

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

WASHED & SANCTIFIED

15

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on how God washes us and changes the old man into a new man by sanctifying our whole being.

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City of the Living God



“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11).

Upon entry into the kingdom of God through the washing of water baptism in the name of Jesus and the infilling of the Spirit, the process of sanctification begins in our lives. After we are cleansed through repentance and water baptism, the Spirit of God sanctifies our being as he takes residence there and begins the process of forming us and molding us into the powerful saint of God that was already planned for our lives. The journey of washing and sanctification is a necessary and important part of becoming a mature Christian and is what prepares us for the calling God has on our lives.

THE NEW BIRTH

According to the Scriptures, we are made in the image of God since the beginning of time when God made Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:26-27). That image became distorted and marred with the fall of Adam and Eve. Colossians states that the image of God is renewed in man with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:3,5

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

Colossians 3:10

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

PUTTING OFF THE OLD SELF

As the new man is renewed and his image is realigned with God, old things are done away with and new life begins. God begins to not only live in that person, but he starts to speak to redirect his ways through leading of his Spirit.

John 14:26

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Romans 6:6

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

1 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Colossians 3:5-10

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (ESV).

With the renewal of the Holy Ghost in your life, changes start to take place within your being. God starts to give you convictions in areas you never had before. The way you talk begins to change; the way you interact with others becomes different. The old life of cursing, anger, vengeance, sexual immorality, and other evil desires start to change. After awhile people notice a change in you and start to inquire of how that happened. It's amazing how God changes people after just a few months. Oftentimes people mistake a believer's new character and lifestyle as if he/she always was like that. If you could just see how they were before they were born again. That's why Jesus calls it “born again.” It's a new change; it's a new beginning.

SANCTIFIED COMPLETELY

The Bible refers to this cleansing and renewing as the sanctification of the believer (1 Thes. 5:23). The word “sanctify” comes from the Greek word, “hagiasai” which means to make holy. It’s interesting that the same word hagiasai is translated as saint (hagiois), holy (hagian), and sanctify (hagiasai). We are only sanctified not because of what we do, but because His Holy Spirit (Hagios Pneuma) lives within us. It’s no coincidence that His Spirit is called the “Holy” Spirit and that is how we become sanctified (made holy).

When the Holy Spirit fills the new believer, they instantly become clean within. God always cleanses from within and effects the outward after. The longer a believer lives for God, the more he/she should show a change. Jesus explains the process of holiness starting from within. He rebukes the Pharisees for having holiness on the outside and being dirty on the inside.

Matthew 23:25-26

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also” (NKJV).

The Pharisees had all of the outward holiness, but it was not genuine. Holiness on the outside is supposed to be a reflection of the inward. Their inward self was full of greed and self-indulgence. Obviously, that is why Jesus called them hypocrites.

Jesus’ teachings on cleansing infers that there are four conditions of being as pertaining to holiness:

1. Clean on the inside; Clean on the outside – ex. Mature Christian
2. Clean on the inside; Dirty on the outside – ex. New Convert
3. Dirty on the inside; Clean on the outside – ex. Pharisee

4. Dirty on the inside; Dirty on the outside – ex. Unbeliever

The Apostle Paul teaches us that to be holy completely we need to have our inner person (Spirit, Soul) cleansed first and then the outward person (body). He describes it in that same order that Jesus does.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

*“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** (make holy) you **completely**; and may your **whole** spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NKJV).*

We already saw that the Spirit of Christ is what renews us and sanctifies us. It is the Spirit that renews our mind and makes us more like Jesus. It’s no wonder why God transforms our beings through His Spirit. The Spirit of God which is holy is what makes us walk, talk, dress, and behave different. That’s why the Apostle Peter says,

1 Peter 1:15-16

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (way of life); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Probably the greatest example in Scriptures that show the progression from sin to sanctification is found in the same passage we started with.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

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