

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 129

Practical Sanctification
The Heart/mind - Virtue - Holy Spirit - Faith
The Word of God



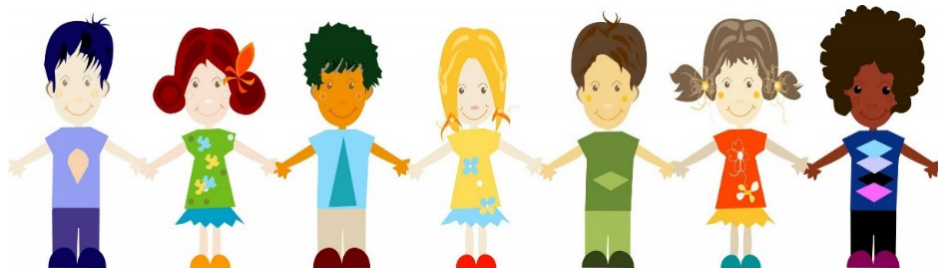
2019

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



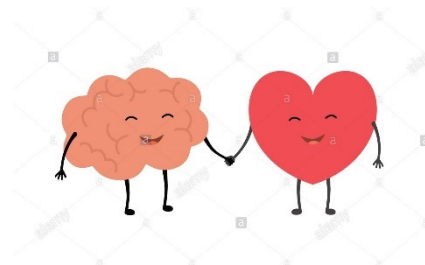
LESSON



In our last lesson in Colossians, we learned that our Christian walk...our practical sanctification is mainly an activity of the heart, which in the Bible means our mind: the inner man, our thinking, our attitudes. It also includes virtue, which is compassion, humility, forgiveness, love, peace, gratitude, self-control from the Word of God that lives richly in our souls.

These everyday virtues or attitudes God wants us to have in our hearts/minds makes us have to rely on the **Word of God and the Holy Spirit**. They team up with us to have us **put on** these new virtues. It demands **FAITH in God and His Word**.

We will get into **faith** later on in this lesson. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to realize this and rely on Him to help us choose to use these virtues. You have to choose! Remember?



And all of this IS work, which means we are actively involved with it, too. What will **your** heart/mind be filled with?

When the day comes and someone close to you asks if you can find something in your heart, like forgiveness, will it be there? If it is there, it will be because of this close relationship with the Holy Spirit whom the Lord Jesus gave to us and who leads us in grace as we follow Him.

Take love for instance. Here's how this works. First, by the Holy Spirit we put away the things in our heart/mind which cancel out love. Things like anger, hatred, revenge and selfishness...ugliness, right?



We see that the Holy Spirit has been pouring the love of God into our hearts/minds in order for us to do this. Look at **Rom 5:5. "and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us (by Jesus)."** Do you see how the Spirit helps us by pouring the love of God into our hearts? This is God's Word. Then the Lord asks us to put on a heart with His love. So, we put His love on because the Holy Spirit is there helping us to do it. We

learned this from Him.

Col 3:12-14 "So, as those who have been chosen of God (believers who chose to believe in Jesus), **holy and beloved**, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; **just as the Lord forgave you**, so also should you (forgive others). (14) Beyond all these things **put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity (and harmony).**" And this all happens because of the FREEDOM we have to choose it. It is not from pressure or bullying. It's from our heart/mind filled with God's Word and the help of the Holy Spirit living in our bodies.

Gal 5:1 "It was for **freedom** that **Christ set us free**; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery to sin." Gal 4:6-7 "Because you are sons (God's children), God has sent forth **the Spirit** of His Son **into our hearts**, crying, 'Abba! Father!' (Daddy) (7)



Therefore you are no longer a slave, but **a son (and daughter)**; and if a son, then an heir through God."

Where the Spirit is, (in our heart), there is freedom. 2 Cor 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the (Holy) Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.** (18) But we all, with an uncovered face, seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being changed into the same image (of Jesus) from glory (our personal salvation) to glory (when we get our Resurrection bodies at the Rapture), just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

Your heart/mind is your field where you get to grow things. You are free to grow what you choose...virtue or the things that cancel love. You can grow, for instance, an attitude of gratitude. And nothing will prevent you from being the most grateful, thankful person you know.

