

# GoDeeper



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

Is That You God? | Part 1 | Pastor Steve Wells | 08.02. 2020  
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

**Memory Verse: Romans 12:1-3** “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

This morning Pastor Steve spoke about sanctification and the danger with being satisfied or too comfortable with where we are and how we are in our everyday life and our relationship with God. Our own satisfaction or complacency has caused a stall in our sanctification that hurts our walk with God. Pastor Steve referenced Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs in relation to our spiritual life. We might have Self Actualized - Spiritually. When our Self actualized need has been satisfied it ceases to motivate. Maslow’s theory is easy to understand as once a need has been met you are no longer motivated to continue working to better or fulfill that need. If you are hungry and you eat--you no longer search for food.

- Do you feel full or satisfied spiritually?
  - Why or why not?
- Are you comfortable in your relationship and walk with God?
  - Why or why not?
- What are some ways or areas in our lives we may be too comfortable? (“This is just how I am” “It’s just how I was made” “I can’t change who I am” -In reference to anger, attitude, or other topics)
- What do you do to grow in sanctification?
- What can you do to further grow in sanctification? (Personally, as a Family, as a Group, as a Church)

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10--** “9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- What area(s) do you need to surrender to God?
- What weakness, hardships, or difficulties has God used in your life to witness to others--or bring you closer to Him?

Read the article about Sanctification by Christianity.com posted below. Then, re-read and re-answer the questions above and discuss how you can grow in sanctification and keep each other accountable.

## What is Sanctification?

Sanctification is one of those religious sounding words that people in the church use, but may not understand what it means. In its most basic sense, to sanctify something is to set it apart for God's special use and purpose. Therefore, God's people are sometimes said to be sanctified because they are set apart for God's special purposes in the world: “Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy; for I am the LORD your God. Keep my statutes, and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you” (Lev 20:7–8). As this verse helps us see, the word sanctification is closely related to holiness. The word sanctification can be used in a similar sense in the New Testament, and in one sense, believers are already sanctified because of what Jesus has done for them. Hebrews 10:10 tells us that as followers of Christ “we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

But most of the time when Christians use the word sanctification, they are referring to the progressive work of God to make a believer more like Jesus Christ. As such Paul can write, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality" (1 Thes 4:3). He commands Christians to "present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification" (Rom 6:19). Because believers have been set free from their slavery to sin, "the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life" (Rom 6:22).

In sanctification, both God and the Christian have specific responsibilities. Paul commands believers to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil 2:12–13). God is the one who does the work of making us more like Christ, and we participate in that work by a life of continually turning away from sin and demonstrating our faith in Christ by obeying God's commands. The Holy Spirit plays a key role in this process: as we walk in the power of the Spirit we "will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal 5:16).

### **Tools to Sanctify within Our Daily Lives**

In addition to empowering us by his Spirit, God has given us other tools to grow in our sanctification:

- Reading, studying, and being taught the Bible enables us to better understand who God is, what he has done for us, and how he calls us to live.
- Praying expresses our faith in the sovereign power of God to accomplish what only he can do.
- Fellowship with other believers encourages us to put our faith into practice by loving and bearing with one another.
- Giving weans our hearts off putting our trust in the fleeting things of this world and shows that we value the work of God even more than our own comfort.
- Sharing the gospel with others brings us the joy of participating in God's work of extending his kingdom.

All of these are different tools that God uses to make us more like Jesus.

As believers, our hope is fixed on the day when Jesus returns. But in the meantime, we are called to pursue our sanctification in anticipation of that day. John explains how these two realities relate to each other: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure" (1 John 3:1-3).

Because of what God has done for us in Jesus, we have already been set apart for his special purposes. By the power of God's Spirit, we pursue growing in godliness so that we more clearly reflect Jesus Christ in our lives. We do so in anticipation of the day when Christ will return and complete the process of sanctification by making us perfect reflections of Christ.

<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/following-jesus/repentance-faith-and-salvation/what-does-sanctification-mean.html>