

LIVING THE SANCTIFIED LIFE ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

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LIVING THE SANCTIFIED LIFE ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE
(with emphasis on living, not on justification)

Dear Fellow-workers in the Kingdom of our Risen Lord and
Examples of sanctified life before those called by His
Holy Spirit to live in fellowship with our Lord Jesus :

With the words of St. Paul in Phil. 1:9-11 we also pray
"that ye may approve (recognize) things that are excellent; that ye
may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; being
filled with the FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God."

The Apostle is so filled with the gift of righteousness through
his Lord Jesus Christ imputed by the love and grace of God, that we
see this heavily emphasized blessing shining through in every chapter
of his epistles and consequently also that this imputed righteousness
of Jesus is reflected, yes "proven" in the God-pleasing "fruits of
righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of
God". So, since "the mouth speaketh out of the abundance of the heart"
he says: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21)
And "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge
of Christ Jesus, my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all
things, and do count them but refuse, that I may win Christ, and be
found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law,
but that which is through faith of Christ, the righteousness which is
of God by faith, that I may know HIM, and the POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable
unto His death: if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection
of the dead." (Phil. 3:8-11) In other passages this is summed up as:
"This is the will of God, even your sanctification". (1. Thess. 4:3)
Peter also and John express these same truths with pleas that children
of God walk in them.

St. Paul repeats to the Galatians, the Ephesians, the Philipppians,
the Colossians, "WALK IN THE SPIRIT, and ye shall not fulfill the
lust of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16,25) "We are God's workmanship, created
unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them."
(Eph. 2:10) And "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called",
(Eph. 4:1) and "henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity
of their mind", (Eph. 4:17) and "Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved
us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God
for a sweetsmelling savor" (Eph. 5:2) and "Walk as children of Light"
(Eph. 5:8). "Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" (Eph. 5:15)
"As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and
built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught,
abounding therein with thanksgiving."

Paul is happy saying (Eph. 3:8,9) "Unto me, who am less than the
least of all the saints, is this grace given, that I should preach
among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make
all men see WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY, which from the
beginning of the world hath been hid in God, Who created all things
by Jesus Christ."

It is rightly said that a red thread of the Love of
God is drawn through all the Scriptures of the Bible. There is also
a Golden Thread of Sanctified Life in Fellowship with God shining
through that same Word of God.

- We would say that the Word of God is a Record picturing to us
- I. The happy, peaceful, soul-satisfying and saving and sanctifying FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, and also
 - II. The fellowship-destroying and condemning unbelief in God.

The sanctifying fellowship is by faith in God through Jesus Christ which proves itself by loving, cheerful obedience and childlike trust. The whole history of the Children of Israel bears this out, also the true New Testament Church.

The fellowship-destroying and condemning unbelief proves itself in disregard or disobedience to God and His Word through lack of love or through loss of fellowship with God, because of unbelief in Jesus and resulting fellowship with the enemies of God, Satan and the world of darkness.

Now, - the Word of God begins with the revelation of perfect fellowship with the loving Creator. Adam and Eve enjoyed this perfectly at first in their state of innocence. Even in the state of sin, after the fall, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob enjoyed a happy, sanctifying fellowship with God through His grace to forgive, especially Moses, to whom "The Lord spoke face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." (Exod.33:11)

Mentioning Abraham, I confess that the story of his life, his faith, his obedience, the references of Jesus and the Apostles to him, made a deep impression on me, especially his fellowship with God, a fellowship of Father and son. But at first I could not comprehend how the Lord could say to him: "Be thou perfect", when HE said: "I AM THE ALMIGHTY GOD; WALK BEFORE ME, AND BE THOU PERFECT." (Gen. 17:1)

"Halaq" with "eth" in Hebrew = go, walk, proceed, accompany, have communion, fellowship, with.

"Thamim = complete, perfect, without blemish, in integrity.

When the Lord God said to Abraham, "Walk before ME" HE was inviting him to walk with Almighty God, that is, to be in His company, to have spiritual communion with HIM. Dr. M. Luther puts it this way in his summary of many pages of his exposition. ((My own translation)) "GOD, in saying 'Walk before Me', combines both tables: the first: that God bids Abraham to believe in Him, to call on Him, to preach His Word, and to exercise himself in obedience and service to Him. All this is contained in "Walk before Me".

Then, in bidding Abraham, "Be thou perfect", God bids him to live in good works that belong to the honor and service of God. So, in the second table, saying "be thou perfect" the Lord says: Your life is to be sincere, in integrity, without blame, so that you may walk irreproveable and without giving offense before men."

