

## Sanctified

Our salvation is a gift from God. When we believe the gospel message about Jesus and give our lives to Him in the obedience of our faith, we are saved. Nothing is ever the same for us again!

This salvation is both a one-time event, marked by our confession and baptism, and an ongoing process, marked by a life of transformation and growth through the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica:

*“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13)*

The word “sanctify” means to set apart or to make holy. The Holy Spirit sets us apart as God’s children when we are first saved. We belong to God! But, the Spirit also continues to help us grow day to day in holiness or Christlikeness.

We must do our part by believing, participating, yielding, and obeying. But at the same time, the Spirit does His part in empowering and transforming. All of this is still a free gift of God’s grace.

Our salvation is based upon our Father’s amazing love and grace toward us. Our hearts respond with trust in His love and promises as expressed in Jesus Christ. In giving us a new life in Christ, our Father pours out His Spirit into our lives to cleanse us and transform us—to sanctify us one time and continually.

God sees us as holy, through our faith in His Son. But He also slowly makes us become holy in real and practical ways—morally, emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, relationally. This transformation or “sanctifying work” is performed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit brings new life, new power, and new hope into our lives. Let us open our hearts to His work. Let us “walk with the Spirit.” Let us be a holy people.

### Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for your grace demonstrated to me in so many ways. Today, I am thankful for your work in my life of sanctifying me through the Holy Spirit. You see me as holy, but I also want to really grow to be holy in my thoughts, actions, and attitudes. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in my life as I obey you by faith. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Scott*