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SANCTIFY – SANCTIFIED

LESSON 5

THE BELIEVER’S SANCTIFICATION – PART 1

With the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, the process of being sanctified as a New Testament follower of Jesus became different. It was no longer a matter of ritual as it had been under the Mosaic Law.

There have been various teachings about sanctification in churches. Some do not even teach of it at all. I grew up in a Pentecostal church. The two largest Pentecostal denominations did not agree on what constituted the sanctification of the believer. One denomination taught of two distinct works of grace, which were salvation, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They taught “progressive sanctification” not as a separate work of God’s grace, but rather as an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the life and conduct of the believer.

The other denomination taught that there were three separate distinct works of grace. They were salvation, sanctification, and baptism of the Holy Spirit. They taught “entire sanctification” as a spiritual experience. It would occur at a specific time as one is praying, often happening as one would seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was an event marked by a very ecstatic emotional display usually accompanied by “stammering lips” as mentioned in Isaiah 28:11. (See Isaiah 28:5-12.) Stammering lips and other tongues are mentioned there together as a way in which the LORD would speak to his people. They believe this spiritual experience results in their entire or complete sanctification to God. It is a specific work of Holy Spirit.

Only a few such groups hold the view of “entire sanctification.” I personally do not subscribe to it even though as a youngster seeking the baptism, I did on several occasions experience the stammering lips or stammering tongues while seeking and praying.

Tomorrow we will consider what I believe to be sanctification in New Testament terms. How are we sanctified unto God? What does it mean to our Christian experience as a born-again follower of Christ?