

God's Plan of Reconciliation

By Tom Plumb

As Charismatics or Pentecostals, we must clearly understand our spiritual heritage when we start to talk about an actual supernatural holiness.

Our Initial Salvation brings the Lord Himself to indwell by His Holy Spirit. He pardons all sin up to that moment as His down payment on the soul. We must thoroughly understand what this means. This is no mere gift, this is your God who hates sin, now humbly working within as servant, and in lowliness being part of your every thought and action. You are washed white: as if you had never sinned. These bondages are removed so that you can discern more clearly before the Lord, and make wise spiritual choices as you work out the rest of your salvation in Godly fear.

The Pentecostal Baptism in the Holy Spirit pushes aside blinding earthliness to allow the believer to become much more aware of, and affected by the activity of the already indwelling Spirit. The gift of tongues allows us to add our faith to His in pushing aside this same cloying earthliness. To be aware of Him is to be changed by Him.

In this spiritual transaction, we receive nothing new. His Spirit was already there. Here is an example of this same kind of transaction:

"And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha." 2 Kings 6:15-18

Being spiritually blind, Elisha's servant feared. When the Lord opened the young man's eyes so that he could see the actual spiritual situation; he was filled with faith, while the enemy was blinded and easily deceived.

Now we are discussing matters much more weighty than victory in a battle, but the principle is the same. We must understand that all the vast glory we may find through the years in the Holy Spirit was all part and parcel of our initial salvation package. We have just become more aware of it than some others: "Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized." Acts 9:18

A basic saved Baptist has the same empowering as you do. You are just able to see and feel what is going on in a better way. Because of this, you are better able to cooperate and play your role, as the above young man did. Instead of interfering with the Lord's plan to fool the enemy army through Elisha, we can imagine that he was enabled to play his small part with skill and insight!

In summary then, the pre-existing Holy Spirit in the life has just been enabled, since the soul has stopped most of its interfering. Any little cooperation on your part makes His task so much faster and easier.

Entire sanctification is a far greater work than this, but there are close similarities:

Entering His Rest follows the removal of every remaining soulish blockage to the actual activity of the Holy Spirit within and allows the soul to dwell **in Him**. The believer then enters the “normal” Oneness with Himself that He prayed for in John 17. This supernaturally established Oneness starts small and grows according to the degree of diligence and continuing costly consecration of every moment. This humble pouring out leads to even more advanced positions of grace that are still beyond the horizons of this puny authour.

Salvation pardons sin, while Entire Sanctification removes the Adamic propensity towards sin within. This far larger payment *completes* (perfects) His purchase of the soul, which is now wholly in His hand to bless with pruning or outward success as He pleases. The happy soul does not argue nor complain even when life brings real pain and/or breathtaking loss.

"The whole design of God was to restore man to his image, and raise him from the ruins of his fall; in a word, to make him perfect; to blot out all his sins, purify his soul, and fill him with all holiness, so that no unholy temper, evil desire, or impure affection or passion shall either lodge or have any being within him. This and this only is true religion, or Christian perfection; and a less salvation than this would be dishonourable to the sacrifice of Christ and the operation of the Holy Ghost.... Call it by what name we please, it must imply the pardon of all transgression and the removal of the whole body of sin and death.... This, then, is what I plead for, pray for, and heartily recommend to all true believers, under the name of Christian perfection." Adam Clarke

So, as it was with Elisha's young man, another barrier to the proper moving of His Spirit within the life has been removed: albeit, this is a much larger removal. Again, nothing new is given. Who can add to God Himself?

Nonetheless, as it is with a soul who receives the Pentecostal Baptism of the Holy Spirit, new dimensions in the Spirit have been unfolded in our daily world of awareness and action. A soul who has just entered His Rest, also perceives that he has just entered a whole new realm. Actually that realm was implicit within salvation, but was blocked off from view by that big messy ball of earthly mud called “Me.”.

