

MIDWEST

# Pilgrim News

Summer 2023

*Publishing Holiness since 1962*



*Be Filled with the Spirit*

*Ephesians 5:18*



# From the Editor

## *The Blessed Reality*

The teaching of heart holiness has never been a popular one. Proponents of the holy life have a history of being rejected, scorned, persecuted, and undermined. The unholy are afraid of a truth they consider unreasonable and want no insinuation it is binding on them. Even within the church there have been holiness fighters who have sought to insulate Christianity from this “unorthodox” teaching. They have marginalized holiness preachers and discredited their ministries. At all costs, they intend to keep the teaching of a holy life marked by the work of entire sanctification from the Christian mainstream.

Nathan Mayo, on the Berean Holiness website, exemplifies this spirit in his condemnation of entire sanctification. “The doctrine of entire sanctification is unclear, unbiblical, and largely rejected by the Pentecostal Holiness Movement. <sup>1</sup> We would do well to purge our churches of the unorthodox approach to Christian maturity left behind by this modern gospel of self-righteousness.”

### A Call to Biblical Holiness

How sad that Christians could be misguided on something so fundamental to God’s will! The message of holiness is not the notion of wild-eyed heretics; it is the clear message of scripture, and if we are to please God we must we must believe it, experience it, and maintain it.

The message of holiness is sprinkled throughout the bible like salt on a French fry; you cannot pick up the bible without getting it all over you; Which is why Uncle Buddy Robinson wrote, “the Word of God is so full of the message of holiness there was not enough room between the covers for it, so they had to put some on the outside. That is why it is called the Holy Bible.”

We may smile at Robinson’s humor, but his point is sound. If one doubts the teaching of holiness, they are either not reading their bible, or need a better understanding of what they are reading, for the Bible is full of promises, prayers, incentives, and commands for us to be holy. (2 Pet 1:4; Ps 51:7; 1 Thess 5:24, 1 Thess 5:23-24, Eph 3:14-19, John 17:17; Gal 5:18-23; Matt 5:8; 1 Pet 1:15-16)

In fact, sanctification is the point and purpose of the atonement. God designed the plan of salvation to emancipate sinners from the bondage of sin and bring them into holy fellowship with God. (Heb 13:12) Christ did not die on the cross to simply declare us righteous, He died so that we might be righteous. (2 Cor 5:17) Christ did not rise from the dead so that we might continue living as a slave to sin, but that we might rise to walk in the newness of life. (Rom 6:3-7) Holiness is the triumph of the gospel. The shed blood of Jesus Christ is powerful ...**To Page 8**



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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President’s Page	Page 3
Evangelist Listing and News	Page 4
A Holy Life	Page 5
Reports From Our Churches	Page 6-7
The Rest	Page 8
Four Steps to Entire Sanctification	Page 10
Personal Testimonies	Page 11
Questions and Answers	Page 12

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the PNN is three-fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as, an informative source of information to those who are connected with, or interested in, our Conference.

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Artwork by Gabriela Rodriguez- PHC Ottawa, KS





# The President's Page



God is holy and He wants men to become like Himself in this regard. All of Christendom, nearly, accepts this premise. We all believe God to be holy and He purposes to make men holy, but when we use the term holiness to designate a specific experience in which the heart of the Christian is made holy by an act of God, the differences among us appear.

This unique experience which holiness people call entire sanctification is expressly taught in Scripture as a second of two crises which men enter and move forward

in the holy life. As the soul is awakened to a spiritual need and hungers for God and righteousness, the Spirit of God will lead to repentance of all known sin. Faith will embrace the promise of God for forgiveness and new life in Christ, and the seeker will find peace, new life, and a sense of belonging in the family of God. Three things have happened all at once. The seeker has been justified, regenerated, and adopted into God's family. The joy of sins forgiven is expressed in praises to God and witnessing to others.

But as one walks in the Spirit, he will find there is an inner battle occurring which disturbs the inward peace and causes spiritual difficulty. The Spirit will show the believer a "picture" of the carnal heart with which he was born. That carnal nature pulls back at fully giving all to God and that will be shown in struggles to obey God as He leads by His Spirit along the route of death to self. But with good counsel and prayer, the believer can come to a place where self is renounced, and the Spirit is received in His fullness as the heart is cleansed from inbred sin.

It is the desperate need of the church today. Too many have a head knowledge but no actual experience. That fails to satisfy the heart and leads to many problems in the walk with the Lord and His Church. Nearly all church problems can be traced to this "source." I hope you will spend time with this issue of the MPN, and if the Holy Spirit shows you your heart is yet carnal, please seek cleansing and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. The articles herein should help you in your search. Don't stop seeking until you find Him in His fullness. Remember, Jesus "suffered without the gate to sanctify the people with His own blood."

