

Remaining On The Sanctification Spiral

Journeying to Salvation and Gradually Maturing Into Ever-increasing Christ-likeness

Sanctification is an ongoing inner transformation by the Holy Spirit as you're being made holy in your character and in your life. This process is similar to how you learned math. First you learned numbers; then addition and subtraction; then multiplication and division; then algebra and geometry. Each step of learning built upon the preceding steps as your scope of mathematics increased.



During this transformation process as the Spirit of our Lord is changing you within to become more like Jesus, it often feels like you're facing the same issues again and again in your life. But what's really happening is that with each spiral of your sanctification, you're revisiting a particular issue or situation at a more mature level with each specific character quality our Lord wants to instill in you.

born again

Sanctification begins the moment you're justified through being born again in Jesus.

Journeying TO your eternal salvation at the completion of your pilgrimage of sanctification is the only way our Father has purposed for you to realize eternal life in Christ (see 2Thess. 2:13).

Throughout your life He will use suffering, disappointments and betrayals to test that you genuinely trust Him (see 1Peter 1:6,7) and that your heart is fully motivated to become more like Jesus as His Spirit works in and through you (see 2Corinthians 3:18).

Our Father never intended for you to journey alone. That's why almost all of the commands in the Newer Testament are given *in the plural* as an expression of Body life. He purposes that a collective family of the born again put these commands into practice *together* as a way of life (see Romans 12:4,5).

There will be times as you're being transformed by the Spirit to become more like Jesus in which you'll get discouraged, wondering if the trials or suffering you're going through will ever end. This is where the mutual encouragement of those journeying alongside you is so needed. Our Father knows that building up one another as you are being sanctified together binds you closely to each other and also produces a deeper devotion to live mutually with Jesus as your LORD to the Father's glory (see Jude 20,21).

A warning:

So many false religious systems have been established over the centuries by enticing people away from our Father's condition for being adopted as His child through being born again.

**Keep in mind that on your journey of sanctification you can break the spiral and wander away irrevocably from pressing onward in Jesus. You can choose to forsake trusting Him, and disown Him through falling away from that relationship.
(please see the next page)**

Breaking the Sanctification Spiral

Don't deny Jesus, blaspheme His Spirit, or choose to fall away

"I tell you, whoever acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns Me before men will be disowned before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8,9). Disowning Jesus means that you refuse to confess publicly that you know Him as your Lord and Savior, and deny being identified as one of His own.



"And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven" (Luke 12:10). You blaspheme the Spirit when you add to or take away from His character or purpose as part of the God-head. That includes denying His power, His guidance, His comfort, His ability to intercede for our prayers, and anything else that's made clear in the Bible.

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Never Entering the Sanctification Spiral

Missing God's Conditions For Being Born Again

"Whoever trusts and [then] is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not trust will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:3,4).



"This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him" (1Peter 3:21,22).

Don't be a baptized "Christian" in name only but never born again.

Denominationally-identified families that practice infant baptism include Catholics, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, some Nazarenes, the United Church of Christ (UCC), Moravian Church, Metropolitan Community Church, Wesleyans, Episcopalians, and Reformed churches.

No one can pledge a clear conscience toward God on behalf of an unbelieving baby!