Before entering His Rest, it is “Him in you” by His Spirit serving as your servant and teacher. Afterwards, it is also “You in Him” as Lord of all. Beforehand, He adapts to you. Afterwards, you just find yourself easily swept along in Him. Before, He is the “Ever-becoming One” since He gives only what you ask Him for; if and when you are ready. Afterwards, He is constant. Stores of spiritual strength are just quietly at hand when the situation demands. All your basic asking has been done and is answered. Your anointing is no longer primarily a blessing; it is His immovable Presence and unshakeable assurance. It is Authority, as distinct from authority. It is given: yet needs to grow and mature much in expression within each particular vessel.

His Rest does not imply the giving of all gifting or discernment; so we will still continue to have certain paradoxical people receive the greater work of entire sanctification without possessing the more elementary Pentecostal blessing!

Entire sanctification expresses completion of the work begun in salvation; as distinct from the myriads of deliverances and revelations given for various purposes. It has to do with the quality of our salvation, and our position before the Father, rather than the completion of our anointing. His Spirit can be said to be already complete, for He is God, it is our smaller job to unwrap the great gift of Himself He has given. Our greater trustworthiness influences how He treats us. The level of anointing is related more to our diligence in the application to put His completeness into actual operation within our vessel. (before and after entering His Rest) Many would like to fantasize entire sanctification as entry into an “angelic” type of state where effort, pain, and sacrifice is no longer required, but vast anointing rules. An escape into La-La land, if you will.

In that sense this is not so, for Sons share the Father's own burdens and persecutions from the outward world. Within the secret recesses of the heart though, that fantasy is remarkably close to reality, for His yoke really is joyfully easy!

The coming Kingdom Church will be characterized by a vast and costly blessing for us to faithfully pour out before His throne. Initial salvation will be completed in His Rest and His matchless anointing will Tabernacle upon the firm foundation of a supernaturally established pure and selfless heart: this will make commonplace lives of blameless authority and stable great anointing.

Our Heavenly Pilgrimage

Our heavenly pilgrimage starts with the salvation experience:

“Conversion is the first cure. It resurrects the dead soul. It forgives all past transgressions. It imparts to the soul spiritual life, spiritual consciousness, spiritual relationships, spiritual possessions, a spiritual appetite, spiritual discernment, spiritual aversions to all sin, actual and inbred, and spiritual loyalty to Christ, it's spiritual King. It gives an appetite for spiritual food and thirst for spiritual drink. It checks the inbred sin within and keeps it under. It imparts God's love to the soul. It plants all the graces of the spirit in the soul-garden, and it keeps the weeds of carnality under. That it does not, however, effect a complete cure is clear from the Word, from church creeds, and from the testimony of God's children.”

Denominational Perspectives

“Among the precious gifts of grace provided for, and promised to all God's dear children, is the experience of entire sanctification. This grace is tendered to those, and only to those, who are the children of God. Hence all the promises of His word, relating to this experience, are addressed to the children of God. Each commandment in the New Testament, in any form of words, which necessarily involves the state of entire sanctification, is addressed solely to Christians; and each prayer offered for this grace, is offered on the behalf of those, and only those, who are born of God. Mat. 5:48; **John 17:17-19**; I Thes. 4:3, 7; 5:23, 24; 1 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 3:3; 4:17.” “The Double Cure”, by M.W. Knapp (See the Entry Directions section.)

In salvation, indeed, heaven gains a foothold upon your earth: while the soul gains a beginner's conditional access to His costly blood-bought power over all sin and perdition.

Entering His Rest Q & A

Q. What is it? A. It is the end of all dominion by the first Adam in favour of the quiet and glorious Dominion of the Second Adam.

Q. What do you mean? A. It totally removes the Adamic propensity to sin.

Q. What will this do for my life? A. Truly everything.

Q. What do you mean? A. You enter an entirely new dimension of fellowship with God where it actually feels as if there is no longer any division between you and Him, although, of course He remains vast beyond

comprehension, while you are merely human. Beforehand, He dwelt in your heart. Now, you dwell in His bosom as well. His heart is **much larger** than mine!!! The transaction is not equal, but is His glory.