*Rev. Don Nichols*

*Rev. Donald Nichols pastors the Lima PHC. He also directs an ACE school operated through his church. Rev. Nichols is married to Ruth, and has 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren. Rev. Nichols was elected to the Conference Presidency in 2015.*





Ron and Dinah Jackman live in Sumner, IL and attend the St. Marie PHC.

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## News From Around the Conference

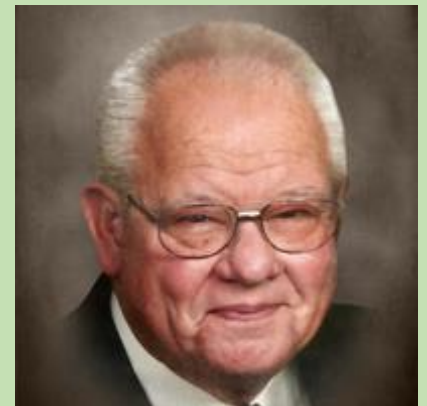
Rev. James Farney went to Heaven on Feb 27, 2023. He left behind a powerful testimony of God's grace. Until we meet again, Bro. Farney.



**Left:** Cole Stratton graduates to second grade with flying colors.



**Right:** Bobby Greathouse of the Franklin PHC went to Heaven on May 21. He is greatly missed.



Justin and Sarah Jackman are celebrating their 10-year anniversary. They pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Evansville, IN.





# SERMON NOTES

... of Rev. Bryan Line

*This article contains 3 excerpts from a message on holiness from Rev. Bryan Line. It is a copy of his personal sermon notes. We pray God will bless this important truth.*

## A Holy Life: Romans 12:1-2

**On the Container:** Unfortunately, we have at times minimized the first work of grace in order to preach the message of entire sanctification. Sometimes we preach as if one who gets saved is “merely saved”. We fall into the error of attempting to make the second work of grace so glorious that it reduces the significance of God’s initial work of salvation.

For instance, an evangelist once said, “If you’re saved tonight, you’re my half-brother, and if you’re sanctified tonight, you’re my whole brother.”

This is unfortunate because becoming a child of God is a glorious event. A man who has been saved is not merely saved, he is washed by the blood of Jesus Christ, justified, forgiven, and cleansed from His sins. He is not a second-class Christian. (2 Cor 5:17, Gal 4:6, Rom 8:14-16)

But saying this, the justified man will soon begin to realize the need of a full surrender in order to make progress in His relationship with God. I know this may not seem very important at first, but it will become increasingly apparent, and neglecting to do so will lead to trouble in one’s spiritual life.

Think of the wise man and the foolish man in Matthew 7. They built their house on two different foundations; and for a while it seemed like the foolish man was doing just as well as the wise man; that is until the storms came.

Likewise, time will always prove that an un-surrendered heart will hinder one’s spiritual growth. It will inevitably result in poor decisions, difficult relationships, unnecessary spiritual struggles, unfortunate fleshly pursuits, double mindedness, and a loss of future peace and contentment in God. We can even lose our salvation.

We need to surrender ourselves to God and be entirely sanctified and filled with the Spirit. This is what will settle us and enable us to keep the victory in the long run.

Eph 3:19: “That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

**On the Confusion:** The greatest confusion in the work of entire sanctification is “The Witness of the Holy Spirit.”

In talking with Dr. Paul Kaufman, I asked him this question: “Why do so many struggle in getting clarity to the work of entire sanctification?” Here was his response: “We have made the witness of the Holy Spirit a human, emotional, experience rather than an assurance and witness from the Lord.” He said he doesn’t even use the word “feel” when it comes to the witness of the Holy Spirit. He uses the word “sensed.” You can just “sense” that the work is done.

You sense that you made a complete surrender of your will.  
You sense there is nothing that you are aware of that the Holy Spirit is still putting His finger on.  
You sense that you have done all you know to do.  
You sense that you have come to the end of your surrendering.  
You sense that you have presented your body as a “living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto the Lord,” ....and by faith you believe that God has accepted your sacrifice.

I remember hearing remarks growing up like, “Why, they’re just telling individuals to take it by faith!” and how “Phoebe Palmer had it all wrong.” But it was not just Phoebe Palmer that taught the importance of faith. It was John Fletcher, A.M. Hills, Daniel Steele, Andrew Murray, John Wesley, and many others who believed in the significance of faith in being entirely sanctified.

John Wesley said it like this “Since it is by faith, why not now”. A.M. Hills wrote “Say tonight, I must be filled with the Spirit, I may be filled with the Spirit, I would be filled with the Spirit, I shall be filled with the Spirit.”

