

Biblical Sanctification is the Secret to a Happy Life



Dear Andrew*,

Some people ask themselves: How do heavenly beings feel near God? What kind of atmosphere prevails in the headquarters of the universe? 1 Chronicles 16:27: *“Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place.”* (NKJV)

God’s residence is filled with gladness and cheerfulness. Pure joy prevails in His presence. **Thus, sanctification and joy aren’t opposites, rather they belong together.**

God Himself calls us to sanctification. He says: *“For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy ...”* (Leviticus 11:44 NKJV)

But how do we become “holy”? We call this process “sanctification”.

- › What does sanctification mean?
- › How do you attain sanctification?

- › What part do humans have and what part does God have?
- › What fallacies do we need to avoid?
- › Where does sanctification lead us?

Most people probably have false perceptions about sanctification. They think it is something boring or strenuous – the opposite of joyfulness and pleasure. Previously, it wasn’t any different for me. We don’t need to be afraid of sanctification, because everything that God commands stems from His immeasurable love. His omniscience only requires that which is best for us and this also applies to the path of sanctification.

Whoever is constantly connected to Christ through a loving friendship and lives by the power of the Holy Spirit, will be glad about sanctification. Sanctification is the way to a happy life or as Jesus called it, an abundant life (John 10:10) and joy (John 15:11).

* Andrew according to the biblical Andrew in John 1:41-42.

Misconceptions about Sanctification Inhibit Us

Pastor Ben Maxson said: *“The Bible verse ‘... you shall be holy; for I am holy’ was a confrontation for me and led to an inner conflict. Honestly, I went over these words quickly, because I didn’t want to face them. I had tried to lead a holy life. I had fought, because I wanted to gain victory over sin. However, it was all in vain. Then when I read Leviticus 20:7-8 my problem was suddenly solved. This topic now became a driving force in my life. I read there: ‘... I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’ The good news for me was that I didn’t have to produce holiness. Absolutely not! It was God’s promise of what He would do in my life, when I lived with Him with my whole heart.* This became an adventure for me – discovering what God wanted to do for me.” (Living Holiness, *Review and Herald*)

How is sanctification attained?

Ellen White wrote in her book *The Great Controversy* on p. 469.3:

“This work (sanctification) can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, **by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.**”

Here are two Bible texts about this:

2 Thessalonians 2:13: *“... because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”* (NKJV)

Sanctification has to do with a life in the Holy Spirit and with a life in the truth. It says the same thing in 1 Peter 1:2: *“... elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit ...”* (NKJV)

This means: God has planned for us to be obedient to Him in all things through the Holy Spirit.

Misconceptions about sanctification lead many people to try to be obedient in their own strength, just like Ben Maxson did at first. However, God’s Word clearly says that we can’t succeed. Romans 8:7 describes “carnal Christians”, who live without the Holy Spirit or have too little of the Holy Spirit as did the five foolish virgins: *“... for they do not obey God’s law, and in fact they cannot obey it.”* (GNT) It is clear that we cannot lead a sanctified life in our own strength alone.

This leads to the question: **What does God do for me so that I am sanctified and what is expected of me?** We will come back to this question later.

The biblical meaning of saving faith is complete trust in Jesus. Because He loves us, we give ourselves to Him wholeheartedly and allow ourselves to be filled with His Holy Spirit. As a result, we are strengthened by God’s power and we can now joyfully trust and obey God in everything.

E. G. White wrote: “This gift (of the Holy Spirit) could not be excelled. **He would give all gifts in one ...**” (SW; Nov. 28, 1905 par. 2)

Practical Help for Me

I found Jesus' words in **John 15:4** a practical help. Ellen White explained it aptly as follows:

Jesus said: *"Abide in Me, and I in you."*

E. G. White explained what that means:

- › *a constant receiving of His Spirit,*
- › *a life of unreserved surrender to His service.* (DA, p. 676.2)

These daily steps ensure that Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit and this means: **"... Christ in you, the hope of glory."** (Colossians 1:27 NKJV) Christ living in us through the Holy Spirit – that is the way to sanctification and at the same time, the secret to a happy life, a life in *"the fullness of God"* (Ephesians 3:19).

