, this means that you are still lost in your sins and will suffer eternal death and condemnation apart from God.

### **Third, how does sanctification impact my daily life?**

1. If you have been delivered from this evil world, sanctified in Christ, and you are now part of the family of God, do you think this should have any impact on the way you live your life? Look at **1 Corinthians 6:20**.
2. God's will is for you to **live out** in your daily life who He has made you in Christ. This is the idea of **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**.
  - If people have been sanctified and set apart for God's holy purposes, then you would expect to see this reflected in the way they live. **1 Thessalonians 4:7**
  - If you saw people trying to play hockey on a baseball field, this would undoubtedly seem odd, would it not? Why is this? Because the field was created and has been set apart to play baseball.
3. God said you were created in Christ unto good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). You were purified in Christ to be zealous of good works (**Titus 2:14**).
4. God's plan is for the sanctified believer to **live** a sanctified life. **2 Timothy 2:21**
  - With our new glorious position in Christ, there are things that simply do not belong in the believer's life.
  - We purge out the things that don't belong in our lives so that we are vessels that are sanctified (set apart) for God to use.
  - We are prepared for Christ to live His holy life through us.

### **Fourth, how do I live a sanctified life?**

1. Because we have been placed in Christ, this means that we are united with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection.
2. Just as Christ died to put away sin, we too are dead to sin. Sin no longer holds us in bondage.
3. Just as Christ rose from the dead with new life, we have been raised **with Him** and have been given His resurrection life.
4. As a believer in Christ, we simply believe what God's Word says is true. We reckon it to be true by faith. **Romans 6:11**
5. We then yield ourselves totally to the life of Christ within us. **Romans 6:19**
6. When we do this, we bring forth fruit unto holiness (same word as sanctification).
7. Your daily living now reflects your identity in Christ. This is the normal Christian life. You have been sanctified in Christ so that you could, in turn, go out and live a sanctified life.