I would rather remind individuals that being sanctified is very possible, than error by making it almost impossible to obtain. We must clear the confusion in our spiritual life by allowing the witness of the Holy Spirit to be a God thing and not a human thing.

**On the Continual Growth:** Wesleyan Armenians do not believe in eternal security. Nor do we believe once you are sanctified there is no room for maturity. We believe in Purity, Power, and Progress.

**Continued on Page 7**

# Reports From Our Churches

**CORYDON:** We had a spring revival with Rev. Doug and Pamela Cox. Bro. Cox's messages were anointed and exactly what we needed. Bro. & Sis Cox also provided the singing, and did a great job.

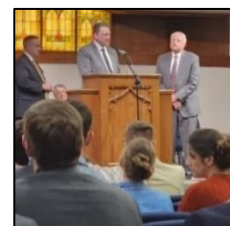
Shiloh has always been a singing church, and this pleases the pastor and people. It was in a recent service with a lot of singing when God came, and visited us. We certainly sat in heavenly places! There were many that sought the Lord and received help. This happens quite regularly in our church. We do not take it for granted, but are thankful. God has also added several new people to our congregation which has been a real blessing. Sometimes God moves in mysterious ways.

We have Junior Church on Sunday night, and Patricia Heatwole assumes this responsibility, along with some good helpers. Some of them are her grandchildren. A week ago on Sunday night, the children and the young people were over our main service. The Lord really helped them to minister. Anne Marie Reynolds is Sis. Heatwole's main assistant. Anne is very talented and has an enthusiastic spirit for God. Emily Reynolds and Kasandra Rogers cover the Bible memory work. God blesses these young people, and the kiddos love them.

Our church started a prayer list, and we have seen several prayers on this list answered. We thank God for answering not just some small things, but some big things that seemed impossible. Our goal is to be a praying church, and a church that wins souls for Jesus. We not only have prayer meeting on Wednesday night, but we have a prayer meeting on Saturday night from 10:00-12:00 A.M. We also meet for prayer at the church on Monday morning at 9:00 A.M.

The Saturday before Easter, our church had a Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for the children. This was held on our Life Center property. It was an interesting event, because the power went out in our community just before we started. We rallied and retrieved 3 generators and were finally able to get things going. The day turned out to be a success. The children learned some scripture and were told a Bible story. We had about 73 in attendance.

Congratulations to our Youth Pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. Danny Gilley. Their daughter, Briana, gave birth to a little boy. Trax Arvel Lang who arrived at 7:37 A.M, Sunday, May 14, He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19" long. Gavin and Briana Lang are the proud parents of their second child. ~Church Reporter



**NOBLESVILLE :** We want to give God the glory and praise for His Presence! It is refreshing to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit on our services and to see His help for those around the altar of prayer.

During February, in our Wednesday evening services, Steve Hight blessed us with a series on the Holy Spirit. These studies were very uplifting. Also, we were privileged to host a local IHC. Rev. David Stetler preached during this service, and God used this time to encourage us as well.

Marshall Anthony was born February 23, 2023, to Shane and Kimi Fish. Also Trent and Rebekah Welbaum welcomed Owen James into their home on April 20, 2023. We give congratulations to both of these families. It is exciting to welcome new life into the church.

Special things happened in the month of March. We are so excited for the announcement of the new addition to our pastoral team. Josh and Keri Modlin will be coming in September. We were also thrilled to have a mortgage burning. Because of God's provision, we were able to pay off our Family Life Center. We praise the Lord!

Brother Dean Welbaum was honored in the Bus and Outreach Convention this year for his faithful service to our bus ministry. It is exciting to see the newly painted blue buses each Sunday morning bringing children and young people to hear the good news of Jesus. We are thankful for all those who are involved in this ministry.

Sunrise service, followed by breakfast, started our day on Easter. That Sunday evening, Hobe Sound Bible College Choir sang at the church. To God be the glory for all the things He has done and is doing for us at Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church. ~Dianne Campbell



Why not keep us informed with what is happening in your congregation? Send reports and photos to [forsee4@juno.com](mailto:forsee4@juno.com)

**KOKOMO:** Here at Kokomo PHC, it seems as if things never slow down. This spring has been no exception. God is moving and helping in tremendous ways. Here is a brief synopsis of what God is doing in Kokomo:

**REVIVAL:** March 28 - April 2 we had our spring revival with Ron Stevens. There were seekers at the altar every service and God helped in a wonderful way. Friday night we heard Bro Steven's life story and then had a youth lock-in following the service.

**Bus:** Sunday, March 19th was a good reminder of God's protection. During the morning bus route someone ran a stop sign and hit one of our busses. Thankfully no one was injured but the shuttle bus was totaled. It took about a month, but we finally received the insurance money for the bus. Pastors Wayne and Scott with the help of Caleb McBee went searching for a bus. They headed for southern Indiana to look at one and on the way a phone call was made that led them to another bus near the one they were to view. It was simply an answer to prayer and another sign that God is concerned about the work being done in our community. We were able to purchase a wonderful Freightliner bus with only 36,000 miles for approximately half of what it should have cost. Praise the Lord.

