



## 1 Thessalonians: Chapter 4 A Life of Faith

1 of 6

### *Session 15:*

### *Operation Sanctification*

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,



12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

6 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Vine, W. "Dictionaries :: Sanctification, Sanctify." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. 24 Jun, 1996. Web. 18 Mar, 2015. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/Dictionary/viewTopic.cfm>>.

"1 Thessalonians 4 (New King James Version)." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 9 Apr, 2015. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=1Th&c=4&p=0&rl=0&t=NKJV>>.



Welcome to session 15 of a Life of Faith. I commend you for your diligence and perseverance. You are reaping blessing for this lifetime and the next because of your faithful study. Please go before our heavenly Father in prayer and ask Him to open the eyes of your heart to the truth of His Word.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4 and mark, highlight, or underline any portion of scripture that is meaningful to you.

**What caught your attention today as you were reading?**

**How does what you noticed fit in with your life right now?**

**Please go back and read verse 3 again. According to verse 3, what is God's will for us?**

Please go back and draw a symbol above the word *sanctify*.

**Please go back and read verses 3-6 again and record every detail you learn about *sanctification* from these verses.**

The Greek word for *sanctification* is *hagaismos*, which means "consecration, purification, and (here comes the good part!) sanctification of heart and life." Think about the last part of the definition for a moment.

**How does the sanctification of the heart affect the sanctification of a life?**





Vine's dictionary poignantly states,

"... it [sanctification] cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Sanctification cannot be caught, over the course of time and trial and error, it must be taught.

**According to Vine's dictionary, what three elements are needed in order to accomplish sanctification?**

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We must obey God, and follow the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Hagiaosmosis* descends from the verb *hagiazō*. *Hagiazō* translates as, "to separate from profane things and dedicate to God." Has anyone besides me been separated from a few profane things? I am thankful that God allows, calls, and wills us to be separated from profane things and dedicate ourselves to Him.

**How can we be in the world and yet be set apart for God's use?**

In addition to being *separate*, *hagiaosmosis* also means, "to cleanse externally, to purify by expiation, free from the guilt of sin, to purify internally by renewing of the soul." When we have been touched by the sin of others or when we have chosen to touch sin, God washes us with the blood of Jesus. Then, God goes deep and mends the tears in our soul by renewing us through Jesus' death on the cross. Once our souls are mended, God is able to use us for His kingdom work.

*Hagiaosmosis* is derived from yet another Greek word, *hagios*, which means "a most holy thing." Please write your name in the blank below.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a most holy thing.

Please read the sentence aloud several times; each time accenting a different word.

Keeping in mind what we have learned about sanctification, please finish the





following statements.

**Because I am a most holy thing, I am ...**

**Because I am a most holy thing, I must...**

**Because I am a most holy thing, I shouldn't ...**

Blue Letter Bible also states *hagios* refers to things which "on account of some connection to God possess a certain distinction and claim to reverence as places sacred to God."

**What is our "connection" to God? Please read John 14:6 and record your answer below.**

In addition, *hagios* means to be separated from sin. As Jesus connects us to God, He separates us from sin.

**What sin has God separated you from since you became a Christian?**

Sanctification is a process. As we mature in Christ, we allow God greater access to our lives. Moses met God at the burning bush. Just as the clay beneath his feet was sanctified by the presence of God, so the clay of our bodies is sanctified by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. As we yield, He fills. He must increase and we must decrease until we are conformed to the image of Christ. It hurts, but it heals.

As you have probably guessed, *hagios* descends from another Greek word—*hagnos*. Please read the definition of *hagnos* below, and underline the meaning that is most significant to you.

**Hagnos:** pure from carnality, chaste, modest, pure from every fault, immaculate, clean.

Please fill in the missing words from 1Thessalonians 4:4.



“... that each of you should know how to possess his own \_\_\_\_\_ in  
\_\_\_\_\_ and honor ...”

The word vessel means “a chosen instrument.” We have been selected by God to be His chosen instrument; a tool in the hand of the Master, sharpened and honed by sanctification to accomplish His will.

Perhaps you are wondering how we become sanctified. Please read the following verses and note in the space below what you learn about sanctification.

**1 Thessalonians 4:4**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

**2 Thessalonians 2:13**

**1 Peter 1:2**

**Exodus 31:13**

In Exodus 31:13, God reveals He is *Jehovah Mekoddishkem*, “the God who sanctifies you.” If you desire more sanctification, you must have more God. Greater sanctification leads to deeper relationships, ministry and usefulness. Please take a moment to pray and ask God it show you what you need to separate from to make more room for Him.

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study.

by Mary Kane  
[www.onlybyprayer.com](http://www.onlybyprayer.com)  
all rights reserved  
copyright 2014