Q. Who is eligible for this? A. Any sincere believer willing to pay the price.

Q. What is the price? A. All of your life, all of your hopes, and all of your dreams must be placed into His hand without reserve, to be His eternal possession.

Q. What does that mean? A. The end of a fundamentally sick self-life, and the beginning of real life!

Q. Will this give me a new revelation of Jesus? A. Well, you will know the same Jesus, but He will seem totally different since you are up close now. It is the difference between admiring Him from afar, and having Him as a tenderly cherished spouse. His incomparably beautiful aroma is not apparent from afar!

Q. Will this release new blessing or anointing? A. Yes, but you must understand that your motives for everything will be remarkably different. They will be pure in His sight. You are still prone to human misunderstandings and not always pure in the impure eyes of impure men.

Q. So what does that mean? A. Now anything you pray for diligently within His will is surely given. Before that was the theory. Now it is the unvarnished reality.

Q. How does it happen? A. After He sees that your ALL is in His Hand and that you completely trust Him to do the saving, He will save you from all that is in His Hand. This makes you a proven and acceptably clean friend.

Q. How long does this take? A. As it is in Salvation, or Baptism in the Spirit, the preparation is often long and painful, while His work is accomplished in a moment of time.

Q. Who has had this blessing? A. Multitudes since the time of the fathers of Israel, but always a minority. Read the website!!!

Entering His Rest is not an impartation, but a departure. We enter, not through exaltation, but through humiliation. In the past you welcomed the Holy Spirit into your life; now you welcome His cleansing Holy Fire that comes to replace the Adamic propensity to sin with His supernatural Holy propensity towards His righteousness. His Fire does this work in a moment of time. Really. You wait!!!

This leaves more room to fill with the precious gold, jewels, and diadems of righteousness, peace and joy that endure forevermore within His fire!

Life in His Spirit

| Built upon Salvation | Built upon Salvation and completed by a glorious Sanctification |
|---|--|
| "Old Man" and "New Man" propensities war tooth and nail for dominion within | The New Man rules alone in a peace that passeth all understanding |
| Blessing and sorrow | Constant blessing |
| Anointing and dryness | Constant reliable anointing. |
| Effort to remain in fellowship with Him | Constant effortless Oneness |
| He is sometimes afar off. | Constant effortless Intimacy |
| Temptation sometimes lures us astray from within | Temptation has lost it's power to allure |
| Revelation comes and goes | Revelation is at the fingertips as needed |
| Self-consciousness is a trouble at times | Undivided consciousness |
| Faith and doubt often compete | A vast supernatural assurance quietly rules |
| Worry is often a problem | Worry doesn't work in the solid land of assurance |
| Heaven is our hope | Heaven in Him is our everyday reality on earth |
| Spiritual wounds are sometimes sanctified in Him | The whole life dwells in the Holy of Holies |
| Spiritual growth is sometimes difficult | Spiritual growth is unopposed and exponential |
| Worship and prayer sometimes require struggle | Worship and prayer are instantly anointed |
| Often a sense of being part of the lost world | Constant unutterable separation unto Him |
| Power, conviction and shame take turns | A constant sense of quiet authority |
| Others are offended by us at times | Still offended by us, and by His obvious Presence |
| Illness and age take their toll | Illness and age take their toll but the joy... |
| The Lord may prune for greater fruitfulness | The Lord may prune for even greater fruitfulness |
| Our love is perfected within experience | Our even greater love is perfected within experience |
| Spiritual sonship | Spiritual Sonship, "A Son indeed" |
| Life in the Holy place | Life in the Holy of Holies |
| Pardon | The better hope of a completed enablement |
| Glories of the deeper life are unknowable | Glories of an even deeper life remain unknowable |
| Growth of grace within pardon | Unhindered rapid growth within purity |
| He forgives our mistakes | We give thanks! He still forgives our mistakes! |