**Baptism:** Sunday April 23, we had a wonderful baptism service, baptizing 13 individuals. Some had been saved for many years and never baptized, and some were new converts. We thank the Lord for those who have given public testimony of God's saving grace. Those baptized were: Tina Line, Carissa Line, Cierra Line, Brittany Line, Meaghan Williams, Pam Graces, Vines Hale, Sharaw Barberry, Avery Moore, Ethan Higginbotham, Angela McBee, Amy New, and Howard New.

**New Addition:** On Sunday April 30th, Alex and Brianna Line welcomed their new baby boy, Maverick Alexander, into their family. He weighed 7 lbs and 5 oz. He is a handsome baby that mom and dad say has been the best little boy!

**Spring Promotion:** During the month of May we had our annual Spring Promotion. The first Sunday we have a pancake breakfast, the following Sunday is a spaghetti dinner following the morning service. We then had sack lunches for all the kids on Mother's Day with a special gift for all the mothers in attendance. We reached our goal of 25 first-time visitors over these weeks and one Sunday we had the privilege of having 95 young people between the ages of 3-19! Praise the Lord!

**Graduation:** In our May 28th evening service we were happy to recognize those in our congregation who were graduating from kindergarten, high school, and college. The church presented each with a Bible as a gift. Graduating this year were Atlas Moore (kindergarten), Donta Mason (high school), Cassandra (high school), Vernon Hayden Tiripi (Penn View College). Congratulations to all our graduates.



**Holy Life, From Page 5:** We believe that once we have made that full surrender to the Lord, God has a lot of things He wants to teach us. For the rest of our lives, we are like clay in the Potter's hand as He works on our human infirmities.

Dr. Paul Kaufman said it this way "Unsanctified folk always want to excuse away their reactions, entirely sanctified people throw open the door of their heart and invite the Spirit to reveal to them any need they might have."

Bertha Monroe wrote "Every sanctified human faculty needs frequent oiling from above to function in a superhuman way in crisis."

Acts 4:31 demonstrates this fact: "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Here we see a fresh infilling of power entering the already cleansed hearts of the apostles. This illustrates a life of continuous growth in grace. The epistles of Paul and other writers have far more to say about maintaining the life of holiness (process) than they do about getting or finding a pure heart. (crisis)

H.C. Van Wormer wrote: There is a difference between being sanctified and being mature. I ought to have more of God and more of the graces of God now than I did 53 years ago when I obtained the experience. It is a matter of maturing. But our trouble is, we get sanctified and just flop down. We are afraid of developing. There may be much of weakness and ignorance. The judgement may be far from perfect, but the heart may be clean."

Wesley himself taught that while having the heart made perfect in love proved to be a wonderful event in the life of the believer, it could be improved and deepened as one walked with the Spirit." Obviously, the perfect love that we receive must continue to grow.

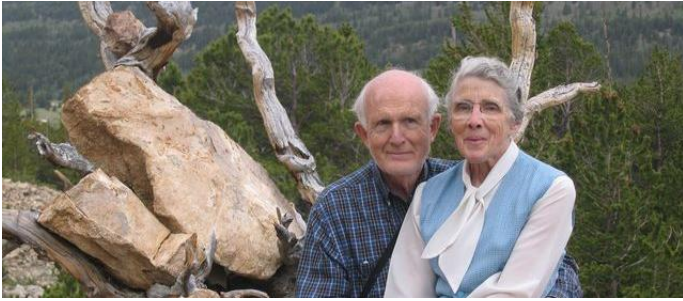
*Rev. Bryan Line and his wife Rhoda live in Kokomo, IN. They are available for pulpit supply, revivals and camp meetings.*



**"Nothing is holy without the presence of the Holy. The land of Canaan was just a location, but with God's presence, it became the Holy Land. Jerusalem was just a stronghold of the Jebusites, but with God's presence, it became the Holy City. The Tabernacle was just a tent, but when God occupied it, it became a holy place. Likewise, the Holy of Holies was just a room, until God's presence came and dwelt in it. God can take ordinary places, things, and people, fill them with His presence and make them holy." ~Dr. Paul Kaufman**



# Rev. Lowell McVey



## “THERE (STILL) REMAINETH A REST TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD”

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

How heartening is this great assurance that the God of peace Himself undertakes the work of remaking us, sanctified, blameless, and preserved for Himself—spirit, soul, and body—entirely, all the way to heaven! It is all His work, not mine. He does not need me to tell Him how to sanctify me.