"But that the Hebrew word "tham", that is, complete, perfect, God-fearing and blameless, is used in the plural "thamim" in this passage is not without significance. Because a head of a household, and every one that has an office, owes it not only to himself, to his own person, not to do anything sinful and blameworthy, but also to those for whom he has been made responsible.

Thus the holy Apostle Paul, 1.Tim.3:2, wants a bishop, an overseer, to be "thamim". not only "tham", that is, be perfect not only in one commandment of God, but in all of them." (Luther,Walch,St.Louis I,1034)

Abraham understood this and was obedient in love, in communion with his heavenly Father. So,- he also "commanded his children and his household after him, that they should keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which HE hath spoken of him". (Gen.18:19)

By the time that Abraham lived after the Flood about about 365 years had passed and idolatry was spreading fast. Noah died 350 years after. But about 669 years before the Flood ENOCH "WALKED WITH GOD". For this sentence the same Hebrew words are used as when the Lord spoke to Abraham. Of Enoch the Holy Spirit made Jude testify: "Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of those who had gone in the way of Cain, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against HIM". (Jude 14,15)

And of the report that "he was not, for God took him" (Gen.5:24), of that Hebrews 11:5 tells us beautifully: "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God."

Jude refers to Enoch as "the seventh from Adam". Did you ever draw lines to make a graph of the hundreds of years that the PATRIARCHS lived? It is very revealing to do so. The chronology reveals that Adam was 622 years old when Enoch was born. And Enoch outlived Adam by only 57 years, so that he had ample opportunity to know Adam as his fourth great-grandfather, and could know him for over 300 years. During those years, according to the testimony in Hebrews and Jude, he must have heard directly from Adam about the Creation and about the happy fellowship and DIVINE COMMUNION that Adam and Eve enjoyed with their Creator while they could "eat of the TREE OF LIFE". But they will surely have told Enoch and the other Patriarchs up to Lamech, the father of Noah, of their fall, how they lost Eden-Paradise, were driven out, but also how God by His grace and mercy promised "THE SEED OF THE WOMAN" to be the DELIVERER"!!! What a comfort and joy that surely was for Enoch and Methuselah and their family!!!

Enoch was translated 69 years before Noah was born. But his son Methuselah most surely taught his son Lamech, and his grandson, Noah, whom Lamech called Noah because he said: "This same shall comfort us in our work and in the toil of our hands, which cometh because of the ground, which the Lord hath cursed." (Gen.5:29) So, we see, he knew the curse of God because of sin. But God was merciful to him to spare him the horror of death in the Flood. He died when the Flood began. And Lamech had died 5 years before.

✶ To come back to Enoch: Moses was directed by the Holy Spirit to reveal the most important part of Enoch's life on earth: namely that "HE WALKED WITH GOD". This is mentioned twice !! in the same chapter! He lived in his lifetime in close communion with God. The world is to know this, as the world, you and I likewise, is to know it of Noah and Abraham also, and of Elijah.

Luther wrote: "We should set this Patriarch up on a candlestick or as Christ says (Matt.5:14), set him on a hill, so that he may shine forth as a light in public preaching! Thus Moses praises God-fearing Enoch as being a bright sun, shining above all other teachers and Patriarchs in the first world"!!!

"For 300 years Enoch took his stand as the highest Prophet and High Priest, who had six Patriarchs for his teachers. Receiving the grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, he was a Prophet of Prophets and one sanctified above all other holy men. Thus Enoch is great, first, because of his calling and ministry. And, second, Enoch is praised above others also for this reason, that God wanted him to be an example for the whole world for the comfort and strengthening of faith in the life to come. Therefore this text should be written in

written in GOLDEN LETTERS and kept deep in the heart"! Luther further:

"This text shows further also what it is to "walk before God", namely, to preach about another life than this one is; to teach of the "Seed to come", how the head of the Serpent is to be crushed and Satan's kingdom be destroyed. Because that was Enoch's preaching, who was a husband and a head of a family, who had wife and children, ruled his household, and earned a living by his work; that one should not think of living the life of monks, which may appear good, as if it were walking in the fear of the Lord." - "Now when this God-fearing man had lived 300 years, after Methuselah was born, in most sincere devotion, faith, patience and innumerable crosses and misfortunes, which he overcame by faith in "the SEED (of the Woman) to come", he was seen no more". "In this connection consider how weighty and meaningful these words are. Moses does not ^{say} like of other Patriarchs, "and he died" but rather "and he was not".

"Such a word that "God took him", has not been said of any other man, except of Elijah. Early in the first world already God wanted to show by a public example, that HE has prepared another life after this one for His saints, in which they shall live with Him."