By Tom Plumb www.enterhisrest.org

While entering His Rest is sometimes quiet, and sometimes spectacular; if examined closely the same requirements always apply. For example being frozen in place for days while God inwardly sifts the soul happened regularly in the Great Awakening:

excerpted from: "The Kingdom- Priests and Kings" by Paul Keith Davis

TOKENS OF THIS REALITY

The Lord has given to us "tokens" of this reality through individuals who have crossed over as spies and returned with the fruit of this land and shared it with the body of Christ. These individuals have been "prototypes" of an entire company of people who are to function in this governmental role equipped with the "keys of the Kingdom" tasting the good word of God and the power of the age to come. Some have already lived their life of victory and entered their reward, such as John G. Lake. Others are presently emerging

having tasted of this reality.

Even while we were in a prophetic conference in Kelowna Canada (2002), a precious sister who is a missionary to Mozambique, participated in the conference with us. As she shared her heart with us and the experiences she has had with the Lord in recent days as He pruned and prepared her, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and revealed that she was likened to one of the spies who ventured over into the promise and returned with portions of the fruit of the land. As she shared her report, it remained up to the people to choose to believe or reject the report.

Her message was likewise one of preparation as she disclosed how the Lord "glued" her to the floor for seven days and seven nights, moving upon and through her with waves of His Spirit revealing areas and issues that were contrary to His nature. Much took place during this season, but *the end result was the death to self and selfish motives and agendas and the embracing of His Spirit as a dwelling place [allowing total Dominion](#) in her Spirit, soul, and body according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23*. Tremendous miracles, signs and wonders began to emerge in her ministry with countless reports of healings and even creative miracles as sight was restored, lame limbs given strength and cancers healed.

CROSSING OVER TO THE PROMISE

This is our promise and this is our destiny as the dawning of a new day continues to ascend to the spiritual heights from which the Priests and Kings will become apparent. From this sacred place these anointed vessels will begin to function in their governmental role and appropriate the Lord's great victory. Let us give ear to the Spirit of Counsel preceding the release of the Spirit of Might and Power.

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(please note that the above transformation did not occur via "progressive sanctification", but by the hand of the Lord- Edit.)

Proven Paths to Enter His Rest

As Spirit-filled believers, we must understand that the roots of our faith are within the movement of "Holy Rollers" that came out of the "Azusa Street" outpouring of 1910. Being filled with the Spirit and speaking in tongues were quite a challenge to understand within the religious context of the day. In retrospect, it is probably safe to say that no school of thought actually succeeded in that understanding- and we are still working it out today.

The focus of that movement was exploring the seemingly endless possibilities of this revolutionary new outpouring. In the 1940's and 1950's this focus became embodied within the big-name and big-tent healing evangelists that criss-crossed the land with ever-larger tents and claims to supernatural fame. Today, that same focus upon the Spirit and the spectacular are implicit within our much-multiplied ranks. Our understanding of the spiritual is rooted there, so we naturally assume that growth is simply pouring more of the Comforter out into every situation. And indeed His benefits have been so pervasive that they are difficult to put in perspective; but we must succeed if we are to find the full potential of His outpouring.

Before 1910, the spiritual cutting-edge was the "Holiness movement". It preached a fiery conviction to encourage both the salvation of the lost and a subsequent "second blessing" (entire sanctification) among believers. Today, our burgeoning Spirit-filled church has kept saving the lost but has virtually lost all understanding and experience of entire sanctification among believers. Why? The short answer is that being

filled with His Spirit is quite straightforward and very spectacular, while obtaining entire sanctification was always tough and radically costly. Certainly not everybody succeeds who attempts to obtain it. Many are drawn aside and lose it again since it is an advanced state of grace found only on the “narrow way”.