I well remember how the Lord taught me this truth. I do not recount this to try to persuade anyone else to “get it like I got it.” For each of us it is by the Person-to-person leading of our Sanctifier Himself.

I was first saved when I was in second-year high school. Then later, as a freshman in Bible college, after a time of backsliding and a near spiritually-fatal bout with discouragement and despair, I decided there was no way for me, but to throw away all hope of godliness, and go out to pursue an ambition I thought I had. But, on the very verge of taking this turn, as I was walking through mother’s kitchen one night, the Lord stopped me—“Is this really the way you want to be?” I dropped to my knees at a kitchen chair—“O God, no!”

He led me to repentance, and then soon restored me by dropping into my heart the scripture, “By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast—FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP!” What a blessed restoration! It was then that I became keenly aware that I needed heart-cleansing and began to feel the Spirit’s leadings and drawings toward it.

Several weeks later, as I hungered and thirsted and followed His pull, the Lord dropped into my heart Isaiah 54:2–3, “Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left.” It rang through my heart like a bell. The Lord was saying, “Turn it all over to Me, and I’ll take care of it.” I can well remember, then, in a precious prayer meeting, our pastor pounding me on the back and saying, “Lowell, lay hold and start climbing.”

But I knew John Wesley’s very true teaching about “the repentance of believers.” I wanted to be sure I was sanctified “right,” and not just “take it by faith,” some shallow “easy believe-

ism” way. So, I quit following the Spirit and began begging God to show me my carnality and to help me agonize over it. All His pull on my heart went dead. I

finished that revival dry as shucks. Thirty years of struggle followed. In that time were several seasons when, I believe, God would have brought me out, but for my do-it-yourself religion—wanting to be sure I “got it right.”

Then one Saturday afternoon, on my way home from work, I could go no further. I pulled my truck off onto the shoulder of the country road. Over the steering wheel, I gave God everything, myself, all I thought I knew—everything. Last, but not least—if He would but cleanse my heart, He could do it any way He chose.

Then, on a Sunday afternoon, either a week or 2 weeks later, I was reading in Dr. Francis Asbury Lowery’s book, *Possibilities of Grace*. I came on the passage in which he spoke of seekers for entire sanctification who, for well-nigh half a century, had tacked up and down, like a ship always trying to get into port, but never entering and anchoring. And he quoted John Wesley as saying, “To the faith that says, He can do it, must be added the faith that says, He doeth it.”

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**I was struck squarely in the heart. Laying the book down I was drawn to turn in my Bible to Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.” And then came the sacred urgency, “Do it now.” Of course, also, came the suggestion, “If I do that, nothing will happen.” But then I said, “I had rather obey, and have nothing happen, than go on as I am.”**

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So, still sitting in my chair, in my heart I stepped over the barrier . . . into a new, quiet world of simply being all sold out to Him and in His hands, sanctified wholly. I cannot claim wonderful, out of this world emotions. But often in those first days I had almost to pinch myself. Was this really, I, all quiet within, all clean from the carnal mind, all His?

It will soon be 40 years since that blest day. His work in my heart still remains. Rest of heart in Him. Absence of all the old inner conflict. Selfish pride, anger, and unbelief—gone. He keeps, will keep, and be my All in all, until the trump of God sounds and we are caught up to meet Him, to see His Face, be like Him, a part of His bride, “forever with the Lord.”

I write all this to say, how supremely blest are they who early, simply, and quickly surrender themselves and their all to their Lord and Savior and receive this blessed work of God in them. But for those for whom the seeking for entire sanctification has become an endless struggle, the word of God is: “Behold, (even) now is the accepted time; today is the day of salvation”—“today, if you will hear His voice”—there is *salvation, saving, rescue*—even *salvage*, from your own self-efforts and carnal mind. Thank God, a heart rest still “remaineth to the people of God!”

*Rev. Lowell McVey is a retired missionary and pastor. He lives with his wife Jean in Colorado Springs, CO.*



# Four Steps to Being Entirely Sanctified

By Dr. Allan Brown



## **STEP 1. Make sure you are saved and walking in all the light God has given you (1 Thes. 1:3-9).**

The Thessalonians were saved and were walking in all the light God had given them. Paul describes them as Christians who had a “work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” (1:3). He further describes them as elect of God (1:4), followers of the Lord (1:6), and “examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia” (1:7). They had “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1:9).

Without a doubt, the Thessalonian Christians were saved and walking in all the light God had given them. Are you, dear reader, saved and walking in all the light God has given you?

## **STEP 2. Understand that the term “entire” means God desires to sanctify you, spirit, soul, and body. (1 Thess. 5:23).**

In order to be entirely sanctified, a Christian must not hold back from God any aspect of his life. He must present himself to God in full surrender, totally open and willing for any changes God wishes to make. This surrender must be a complete surrender, involving your “spirit” (the person you are inside your body), your “soul” (in this context “soul” speaks of your mind, will, and emotions), and your “body.”