"Also, - the Hebrew word "lakach" does not mean that God just took him away, but rather that God took him to Himself. These are words of life, which God will have revealed, possibly through an angel, to Enoch's father, Jared, and to the whole generation, so that they might have comfort and the promise of everlasting life not only in Word, but also in a work of God."

"How pleasant and comforting this testimony must have been to the relatives, when they heard that Enoch did not die, nor was murdered by the godless wicked, nor was carried away by subtilty and deceit of Satan, but that he was taken up by the living, almighty God."

"This is to show also, that God has reserved and ordered a much better life for men than this one here, which is so full of misery and misfortune. For, even though Enoch also was a sinner, yet he departed out of this life, so that God might give him another and an everlasting life, because he lives with God and God has taken him to Himself."

"So then, that "Enoch walked with God" means that he was a faithful witness, that after this life men are to live in an everlasting one for the sake of the promised "SEED".

"Since the holy fathers desired the future life so much for Abel's and Enoch's sake, how much more should we desire it, we who have the PRINCE OF LIFE, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself? Shouldn't we sigh for the future things and be unfriendly to these temporal things? Because Christ Himself has given to us the hope of a better life. Therefore we should despise this life and this world with courage, and from our inmost hearts crave the future honor and glory of eternal life" ((My mother did so much)).

WHY did we bring in the "Walking with God" of Enoch, Noah and Abraham? Many others could certainly also be cited, such as Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Daniel, and all the other God-fearing men and women that are mentioned, as Sarah, Rebecca, Naomi, Ruth, Hannah. In the New Testament you know who are mentioned, such as Mary, of course, and Zacharias and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna, Lois and Eunice, Mary and Martha, and the Apostles !!!

WHAT was from the beginning, and is to the present day THE CHIEF FACTOR or POWER TO ENABLE CHILDREN OF GOD TO LIVE A SANCTIFIED LIFE or TO "WALK WITH GOD"?

In just a few words, it is really the association or fellowship or communion by faith with Him, the Lord, the Triune God, His Spirit working through His Word.

The closer or the more intimate this fellowship with the Lord is kept, the more sanctified the life will be, not that the sanctification through justification will be any greater, but that the consecration to serve the Lord and to please Him with fruits of righteousness will be greater. And the looser or the less intimate it is, so much the less will be the sanctified life to the point of losing it altogether.

The men who "walked with God" were very close, very intimate with the Lord, Adam most of all, before his fall into sin, in the very visible presence of God, when he was perfect, when his will was in all things in full conformity with the will of his Creator and their fellowship was not marred by disobedience nor by divided allegiance to the devil and selfish flesh.

It is most uplifting, yes heavenly, to read and to absorb oneself in Luther's exposition of Adam and Eve's life or state of innocence and wisdom and conformity to God, while they were living in the true image of God and ate of the Tree of Life!!! What a glorious life that was when they were holy as HE is holy, when they were righteous as HE is righteous, when they understood or comprehended the things of God, when they knew the reason and the worth of everything that their heavenly Father had made!

And oh! what a fearful loss it was when all that was lost, the happy, intimate fellowship, the pure, guiltless conscience, the walking in the knowable, conscious presence of God, with all other creatures at their service, not by force, but by mere wish or call!!

But the DEAR FATHER'S LOVE AND GRACE IS SO BOUNDLESS, that HE did not forsake nor cast away Adam and Eve and all their children forever. Even after sin, disobedience, and apostasy became almost universal, God still sought to hold children of men by His Spirit extending His grace to them by His promises.

Finally His Spirit, so patient, so longsuffering so long, gave up when "His Spirit could not strive with man" any longer. (Gen. 6:3, 1. Peter 3:20:!) Then HE let His righteous judgment of condemnation take its course in THE DELUGE, and only those who "walked with God" in faith and love were saved, saved to live after the judgment to enjoy their Lord's blessings and further promises symbolized by the glory of the rainbow in the heavens!

Now, since "by one man's disobedience all, we all, were made sinners", and God by His lovingkindness "has made many righteous by the obedience of One", His SON, HE appreciates His chosen children all the more, as long as they recognize and love Him as "THE ALMIGHTY GOD" Who has redeemed them by the promised "SEED of the woman", "The SEED of Abraham", and "The Son of David". "Redeemed from all iniquity and purified unto Himself a people of His own, zealous of good works",

Realizing this the redeemed children of God will want to "walk before Him and be perfect". To this the Prophets continued to call Israel, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters!.... Incline your ears, and come unto ME, hear and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David". (Isa. 55:1,3)

Finally, "in the fullness of time" "the Lord our RIGHTEOUSNESS" came, HE "WHO IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, THE FIRSTBORN, IN WHOM THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD DWELLETH BODILY". (Col. 2:9) "He reconciled us, who were alienated and enemies in our unregenerate minds by wicked works, in the body of His flesh through death, to present us holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight," (Col. 1:15, 22).