We are personally responsible for repeatedly choosing this and remaining in constant contact with Christ. We can only make progress in sanctification when we remain intimately connected to Jesus. Jesus illustrated this in the parable of the vine and the branches in John 15. And He clearly says in verse 11:

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (NKJV)

Here we can also see that sanctification and joy go hand in hand.

God's First Call to Sanctification

I find it interesting where the call to sanctification is first made in the Bible. It is immediately after proclaiming the ten commandments. We can find it in Exodus 19:5-6 (NKJV):

*"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And **you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation ...**"*

God wants a people, who joyfully obeys Him, because they trust Him and want to remain closely connected to Him. He wants to claim these people as **His special treasure**. They should be a nation of "priests", who show others the way to HIM. They are "missionaries" through their loving lifestyle and through their personal testimony of faith. They shouldn't live egotistically for themselves, but rather for God and their fellow men.

Leviticus 20:7-8 NKJV: *"Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: **I am the LORD who sanctifies you.**"*

Can you see that God's call to sanctification is always connected to obedience? But also with the offer that He will enable us?

Call to Sanctification in the New Testament

Hebrews 12:14: *“Pursue ... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”*

Sanctification is not a marginal issue. Rather, it is the practical effect of our salvation by grace. We are called to decide time and again for what is right and good in God’s eyes.

In his second letter, Peter portrays in chapter 3 the second coming of Jesus at the end of the world’s history. In verses 10-12 (NKJV) he explains why a sanctified life is so important:

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you **to be in holy conduct and godliness**, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”*

Jesus will come again soon and close this world’s history. Then everyone will be held accountable to God for every decision made and their lifestyle. Whoever doesn’t identify with Jesus and His will, is on the side of God’s enemy and will have to suffer the consequences, when all evil is destroyed and completely obliterated.

However, Jesus offers each person eternal life near to God. And this should be a powerful incentive for us to live in a manner that honors God. When Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit, then we will have a wellspring of love in us, we will experience joy and a fulfilled life, we will help other people and do good deeds. We will become more and more like God in brotherly love and thus, little by little be healed from our egoism. No longer is my ego in the center of my life, but rather Jesus and what He desires for me.

Sanctification in the Last Days

We can see from the current events that Jesus’ return is getting closer. Maybe we are already living at the beginning of the serious time of crisis, which was prophesied in the Bible. They are talking everywhere about climate changes, which have made life for people almost impossible in certain regions. Environmental pollution, water shortages, droughts, floods, wars and conflicts, incurable diseases, epidemics, famines and earthquakes are getting more frequent. It isn’t only nature that has gotten out of balance. According to the report by Open Doors, in 2022 more than 360 million Christians were persecuted (world persecution index from January 18, 2023). The attacks on Christian facilities has gone up sixfold within a year.

In addition, we can observe in the West a trend to an almost abnormal overconfidence and to greed as never before. God’s laws are being trampled on everywhere.

In the *Great Controversy* it says: “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.” (E. G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 464.1)

During that time the church experienced through the power of the Holy Spirit a vibrant christianity and great joy and warm fellowship with each other. God wants to revive the lifestyle of the early Christians, because this is the only way the church can survive the times ahead of us.

A Prophecy from Jesus about the End Times

Jesus predicted great social condemnation: “*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*” (Matthew 24:12 NKJV)

Aren’t we already in the middle of this, especially in the western world, with the acceptance of sexual and gender diversity and the destruction of the family ties that God created? And it will even get worse. God expects His children in the last days to clearly differentiate between the present trends of a godless lifestyle, by living a virtuous life in loyalty, honesty and brotherly love. We can see clearly: God expects our sanctification.

What does sanctification mean?

Revelation 15:4: “*Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy ...*” (NKJV)

God alone is holy. God is completely free of sin. He is the guarantee that the other worlds and the new earth will remain without any impairments from sin. Thus, a life of love, joy, peace and harmony is guaranteed.

Humans have sinned. God wants to lead us back to our original state through our trust in Jesus and His sacrifice.