The focus of the term “entire” is on completeness. You must not withhold any part of your life from God. Surrender everything – your past with its successes and failures, your present, as well as your future. Surrender your dreams, your goals, your relationships, your friends, your leisure-time activities, your music – everything. *Make sure there is no retreat from anything God shows you.*

## **STEP 3. By faith, ask the God of peace to sanctify you entirely and believe that He does it (1 Thes. 5:24).**

The inspired prayer of Paul for the Thessalonian Christians is recorded in Scripture to teach Christians everywhere that God desires to sanctify them entirely. Listen to our text again, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes. 5:23).

Some readers of Scripture have assumed that the moment of entire sanctification occurs “at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.” This is a mistake. The phrase “at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ,” modifies the phrase “kept blameless” and not the phrase “sanctify wholly” (entirely). This verse tells us that God desires to sanctify entirely a Christian in this life and preserve him blameless until Jesus returns. Not only is blamelessness possible, but it is the expected norm for believers, as evidenced by Paul’s regular admonitions and prayers for believers to be blameless.

For example, Paul commanded the Philippians to “do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless (ἄμεμπτοι) and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.” (Phil. 2:14-15).

Remember, faith is an absolute requirement in order to be entirely sanctified. Hebrews 11:6 teaches, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

From the last phrase, we derive the three irreducible elements of faith:

1. Faith believes what God says (“He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”);
2. Faith obeys what God requires (He rewards those who “diligently seek him”);
3. Faith trusts in and rests on what God promises (He will reward “them that diligently seek him”).

## **STEP 4. Testify to others that you by faith believe God has received your full surrender and has entirely sanctified you (Rom. 10:9-10).**

### **Two Practices to Maintain Daily After Entire Sanctification.**

1. Renew each day your commitment to live an entirely sanctified life and continue to make any adjustments or course corrections that God shows you to make.
2. Seek to develop the characteristics of the entirely sanctified life as described in 1 Thes. chapters 3 and 5.

**See Questions and Answers on Page 12**

**Blessed Reality: From Page 2:** ...enough to blow apart the strongholds of sin and make us more than a conqueror. (Rom 1:16-17; Rom 8:37)

While the plan of salvation does not restore us to the perfection of Adam, or the possibility of falling from grace; it does enable a Christian perfection acceptable to God. Our hearts are pardoned, justified, regenerated, sanctified, (initially and entirely) and inclined to do God's will rather than our own. We are enabled to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself. (Matt 22:37-40) God's Spirit comes to live within us empowering us for service and consistent victory above known sin.

Seeing the plethora of scriptures on this subject, we should be careful lest man or devil lead us away from this blessed reality. Holiness is the revealed will of God and we can enjoy it today.

## A Call to Blessed Holiness

Just like the heresy of off-brand Dorito's and Pepsi-Cola, there are off-brands of holiness and an important distinction needs to be made about how holiness should manifest itself in our lives.

Php 2:12: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Vincent's Word Studies tells us the phrase "work out your own salvation" means to "carry your salvation out to the goal, to complete it."

Obviously, the work of salvation is only something God can do for us. We cannot earn, buy, or bargain for salvation. (Eph 2:8-10) However, it is also true that salvation is not completed without human agency. God's work must be carried across the finish line.

**Charles Spurgeon, who was a Calvinist, understood this truth: "Some professors appear to have imbibed the notion that the grace of God is a kind of opium with which men may drug themselves into slumber, and their passion for strong doses of sleepy doctrine grows with that which it feeds on. "God works in us," say they, "therefore there is nothing for us to do." Bad reasoning, false conclusion. God works, says the text; therefore, we must work out because God works in."**

Let us reemphasize that it is God alone that saves and imparts a new moral power to work, but we must cooperate with what God has done. As Richard Taylor wrote in his book All You Are Meant To Be, "We cannot do what is God's part and God will not do what is our part. God works so that we can work. God does not "will" for us, but works in us to enable us to do the willing." And, this is of course referring to: believing, resisting temptation, making holy choices, walking in the light, attending the means of grace, fighting the devil, using our gifts, and persevering to the end. The Christian should rely on God as if he had no power and work as if he had no God.

Without determination to carry out what God has done for us, holiness stalls, stagnates, and stops. We lose the battle we are engaged in. A faith that works out what God has worked in is the type of experience God blesses.

## A Call to Balanced Holiness

One can believe in the concept of a holy life and even profess it, but still be unbalanced in the holiness God desires for them. For instance, one can focus on personal aspects of holiness, such as careful attendance to the means of grace, resisting worldliness and compromise, obedience to a set list of biblical principles, and modest dress, while still neglecting the inward matters of the heart.