In actual fact, by neglecting entire sanctification, we have lost a spiritual pillar that we need to perfect the authoritative blessing that faithful members of the early church enjoyed. Believers within this completed blessing toppled empires and re-defined their age with waves of willing martyrs sowing strong conviction and helpless dismay within the hearts of their persecutors. This clearly is a “meatier” blessing than we now possess! Of course, we need the emerging ministries of apostle and prophet and the abilities they represent, but I speak not of ministries, but of the fundamental spiritual underpinnings within the hearts that such ministries are appointed to bring forth and guide.

The Three Pillars of Faith

Although the three elements of Position, Anointing and Maturity are independent of each other, they also work together.

For instance, a freshly born again soul may move in remarkable anointing and gifts. This in no way implies an advanced maturity or positioning.

KEY To obtain honour for successful stewardship before the Lord, each of these pillars must be given appropriate care.

Consider the case of the foolish grounds keeper: He carelessly lawn-mows the shrubs and hedge-trims the lawn with great effort. But how can he receive honour or advancement from his master when the shrubs are now reduced to ruined stumps, the lawn is an uneven mess, and the equipment destroyed?

Similarly, today, the body of Christ often lacks the proper discernment to actually obtain their desire. They also often lack the understanding required to formulate proper and realistic expectations. The result of this failure to obtain a balanced success is the chronic, catastrophic and systemic confusion that regrettably truncates the spiritual lives of the great majority of today’s 400 million Spirit –filled believers. Instead of great spiritual advance we see faltering baby-steps. Consider these words with care; since the understanding of what it takes to obtain an improved Position in Him has been almost completely lost within the bricks and bureaucracies of today’s professionally managed church corporations.

Positioning-

How Obtained: It is not attained, but obtained since it is given by grace. “Placed up” (lifted or appointed?) comes from pardon in salvation or purity in sanctification. In sanctification the burning of His flame of fire removes dross either fully or in part according to the measure of faith. We give Him the dross: He then supernaturally removes it. He considers pure gold worthy; the improved but impure is still not worthy.

What is it?: –“Where I stand before the Lord as the result of the sovereign working of His Grace.” A closely related principle is “Purity”. “Clean” is defined as “the absence of anything that does not belong.”- This is the flip side of spiritual maturity; since it relates to the degree the Lord is able to manifest His own nature within the vessel. ie: “Only the pure in heart shall see God.”

Examples of these eternally precious foundational works, or “positions” are: (lost), saved, sanctified, crucified with Him, and glorified. Exhaustive consecration, agony and tears usually precede an improvement of position after a period of awareness of the inadequacy of the existing lesser position. All of the above accompany the salvation experience, as it does with subsequent improvements in position. (We are speaking here of the rare total life replacement- as distinct from the numerous and astonishing supernatural encounters found by an active charismatic seeker.)

Proper Expectation: each advance in position brings a new stable citizenship in a further realm of intimacy and security within His bosom.

In sanctification, for instance, faith and assurance become unshakable for they are hid from the storm in Him alone. Since this position is finished, it takes no daily effort to maintain, just as one does not need to be saved afresh each day. No longer are there “leaks” in the vessel of faith! Only a new and deliberate act of willing vile sin will change this. This is mentioned first because it comes first.

Any position, once gained, can also be lost. Salvation, upon a whole-hearted rebellion and embrace of defilement may be lost. Sanctification is much more easily lost, since the standards are higher. If a soul re-embraces one of things he consecrated to the Lord, or commits any blatant sin he may re-enter his previous state of being double-minded, though saved.

Anointing-

How Obtained: An improved anointing is usually poured out by the laying on of hands. The effectiveness of that anointing is then a matter of individual stewardship.

How Stewarded: the previously saved vessel is “stirred up” –a respectful stewardship of the anointing is related directly to the diligence of the soul in applying what he or she has in Him. One of the stewardship tools is the gift of tongues, which helps the soul actively drink the Living Water instead of succumbing to his natural sluggishness towards things of the Spirit. Revelation, spiritual gifts, and abundant encounters with the Lord normally follow an active life in the Spirit through the years.