In 1 Corinthians 6:11 we read:

“And such (idolaters, adulterers) were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus (through His life in us) and by the Spirit of our God.” (NKJV)

The person, who lives in close connection with Christ, is sanctified by his relationship with Jesus. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit he has confessed his sins. And by the power of God he turns away from a lifestyle under the power of sin (Romans 8:1-2).

We are sanctified (made holy) through an intimate relationship with Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says:

“But of Him (God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” (NKJV)

Christ became sanctification for us. When Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, then we live in sanctification. Jesus is sanctification.

Remember that He can only live in us through the Holy Spirit. In John 14:16-17 Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit and then He suddenly said something surprising in verse 18: "... *I will come to you.*" (NKJV)

Then we have the wonderful verses in Ephesians 3:16-17: "*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.*" (NKJV)

Let us note who the source of sanctification is. God and God alone can bring about a life of sanctification. **He can and wants to achieve it – together with us.**

Sanctification isn't something we possess at a certain stage in our Christian walk and then we have it forever. Sanctification is a lifestyle, which is achieved day by day with Christ in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Something is sanctified when it has been surrendered to God, when it is exclusively for Him, when it is dedicated to Him and reserved for Him. The person, who lives in constant surrender to Jesus, fulfills the prerequisite for a life of sanctification. Sanctification isn't an event, but rather the result of a constant relationship with Jesus and the resulting relationship with the Holy Spirit.

E. G. White said: "Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God ..." (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 51.2) When Jesus lives in our hearts, then we joyfully listen to Him in everything and always do what He says.

How can we work together with Christ for our sanctification?

Our sanctification doesn't just fall from the sky. It also isn't simply imposed on us. God wants to continually work together with us. What is our part? What is His part?

1. It is our job to trust Jesus completely. He works in us and with us to create an atmosphere of willingness. We know what we need to do. But He waits for our decision.
2. It is our job to make a decision for God's will. Because God completely respects our personality and will, He can and will only intervene according to our decision. He is waiting for us to make up our minds.
3. It is our job to make the decision to trust Jesus visible and to profess this by taking steps of obedience. These steps of obedience can differ greatly in their extent – we do what we can do.
4. Christ achieves the crucial part. This is our obedience to the will of God.

The topic of divine-human collaboration is talked about in detail in the book *Abide in Me*, the chapter titled "Obedience through Jesus". I recommend reading it.

Jesus – a role model in sanctification

In order to understand sanctification, it is essential that we look at Jesus. He showed us through His life what sanctification is. And it is important for us to understand that He wants to lead that same life in us and through us.

- › His deepest desire was to have an intimate relationship with His heavenly Father and to be obedient in all things. John 14:31: *“But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do ...”* (NKJV) The world should also recognize our love for God through our relationship with Christ and our obedience.
- › He was completely dependent on the power of God in His life of sanctification. John 14:10: *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”* (NKJV) In our case, it is Christ who works through us.
- › Sin had now power over His life. John 14:30: *“... for the ruler of this world ... has no power over Me.”* (RSV)

He also has no power over us, when we have an intimate relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. 1 John 5:18: *“We know that any one born of God does not sin, but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”* (NKJV) (See also Romans 8:2)

- › Jesus was completely absorbed with the task of saving people and helping them. He gave His life for our salvation. John 10:15-17: *“... I lay down my life for the sheep ...”* His holy life was expressed in His love for God and man and especially through His substitutional death for our salvation. And now He wants to save people through us.

Here is a summary of Jesus’ example of sanctification:

- › His greatest desire was His relationship with His Father.
- › He was completely dependent on the power of God.
- › Sin had no power over Him.
- › He gave His life for our salvation.

How do we attain sanctification?

E. G. White: “This work (sanctification) can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 469.3)

- › **We are incapable of leading a life of sanctification only in our power.** Sanctification is only possible when Jesus lives in me through the Holy Spirit through my daily complete surrender.