HE, JESUS, repeats to us the call of His Father to Abraham, saying: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matt.5:48) Peter, quoting, also admonishes: "Be ye holy, for I am holy". (1.Pet.1:16) When Jesus said: "FOLLOW ME", it was the same as saying, "Walk before Me, and be thou perfect". After all it was spoken by the same God, the Trinity.

Now there is no need of going into the story of redemption and the teaching of justification in this essay. May it suffice to say here that through His redemption the penitent sinner, the faithful believer, is justified and enjoys the forgiveness of all sins and with his justification is also sanctified to God as His child, that is set apart from the unbelieving world to "be His own and to live in His Kingdom and to serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness".

This justification and sanctification by the Lord through His Spirit and Word comes about in a moment. "The Apache Scout" of January 1928 stated: "our justification takes but a moment, but our sanctification takes a lifetime". The moment, of course, is in the heart of the believer and in the momentary touch of the Holy Spirit rousing faith like in a flash of lightning, as in a child when it is baptized, or as in the malefactor on the cross converted suddenly to the Lord after hearing the words that Jesus spoke. But it was Jesus' lifetime also to justify us and to sanctify us, though receiving the blessing of it takes but a moment.

So then, - with Jesus' righteousness imputed to us, we are holy, perfect, blameless before Him. And the angels rejoice in God's grace to us. BUT NOW, you and I, who are living by the grace and longsuffering of God, we are to "walk before Him" and keep on being holy, perfect, "sincere and without offense till the Day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God". (Phil.1:10,11) and we are to "work out our own salvation (which is already given to us, live it) with fear and trembling. (Trembling lest we lose it or forfeit it). "For it is God Who worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." (Phil.2:12)

Therefore in faith and love to God and in love to our fellowmen for Jesus' sake we pray that we may "WALK IN THE SPIRIT and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh". (Gal.5:16) St. Paul says: "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all thingsto gain an incorruptible crown.... and keeps under his body, to bring it into subjection". (1.Cor.9:27) Our living the sanctified life is a sincere effort daily and always to exercise the strictest self-control, so that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit by dissipation and committing crimes against ourselves. (Drunkards, drug users and pushers) We have been dedicated as TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and our minds and bodies are precious to the Lord. HE wants them kept pure and not to be led or deceived by the wicked Deceiver. Continued living in and taking pleasure in the "works of the flesh" (listed Gal.5:19 where envyings, murders, drunkenness are named side by side) SEPARATES FROM GOD, breaks up the fellowship with God.

But rather, our deeds, our works, our behavior, are to be the good "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance". (Gal.5:22) Remember the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt.5) With Paul we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil.3:14) We do this if we remain in that faithful fellowship with our Lord, remembering how HE is with us, at our side, watching us, hearing our prayers, if we will converse with Him daily, not only imploring Him, but letting Him speak to us by His Word and thanking Him

When we read, and re-read, for example, Romans 12:1,2, then it is not grievous or boring, but joyful and makes us thankful that we are privileged and permitted to "present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service." Then "we are not conformed to this world, but are transformed by the renewing of our minds that we may prove what is that good and perfect and acceptable will of God." (Romans 12:2)

We are still living in the time of grace, which may end soon, because we are also living in the Day of Judgment. Jesus said: "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:18,19) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. (1.Peter 4:17-19)

We commit our souls to Him in fellowship with Him, in prayer-fellowship and in fellowship, even partaking of Him, in Holy Communion. Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, is given by Him in love and grace, so that we might enjoy, experience true fellowship with Him, live in Him and HE in us. This is the power of the Gospel to strengthen us to "walk with God."

Now, in closing, let us still hear St.Paul's testimony in 2.Cor. 4:1-6, = "THEREFORE, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but, by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give ^{the} light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

So then "the rather, brethren", as Peter says, "give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2.Peter 1:10,11) "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent THAT YE MAY BE FOUND OF HIM IN PEACE, WITHOUT SPOT, AND BLAMELESS." (2.Peter 3:14)

SERVE OUR GRACIOUS "ALMIGHTY GOD: WALK BEFORE HIM AND BE PERFECT"

"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."
(2.Peter 3:18)

An expression of conviction by Alfred M. Uplegger,
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