They may be guilty of such things as anger, unforgiveness, an ungrateful spirit, dishonesty, an unclean mind, judgementalism, slander, bigotry, or pride. Additionally, they may neglect the preemptive aspects of holiness such as using one's gifts in the church, witnessing Christ to the unsaved, hospitality, encouragement, monetarily supporting the local church and foreign missions, and seeking to meet the social needs of the community.

This kind of "lopsided" experience is not the will of God. How distasteful it is to see someone claiming to live a holy life and even looking the part, but failing to live the authentic standard. God's sanctifying work in our hearts should deliver us from not just some sin, but from all that we know that is against God's will. It should enable us not to simply embrace certain outward aspects of God's will, but to do and be all that God intends us to be. God so purifies our heart that there is no defiance against the Spirit's leadership. We cooperate with Him as He gives us light and leads us forward in spiritual growth and maturity. If God's Spirit has truly regenerated us, our experience of holiness will be increasingly marked by balance.

## Conclusion

We must say we are disturbed at the criticism leveled against our understanding of holiness. Nathan Mayo, quoted earlier in this article, makes the following accusations against proponents of entire sanctification.<sup>3</sup> He submits the following:

- 1.) We do not preach or teach the doctrine of entire sanctification anymore. It has fallen by the wayside.
- 2.) No one testifies to being entirely sanctified. Many used to claim this experience, but very few are now this bold or naïve.
- 3.) Our rank-and-file members cannot identify a definition of entire sanctification. They do not know what it is, let alone explain it to someone else. We are simply parroting something that has been passed down.
- 4.) Entire sanctification does not work for us. We say we do not sin, but we do sin every day. We just do not admit it.
- 5.) This doctrine is fading and will soon disappear and the sooner the better because of the confusion it causes.
- 6.) If we were to make a list of people who lived above sin and claimed to be entirely sanctified, how long would the list be?

I believe this challenge should be taken seriously. Are we preaching on the holy life? Do our people know what it means to be saved and entirely sanctified? Can we explain it to those who do not know? How often do we confess things that we knew better than to do? Is this doctrine on the decline in our churches? How many have been led into this experience in the last 5 years? Can you claim to be living a sanctified life? If we believe this is God's message, we should be able to answer these questions positively.†

<sup>1</sup>Mayo's claim here is that some of the Pentecostal holiness people preach the message of holiness and entire sanctification, but are unable to live it.

<sup>2</sup>Richard S. Taylor *All You Are Meant To Be* ©2013 Schmull Publishing

<sup>3</sup><https://bereanholiness.com/the-forgotten-doctrine/>



## PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF....

# Entire Sanctification



**Rev. Lonny Dunn:** I was walking with the Lord and enjoying my Christian experience when I realized that I needed to be sanctified. While alone in the place of prayer I earnestly sought the Lord for the experience. I surrendered my all to Him to be directed and used by Him. I truly believed Him for the experience and have done my best to fully follow and obey Him to the best of my ability. It is by God's grace and power that I am able to do that. It is my determination to do my best to be a faithful servant and witness for Him in the limited time that I have left.

**Sister Dunn:** My story about my total and absolute surrender to God is unique in telling, because of the fact of "My Isaac". I had been wonderfully saved for about a year and a half. An absolute "know so" salvation. Several times during that year and a half I had been to the altar for sanctification. I felt I had received such and I can truly say there was no desire for sin in my heart. It was gone! I experienced some physical problems during that time. As I look back now, they were more imagined, but very real to me. I became so obsessed with my well-being that I made many trips to the doctors and of course they would give me medicine, most of which I couldn't take. I was sure I was going to die at any time with a heart attack or some other terrible thing. This went on for a long time. I was so weary of all of it I was almost in despair.

It was the summer of 1967 that I attended a camp meeting northwest of Muncie IN on Highway 28. I had gone there with my father, as my mother who didn't go that night for some reason, had stayed home. She was watching my children, and my husband worked the afternoon shift. I shall never forget that night. All the way there my mind was in a turmoil. 'What was I going to do?' I couldn't take the latest medicine the doctor had prescribed. I was an emotional mess. I don't remember much about the service. I remember the Edwards were the singers. There was an altar call and many responded. I didn't feel any particular call to go forward, but as Dad and I were leaving (we decided to go on home as it was quite a distance) Bro. Edwards stopped my dad to talk to him outside the tabernacle. I cannot explain in writing the compelling urge that came over me to go back in and pray. I said to them, 'I don't know why, but I must go back in and pray'. I made my way to the altar and found a place to kneel, as it was quite full. An altar worker asked me what I wanted the Lord to do. I replied, 'I don't know, I just know I have to pray'. And I started to pray.