- **And yet, we cannot emulate the life of Jesus.** This isn't expected of us, because we aren't capable of it. But He should live in us. I take part in His life, I identify completely with the way He lived and loved. As Paul said: "... *it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me ...*" (Galatians 2:20 NKJV)
- Jesus gives me a sanctified heart, because He lives in me. In Ezekiel 36:25-27 we have a promise from God that He will cleanse us, give us a new heart and through His Spirit will make us into people, who walk according to His commands.

Jesus only lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

We want to repeat two important texts. When Jesus announced the coming of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-20 He said near the end: "*I will come to you.*" Being filled with the Holy Spirit means that Christ lives in me.

The apostle Paul emphasized it nicely: "*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.*" (Ephesians 3:16-17 NKJV)

Freed from the Power of Sin

When Christ lives in our hearts through the Holy Spirit and we abide in Him, then we are freed from the power of sin in this life and from condemnation and thus from the damnation of God's judgement.

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death."* (Romans 8:1-2 NKJV)

Why is there no condemnation, no damnation for those, who are in Christ Jesus? Because the law of the Spirit has freed us from it. The constant life-giving work of the Holy Spirit in us makes what Jesus has done for us alive in us. Christ has taken over the guilt of my sins. When He is in us, then the bondage and imprisonment of sin is lifted; I am freed from the law of sin. That means: we are not obliged to sin, normally, we won't want to sin, **but** we can still sin.

Paul wrote about the deliverance from the power of sin in Galatians 5:16:

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit (that means constantly living in the Holy Spirit), and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

A short explanation about a life in the Holy Spirit follows in Galatians 5:17-18. Then in the verses 19-21 the works of the flesh are listed, which we don't have to do any more in the life in the Holy Spirit. Christ in us safeguards us against sin and from the fallen angels.

Christ through the Holy Spirit **fills our hearts** – in other words, our desires, wishes, cravings and plans, so that evil is kept outside. At this point, we should especially remember that the inward man is renewed **day by day** (2 Corinthians 4:16). The friendship relationship with God has to be nurtured daily by a complete surrender to Christ and His Word and asking for and receiving the Holy Spirit with a promise (2 Peter 1:4).

Becoming Free from Sinful Habits

In 1 John 3:6-9 we read some solemn words about sin: *“Whoever **abides in Him** does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”*

Greek experts tell us that these severe words about sin are referring to **habitual sins**. This means: “... he doesn't sin habitually, knowingly or deliberately. (But he can still fall into sin.)” (Werner E. Lange, *Our Greatest Need*, (Lüneburg, 2011, p. 31)

This means that Christ in us and working with us causes us to be able to give up our sinful habits. When Christ lives in us, it helps us to be victorious over stubborn sins and even dependencies (Romans 8:37). (See *Letter to Andrew No. 5: Victory over Tobacco and Alcohol* – info@wertvollleben.com) We will be overcomers through Christ (Romans 8:37).

Can we also fail?

Some think that in this life with Christ there will be no more failures. What is correct is that we don't have to fail, but it can happen sometimes. Remember that no prophet or apostle ever claimed to be sinless. An accident can happen when we neglect our relationship with Christ, or we are ambushed or through our own foolishness. That is why the apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:1:

*“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you **may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* (NKJV)

In Christ we don't have to sin anymore. We have the opportunity for continual victories. *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 15:57 NKJV)

E. G. White said: “Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.” (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 13.3)

Yes, the power of sin is broken through a life with Jesus through the Holy Spirit – relapses and failures will become less frequent.

Prayer for Protection

It is important to me that God protects me daily from the power of evil. Hence, I always pray: “Father, please save me from every type of sin today, help me not to be manipulated by harmful influences and be drawn away from You. Protect me from wrong thoughts, uncharitable words and egoistical acts. Give me complete protection from the fallen angels, protect me from my old depraved nature and protect me from temptations and evil in every form. Thank You for Your promise: *‘We know that whoever is born of God does not sin (habitually); but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.’* (1 John 5:18 NKJV) And take all my thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5; Römer 10:5).

Thank You that You for renewing my mind in Christ, a mindset based on the love of God and hence the fruit of the Spirit (Romans 12:2; Romans 8:5). Praise and thanks that joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness and goodness are then part of my life and I can also pass them on. Please continue to help me grow in these areas.”