You can grow love.

You can grow compassion, and kindness, and patience. You have freedom to do it. Jesus set you free.



This is the VERY IMPORTANT for your heart-walk in practical sanctification.

Our heart-walk is in three-steps:

1. Put away the old things...the bad old attitudes and behaviors...ugly things...the garbage.
2. Have your mind be renewed by the Word and have the Word richly live inside your soul.
3. Step forward by putting on new things...the good new heart/mind attitudes & behaviors of Jesus that He wants us to put on.



Rom 6:12-13 "Therefore **do not let sin rule in your fleshly body** so that you obey its (sinful) lusts, (13) and **do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin** as instruments of unrighteousness; but **present yourselves to God** as those alive..., and **your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**" Rom 13:12-14 "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, **let us put away the deeds (sins) of darkness and put on the armor of light.** (13) Let us **behave properly** as in the day, not in partying and drunkenness..., not in fighting and jealousy. (14) But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no room for the flesh** in regard to its lusts."



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Notice again how active this Bible passage in **Romans 6:12-15** is. Notice that these are things we are urged to do by God...Jesus. **We are the ones who put away the deeds (sins) of darkness.** Yes, you do this with the help of the Holy Spirit but we **choose** whether or not we will do this. It was for freedom that Christ set us free to choose...we are no longer slaves to our flesh. We are the ones who must learn to behave properly and stop giving into

our sinful flesh. God gives us **PLENTY of Bible verses** in the New Testament to help us understand that we can do this by His Spirit and His Word. **Rom 8:13-14** "...but if (you live) by the Spirit you are putting to death the (sinful) deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

1 Co 2:13 "...which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*." **Gal 5:16** "**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**"



Remember, kids, this is a BATTLE we will enter into over this. It's a battle **we will probably lose at first** because we will choose to fight in our own strength. It is a battle against the mind of the flesh, the sinful lusts of the flesh...our old man.

Then once we fail using our own strength (and we will **ALWAYS** fail using our own strength), realize it can only be done by the **grace of God** and by **the work of the Spirit.**

You will **discover** that you can win this battle over and over again by letting the Holy Spirit do battle for you. We **gain the victory** over our sinful lusts of the flesh because **Jesus won the GREAT battle against the devil on the cross.** We believers were IN JESUS when He was on the cross so, we won the battle, too! **Gal 2:20-21** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.** (21) I do not cancel out the grace of God..."

Now in every day practical sanctification...living, we know **we have the power to put the sins away...we have the HOLY SPIRIT POWER** because we are in Jesus and the Spirit is in us. We should be very thankful that the Spirit has come to live in our bodies along with Jesus to guide our hearts/minds.



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So, don't put on the man again! Instead, keep putting on the new man!

In the beginning of the lesson it asked you what your heart/mind will be filled with. Remember? Well, find it in your heart to forgive your enemy by going to the Lord over it and one day you will wake up to find forgiveness in your heart. The Lord has put

it there from His Word and Spirit. So, put it on and forgive your enemy.

Now let's look at FAITH for a bit. For the Christian, faith is an activity. It is active. Faith is believing what you cannot see but trusting God and believing Him and what HE tells us in His Word. Faith is something we choose to have. We walk by faith. We fight the good fight of faith by putting on the armor of God (that will be another lesson in the future). Yet we do this **according to God's power**. By **grace** God provides...and by **faith (believing God)** we take what God provides.

Back in **Colossians 3** we saw the things "we are to put away" and the new heart "we are to put on by means of the (Holy) Spirit and the Word of God." Put away anger and put on compassion. Put away rage and put on kindness. Put away hatred and put on humility. Put away insults and put on gentleness. Put away rude speech and put on patience.

