

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Keith & Mariella Mills | Scotland



PRAISE
- Mariella is continuing to get her strength back and is now using a walking stick instead of a walker.

PRAY
- for Murdo, a local gentleman who has been in an ongoing Gospel conversation with the Mills

- for the recent Gospel singing. It event went really well as the gospel was presented in song and by a guest preacher.

 Handout: 10/15/23
Study Date: 10/22/23

Growing Spiritually

Sanctification is God’s will for us (1 Thessalonians 4:3). The word sanctification is related to the word saint; both words have to do with holiness. To “sanctify” something is to set it apart for special use; to “sanctify” a person is to make him holy.

Jesus had a lot to say about sanctification in John 17. In verse 16 the Lord says, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of it,” and this is before His request: “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (verse 17). In Christian theology, sanctification is a state of separation unto God; all believers enter into this state when they are born of God: “You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30, ESV). The sanctification mentioned in this verse is a once-for-ever separation of believers unto God. It is a work God performs, an integral part of our salvation and our connection with Christ (Hebrews 10:10). Theologians sometimes refer to this state of holiness before God as “positional” sanctification; it is related to justification.

While we are positionally holy (“set free from every sin” by the blood of Christ, Acts 13:39), we know that we still sin (1 John 1:10). That’s why the Bible also refers to sanctification as a practical experience of our separation unto God. “Progressive” or “experiential” sanctification, as it is sometimes called, is the effect of obedience to the Word of God in one’s life. It is the same as growing in the Lord (2 Peter 3:18) or spiritual maturity. God started the work of making us like Christ, and He is continuing it (Philippians 1:6). This type of sanctification is to be pursued by the believer earnestly (1 Peter 1:15; Hebrews 12:14) and is effected by the application of the Word (John 17:17). Progressive sanctification has in view the setting apart of believers for the purpose for which they are sent into the world: “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified” (John 17:18–19). That Jesus set Himself apart for God’s purpose is both the basis and the condition of our being set apart (see John 10:36). We are sanctified and sent because Jesus was. Our Lord’s sanctification is the pattern of and power for our own. The sending and the sanctifying are inseparable. On this account we are called “saints” (hagioi in the Greek), or “sanctified ones.” Prior to salvation, our behavior bore witness to our standing in the world in separation from God, but now our behavior should bear witness to our standing before God in separation from the world. Little by little, every day, “those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14, ESV) are becoming more like Christ.

KEY VERSE

Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 8:28-38; Jeremiah 29:11

Introduction

1. Name an area of your spiritual life where you are growing or would like to grow.
2. According to the cover article and today's reading, what is sanctification?

Tuesday: Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:3-23

Realize: Who We Truly Are "In Christ"

3. Read Ephesians 1. How many times are the phrases "in Christ" or "in Him" used? What is the significance of this?
4. What does being "in Christ" mean for the believer?

Wednesday: Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:11; I Peter 2:21

Recognize: Maturity Happens Through Our Trials

5. How can trials lead to our spiritual maturity?
6. Give an example of how you have grown spiritually. How did this happen?

Thursday: Romans 8:9-13, 26-27; Philippians 2:12-13; I Peter 1:2

Recognize: the Holy Spirit Grows Us Spiritually

7. What does today's readings teach us about how the Holy Spirit grows us?
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your sanctification?
9. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit giving you spiritual growth?

Friday: Romans 8:31-38; II Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 13:5

Recalibrate: Look Where We Are Going

10. What motivation for life does today's readings give you?
11. How does each member of the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit) give you victory?
12. How can you grow in your discipleship?