Sanctification: Sexuality and Health

Sanctification is simultaneously a call to safeguard our dignity as God’s children and also to let others keep their dignity.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV)

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV)

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV)

Christ in us through the Holy Spirit gives us the motivation and strength to joyfully maintain a lifestyle, which honors God and is good for our fellow men. This also pertains (from a biblical context) to our attitude towards sexuality.

The Bible always places sexuality exclusively in the framework of a marriage between a man and a woman. That is the way God created humans and nothing has changed in this century. All of the deviations from the biblical way are called “porneia”, fornication, in the Bible and this includes thoughts as well as “lusting” and lifestyle. Remember: God created sexuality for our joy and fulfillment.

But He knows best what is good for us and what isn't – what suffices for joy and fulfillment and what damages human dignity. That is why in all things we want to trust the commands of His love and not take the path of sin.

But the rest of our lifestyle isn't unimportant to God, this also pertains to the work-life-balance, nutrition, exercise in the fresh air and abstinence from all poisons and harmful drugs.

For me, God's wish in 3 John 2 is a wonderful promise:

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (NKJV)

An important component for the health of our body, mind and soul is trusting in an all-powerful God who loves us. When Christ lives in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, then the inner person is optimally taken care of.

There is no better approach to life. This influences all aspects of my daily life and naturally my health. Experts say that 50-90 % of all diseases have a mental cause.

According to a study from the United Nations a positive relationship with God is the greatest factor for good health. In addition, it also enhances all the other health factors (nutrition, exercise, rest, etc.) by more than threefold. This study was conducted under the leadership of Prof. Grossarth-Maticek with 35,000 people over 30 years. (Drs. Heide, *Medical Wellness with Neustart Plus* (Leipzig, 2014), p. 333-334)

What fallacies should we avoid in regards to sanctification?

A widespread fallacy is that the power of sin cannot be overcome. But Jesus didn't come to save us in sin, but rather to save us **from** sin. (Matthew 1:21)

Another fallacy is that sanctification is automated – Jesus alone does everything without our involvement. God expects us to make a decision to do His will. He wants us to take the preparatory steps, which are within our capabilities. Obedience in faith has three steps:

- › Our decision: God doesn't do anything without our consent.
- › Taking the preparatory steps, which I am capable of.
- › Then Christ takes care of the main point – joyful obedience.

Our friendship relationship with God is constantly shaped by a trusting collaboration. (For more information see: H. Haubeil, *Abide in Jesus*, chapter 4, Obedience through Jesus)

Ellen G. White said: “The sanctification now gaining prominence in the religious world carries with it a spirit of self-exaltation and a disregard for the law of God that mark it as foreign to the religion of the Bible. Its advocates teach that sanctification is an instantaneous work, by which, through faith alone, they attain to perfect holiness. ‘Only believe,’ say they, ‘and the blessing is yours.’ No further effort on the part of the receiver is supposed to be required.

At the same time they deny the authority of the law of God, urging that they are released from obligation to keep the commandments.” (E. G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 471.3. Literature reference: E. G. White on sanctification in *The Great Controversy*, chapter 27 Modern Revivals, p. 461 – but especially from p. 469 on.)

God’s Word says very clearly: “Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.” (1 John 3:6 NKJV)

Where does sanctification lead us?

I want to read Romans 6:22 in several different versions so that we understand it well:

NKJV: “*But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*”

NIV: “*But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*”

GNT: “*But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life.*”

God’s promises are genuine. God makes us holy. He claims us as His special people, so that we can carry the gospel to the world. And He wants to lead our lives into sanctification, when we walk with Him in joyful, complete surrender and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV; 1 Timothy 5:23.24)

Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the booklet *Abide in Jesus* show us how sanctification can be lived and experienced. Maybe you can read it again. However, the biblical expression sanctification isn’t mentioned. But the result is a joyful and Spirit-filled life in sanctification.

Sanctification is the road with Christ and the Holy Spirit. Biblical sanctification is the secret to a happy life here and in eternity.