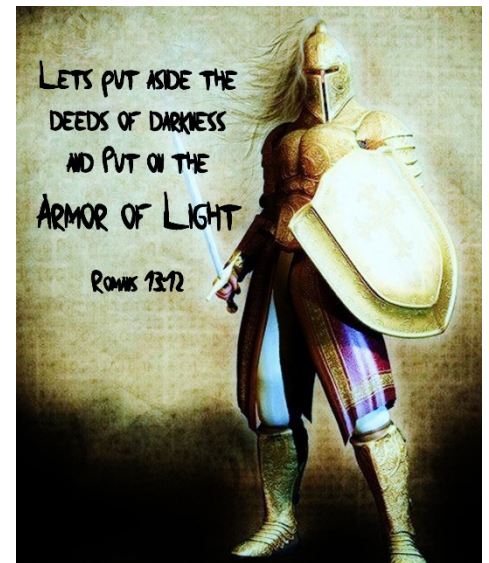
We are given the importance of our practical sanctification in Paul's letter in **Col 3:9-10**. "Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old man with its evil practices, (10) and have put on the **new** man who is being renewed to a true knowledge (from the Word of God) according to the image of the One (Jesus) who created him." Eph 4:20-24 "But you did not learn Christ in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you put away the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of dishonesty, (23) and that you be renewed in the Spirit in your mind, (24) and put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."



Put away the old man (attitudes and behavior, a way of life from Adam) and be renewed by the Spirit in our mind (by letting the Word of Jesus live richly in you). Put on the new man, who is to be like Jesus (heart attitudes leading to new behavior and a new way of life in Jesus).

You had your old man removed at the cross; now put him out of the way. Throwing away the old ways and putting on new ways that please Jesus. This is your practical sanctification. Use your heart/mind and the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to do this.

Our old life from Adam that we received at our physical birth is compared to "filthy rags" in Isaiah in the Old Testament. **Isa 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our good deeds are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."** This is what God says about our deeds as unbelievers. But our new life in Jesus is compared to armor of light. **Rom 13:12 "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us put away the deeds (sins) of darkness (now that we are believers in Jesus) and put on the armor of light."** Choose it daily.



So, this is great. We have God's grace and we rely on that grace every day. By grace we have been baptized or placed into Christ. We have been placed into His death, and then into His burial, and then into the Risen Christ Jesus.



Then we realize that we are in that privileged place and take action! Called to walk, run, fight, put away, put on, hold our ground...stand firm. Put on the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

God is training His sons and daughters **who have a choice to obey Him**. He is not programming robots!



Sons and daughters believe...have Faith.

Sons and daughters learn God's Word.

Sons and daughters let the Word of God live richly inside them.

Sons and daughters set their minds on the things above where Jesus is.

Sons and daughters believe that the members of their body are dead to the sinful lusts of the flesh.

Sons and daughters put away the sins and deeds of the flesh.

Sons and daughters give God the members of their body as instruments of righteousness or holiness to God.

Sons and daughters have their hearts/minds renewed by God's Word.

Sons and daughters put on the attitudes and behaviors of Jesus.

Sons and daughters walk by means of the Holy Spirit's guidance from the Word.

Sons and daughters fight the good fight. Put on the armor of God.

Sons and daughters run the race set before them by their heavenly Father.

Sons and daughters do all these things by grace through faith...knowing that what they are, they are by the grace of God...what they do, they do by the strength that God provides...the HOLY SPIRIT and the WORD of GOD.

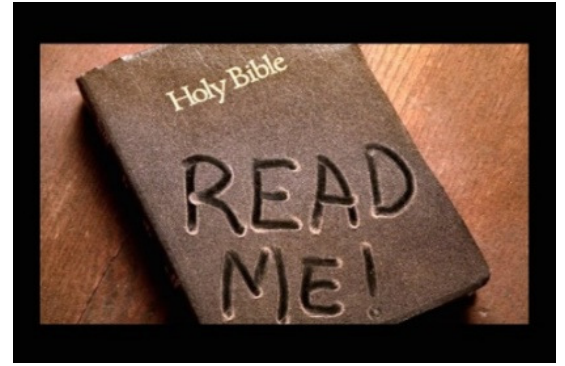
Eph 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (our practical sanctification)."

WHEW! Lots to think about, lots to learn, and LOTS TO CHOOSE TO DO!

YOU CAN DO IT, KIDS.

Until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.



Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 6-5-2016
Lighthouse Bible Church
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