What it is: the Comforter is the third person of the Trinity. His name is the Holy Spirit. His Spirit is poured out to humbly help build the faith of those that believe.

Proper Expectation: the radiant supernatural benefits of the Comforter visibly overflow to benefit and astonish many: I Cor. 9: 24 “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” Paul here speaks of stewardship of the anointing, and arguably also contends for a further improvement in position (prize, crown)

Obtaining a parcel of land is a legal event that is finalized in a certain specific moment of time, usually preceded by long and difficult financial arrangements. Exploiting a parcel of land is remarkably different. It is a virtually endless process that involves careful investment of both effort and resources to obtain fruitfulness. Obtaining His Rest and walking in His Spirit are equally dissimilar.

This is mentioned in the middle, because the effective working of His Spirit is the means (middleman) by which position is transformed into Godly maturity.

Maturity-

How Attained: “grow up” since spiritual maturity only comes the hard and slow way of challenges met and overcome faithfully.

What it is: It is death, it is real sacrifice, such as you see demonstrated by the 24 elders before the throne. We often call maturity brokenness or humility for they are elementary manifestations of it. Maturity relates to the degree the vessel can be used without resistance in the hand of the Lord. Often maturity is gained more quickly by bearing suffering while staying true and within His grace. The greater the suffering; the greater the benefit.

Proper Expectation: the ideally fulfilled human Godly vessel, full of every possible fruit and fruitfulness. This is mentioned last because it is attained last.

So, in short, the foundation of your faith is your position. For most this is their salvation experience, whether or not it has been “stirred up” in a Pentecostal way.

For some, it is their salvation experience that has had its work made complete within entire sanctification. Salvation grants pardon for sin committed up until that point, as well as relationship with the Saviour. His Rest follows the sanctification crisis experience. It grants purity.

One can choose to build the superstructure of their faith, life and Godliness with continuing interference from the Adamic nature, or one can choose to totally replace this with the Christ nature. If you do this, it palpably demonstrates to the Father, that your commitment to Him has finally turned the corner!! You quietly stand before Him with unveiled face in unalloyed trust. In the face of that complete trust, He is able to implicitly trust you in return. Not tentatively, as one would an acquaintance, but firmly as one would trust a worthy partner.

From a “Clean Heart” by G. A. McLaughlin (1895)

HOW TO OBTAIN A CLEAN HEART

In the warfare of evil against the good every inch of ground is gained only after the most obstinate contest. Dislodged from one position the enemy only retreats to another, which has to be assailed and taken in the same manner as the former. When the importance and necessity and possibility of possessing "a heart from sin set free" has been proved and admitted, the battle has only begun, the chief effort of the enemy is to switch us off the right road to the obtainment of the blessing. A wrong road to a good place is no better than a right road to a bad place. In either instance we shall get where we ought not to be.

When Pharaoh promised to let the children of Israel go, he said, "Only do not go a great way off." It seems as if Satan said to many Christians, "Yes, I see that you feel your need of a clean heart, and it is right that you should have it, but get it in a reasonable way. Strive hard for it or wait until you grow into it, or seek it by evolution."

With him it is just as well if you seek it the wrong way as though you did not seek it at all. The Psalmist sought it by faith. This is the Bible method. It is not the popular method. The faith method of salvation has never been popular with the world or the worldly part of the church.

There is no chance for any self-glory, to submit and receive it by faith. Salvation by faith is not popular in the world. It is never praised up in the daily papers nor where men meet on the exchange or the market place. The natural man has much to say about works and charities, etc., but he ridicules your idea of being saved by faith. The religionist of the church is as much opposed to the cleansing of the heart by the faith method.

The late Dr. Curry used to say that the idea of religion that now obtains in the church is to be converted by faith and then go on and finish the work ourselves by our own doing instead of trusting God to complete it. Finishing our salvation by our own righteousness. But David obtained it by faith.

