

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – July 25, 2021

Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit sanctifies the Believer

Main Text: Romans 15: 14 - 21.

Key verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:13: *"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,"*(NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The word "**Sanctify**" is from the Greek word "**hagiazō**," which means "to make holy," i.e., to purify or consecrate. So, to sanctify means '**to set apart for special use or purpose**'. As he was concluding his letter to the Romans, Apostle Paul made sure to refresh their memory on the truth of the gospel he preached to them as Gentiles. Specifically, these Gentile believers needed to be reminded that the gospel of Jesus Christ which they accepted was how they were sanctified (made holy) by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This firm reminder is not just for the Roman church, but also for the present day church. There is need to continually remind ourselves that when we got saved, the work of the Holy spirit did not stop in convicting us of sin and bringing us to the saving knowledge of Christ. The Holy Spirit also sanctified us.

1. (a) According to Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, what does it mean for a believer to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit? (b) What does 1 Peter 1:2 say is the consequence of our sanctification by the Holy Spirit? (c) Why is it important for a believer to know and understand that he/she has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit?

Paul told the Thessalonians in 2 Thessalonians 2:13, "... God chose you to be the first ones to be saved. His Spirit made you holy, and you put your faith in the truth." (CEV). After every genuine conversion, there is a decisive turn in our lives, from idols to follow the living God. This turn sets the believer's movement in the direction of holiness and away from sin and death. But our world today is full of challenges and temptations which prey on our sinful nature to lure believers into sin. In Romans 8:13, Apostle Paul wrote, "If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." But change generally takes place as a process. That is why 2 Corinthians 3:18 spoke of this sanctification as a continuous one. And that process is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). It is therefore important to know that God brings the fruit of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit out of our life from the moment of our salvation and all through our daily Christian work using some channels.

2. From 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 17:17,19; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Timothy 4 5; Psalm 51: 1-5 (a) Let participants list and discuss the various means by which the Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer? (b) Which of these means of sanctification do you feel a need to strengthen? (c) How does the image of a progressive sanctification help you in your journey of faith?

The scripture rightly calls us **the sanctified** (Jude 1:1 – NKJV). Yet, Apostle Paul urges us to work towards complete holiness and prays that believers may be sanctified through and through until the coming of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). We are not waiting to be sanctified rather we are sanctified and declared holy and set apart for God. Yet there is a perfecting of sanctification to aspire to. And that perfecting will take place when Christ appears (Colossians 3:3-4)

3. (a) Jesus has become our sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 2; 11). How can a believer partner with the Holy Spirit in bringing this sanctifying work to fruition? (b) How would you explain to a young Christian what seems to be a contradiction between sanctification by the Holy Spirit being both a gift of grace and something we work towards? (c) What is your key lesson from this study? How are you going to apply it in the next 6 days?

Prayer: Father, God of Peace, may You by Your spirit which has sanctified us in Christ, continually sanctify us wholly; may our spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.