**The enemy of my whispered to me, 'You can't pray, you might have a heart attack.'** And I remember so clear (even all these years later) I said, 'I'm going to pray if I die right here.' And I began to PRAY. I don't think it took more than a minute. I said to God, 'I'll follow where you lead me, I'll pasture where you feed me', and the GLORY began to fall. Before I knew it, I was on my feet praying and shouting. Oh, how the Glory fell.

What a different person went home that night! The devil had whispered to me that I would die if I tried to pray. Well, he was right about me dying. That's what happened. I DIED! THE SWEET REST OF GOD WAS MINE. From that day until the present time my life is in His hands and I rest it there. Everyone has an Isaac that must be placed on the altar, and that was mine, Me.

*~The Dunns live in Frankfort, IN and attend the PHC in that town.*

**Continued on Page 12**



**Jennifer Stainbrook:** I was 13 years old when I went to my first Pilgrim youth camp and went to pray during an alter service. I prayed to be saved and Jesus saved me. I also knew that you were supposed to get sanctified next, so I went ahead and prayed to be sanctified. I didn't understand what it was completely yet, but I wanted it. I had a willing heart and I really wanted to be all that God wanted me to be. I felt so clean and happy. Since that day I have never had a desire to go against God's will. I was a different person when I came home from camp. I remember years later hearing that you are not supposed to get sanctified so close to when you get saved or something and I started doubting that I was sanctified. I also had a better understanding of sanctification. So, my first year at Union Bible Collage during the camp meeting I decided to settle those questions and went to pray during an alter service. God gave me a sweet peace about it, gave me another blessing of His Spirit and I knew I was sanctified. It is so wonderful when God sends His Spirit to you for an extra special blessing.

*Jenny Stainbrook and her husband Nate live in Austin, IN. They have 3 boys and attend the PHC in that town.*

## Questions and Answers with Dr. Allan Brown



**Can a person reject his or her entire sanctification and still be saved? Answer: No.** A Christian must continue to walk in all the light he or she has or become guilty of walking in darkness, which is willful sin. A person practicing willful sin is not saved (1 John 2:3–6; 3:4–10).

**Can a person lose entire sanctification but not lose salvation? Answer: No.** The only way a person can “lose” (“reject” is a better term) his entire sanctification is through willful sin or unbelief (which is also sin). One cannot remain in fellowship with God (stay saved) unless he continues to walk in all the light he has.

**Does a person need to be entirely sanctified to get into heaven? Answer: Yes and No.** Yes, if a person knows the Bible teaches it is God's will for him to be entirely sanctified, he must walk in the light or become guilty of willful sin. No, if a person, like the thief on the cross, has never heard of entire sanctification, or if a person has been taught entire sanctification is available only at the Second Coming of Christ. A person will go to heaven as long as he is walking in all the light he has.

**Can a person be entirely sanctified and be unknowingly sinning from a lack of knowledge? Answer:** As long as a Christian is walking in all the light he has, the blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing from all sin. Such a cleansing includes unknown violations of God's Word.

**Does an entirely sanctified person who rebels against God but later comes back to Him need to be entirely sanctified again? We do know that a person can rebel against God and later turn back in repentance and then be “re-saved. Answer: Yes.** To come back to God is the action of a backslider having his heart in need of cleansing. The verb “cleanses us” is a present indicative indicating a relationship with God restored. After the restoration, one must walk in the light and obey Romans 12:1 and offer himself a living, holy, and acceptable

sacrifice to God. This can be done only by a person in right relationship with God.

**Can a born-again person live for years resisting a full surrender to the complete control of God in entire sanctification and remain a Christian? Answer: No.** A Christian must continually walk in all the light he has. To resist any light is to commit willful sin and the practice of willful sin is the characteristic of the sinner, not the Christian.

**Is it possible for a person to be entirely sanctified and still be a royal pain to be around? I know of a person that I've heard preach on the need to be entirely sanctified, and yet he is the kind of person I would never wish anyone to have to be around. Answer: Yes.** To walk in all the light does not instantly make one mature in the fruit of the Spirit. The preacher may have grown up in a dysfunctional home, be very insensitive and unlearned in many areas of living, but truly be walking in all the light he has. Such a person is cleansed from all sin, but obviously is not a good example for a person to follow.

John Wesley reminds us that even those who are “really perfect in love” struggle with many infirmities, recounting the conversation he had had “some years ago” with “a saint of God,” who was a household servant. Wesley had said to her, “Jenny, surely now your mistress and you can neither of you be a trial to the other, as God has saved you both from sin.” “Oh, sir,” said she, “if we are saved from sin, we still have infirmities enough to try all the grace that God has given us.”

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