Paul declared that he wished not to be found in "mine own righteousness of the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith in Christ Jesus." The reader will notice that the subject of this chapter is HOW TO OBTAIN. We might have used the word attain, but it would have been incorrect. The two words Attain and Obtain express exactly the two theories.

Man seeks to attain a clean heart, when he seeks it by his own efforts, like a boy who seeks to stretch himself up to a certain height, thinking to make himself taller. This is the human method of doing it for ourselves, by growth, evolution, etc. To obtain is to receive it as a gift from God. By faith we obtain it as a gift. By the growth, culture and work method we seek to attain it, but all in vain.

All salvation that we ever receive is by gift from God. There is not a passage in the word of God that says it is by works or by growth. The psalmist prayed for it and expected it as a gift, or he never would have asked for it and expected it. No man prays for a thing which he expects to get by his own efforts. It is absurd to think that the Psalmist would have prayed to God for a thing that God would not give him, but that he must get by his own striving.

There is not a passage in the word of God that declares that we have our hearts purified by growth.

All the passages that speak on the subject declare that it is by faith. When Paul stood before Agrippa and made his notable defense, he declared that Jesus gave him a commission to preach while on the road to Damascus. In that commission, among other things, it was declared that he was to so declare that gospel that men might receive an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith." If Jesus told Paul that men are sanctified by faith, it must be so.

Who dares to say it is by growth? Peter declares in Acts 15:9, "Purifying their hearts by faith." How do men dare, in the face of these straight, direct passages to the contrary in all the word of God, to set up human methods of saving men from sin! Peter declares that this purification comes through faith in the promises. Hear him: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (11. Peter: 4).

This cleansing could come only through the promises of God. And only through the promises according to our faith.

Shall we go by the word of God or the opinions of men. This is the point to which all this question comes. Do you want to risk the matter of your fitness for heaven to the opinions of men or to the positive declaration of the word of God. Let each decide for himself.

There seems to be nothing according to the teaching of the Bible that pleases God more than to have us trust him. He declares that, without faith it is impossible to please him." When Jesus was on earth nothing pleased him more than faith, and nothing caused his displeasure in all the conduct of his disciples as their unbelief."

The Better Growth

On this website there is much talk of new and yet unfamiliar places in God. The deeper life should not be viewed as a threat to existing ways of faith or belief, but instead as a better and more glorious way to the same ultimate end, being helped by the same Holy Spirit.

Peter exhorts us to "grow" in grace. Every tree has to be in something to grow. It cannot grow to another soil or to a distant place. It simply grows in the soil in which it is planted.

So it is with the child of God. He has been planted through salvation into the spiritual life, and is then told in the Word to "grow in" that grace and life. The Holy Spirit feeds that growth. There is no exhortation in the passage to strive for another, higher and distinct blessing, but to grow in the grace in which he finds himself.

We could say that there are two immediate spiritual localities in the religious life. One is salvation and the other sanctification. It is not more impossible for a tree to transport itself by growth from one climate to another than it is for the soul by mere growth in grace to pass from the saved to the sanctified state.

Again, within the sanctified state, we are told to continue growing in grace and maturity.

The Scripture recognizes a partial, and also a complete (or entire) sanctification. Just as the Bible tells of a state of love, and another of perfect love; of blessings and "the fullness of the blessing," so does it teach that we can be sanctified in part, and again that we can be sanctified wholly.

This does not imply any imperfection or incompleteness upon the part of God, but it is rather a mark or indication of the progress or extent of his work. It must never be forgotten that the work of entire sanctification is an advanced work, an appearance and victory dealing with a different thing. It is not a repetition or going over of a former work done in salvation. Salvation brings pardon, while sanctification brings purity."

*Purity allows you entry into His intimate embrace.
This is the Oneness with Him He prayed for in John 17.*