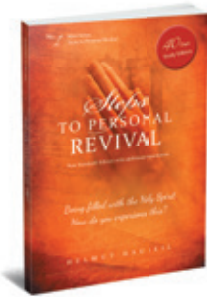
Everyone, who has studied the booklets *Steps to Personal Revival* and *Abide in Jesus* and put into practice what they read or were already practicing it, are already living in biblical sanctification.

Dear Andrew, I hope that this account has given you further insights in a life with God.

Warm greetings and blessings,

Helmut

Read
more



BOOK 1: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our lord himself has given the command:¹ Let yourselves be consistently and repeatedly filled anew with the spirit!²

- 1 Ellen G. White, *Mount of Blessing*, MB 20.3 (egwwritings.org)
- 2 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 101

www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

FOREWORD FOR LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS MULTIPLYING THE RESULTS

CHAPTER 1: JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

Are you acquainted with Jesus' most powerful message?

CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS THE CENTER OF OUR PROBLEMS?

Is there a spiritual cause to our problems? Is the cause a lack of the Holy Spirit?

What is the main problem with being a carnal Christian?

CHAPTER 3: OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVABLE

What is God's solution for our problems? How can we grow to be happy and strong Christians? What is the relationship between baptism and the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 4: WHAT DIFFERENCES CAN WE EXPECT?

What advantage do we have with a life filled with the Holy Spirit?

What do we lose when we don't pray for the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 5: THE KEY TO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

How can I implement and experience God's solution for me?

How should I pray so that I am sure of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 6: WHAT EXPERIENCES LIE AHEAD OF US?

Personal experiences, as well as experiences from churches, a conference and a union

CHAPTER 7: INTEREST AND SHARING

The Joy that we give returns to our own hearts. (German Proverb)

How can I help others to experience "Life in Abundance"?

How do we pass on the message? Which ways are there?



BOOK 2: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

ABIDE IN JESUS – HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

“Abide in Me, and I in you.” Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.

Ellen G. White (*Desire of Ages, DA, p.676.2*)

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Abiding in Him is not a work that we have to do as a condition in order to enjoy His salvation. Rather it is our consent to let Him do everything for us, in us, and through us. It is a work He does for us – the result and the power of His redeeming love. Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for Him to accomplish what He has promised. (Andrew Murray)

CHAPTER 1: JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

Are you acquainted with Jesus' most powerful message?

What functions does the Holy Spirit have?

How can our character be changed?

Jesus on the Holy Spirit in the Parable. About the Leaven

CHAPTER 2: SURRENDER TO JESUS

Do I lose my own will? Or will I become stronger? What can prevent us from surrendering?

Does surrender to God mean that we have to give up our own will?

CHAPTER 3: JESUS ABIDING IN YOU

What effects does “Christ in me” have on my life?

The ultimate achievement: being imbued with the fullness of God.

The Effects of “Christ in you”. How do we get deliverance from the power of sin?

Will we become “carnal” again by sinning?

CHAPTER 4: OBEDIENCE THROUGH JESUS?

How can I live in joyful obedience? What is joy? How does obedience through “Jesus in me” work?

God has designed: Collaboration between God and Man.

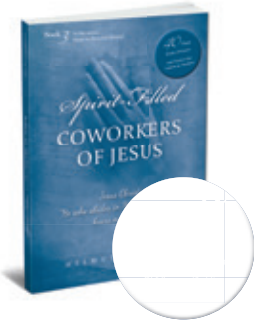
CHAPTER 5: ATTRACTIVE FAITH THROUGH JESUS

How can oneness be achieved among believers?

What makes our faith appealing to our family and the world?

What changes in us make us witnesses? How does revival generate mission?

Read
more



BOOK 3: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

SPIRIT-FILLED COWORKERS OF JESUS

*Starter-Set: A Relationship with Christ
Letters to Andrew No. 1-5, 8, 13, 14, Z1*

What does it mean to have success in life? What promises has God given us for a successful life? There is no strength in small plans. Our marvelous God wants us to think big. Do you want to be His coworker?

Jesus desires coworkers, who are filled with His love. Coworkers, through whom He can love others. Therefore, it is important that I experience the full extent of God's love myself. (see Ephesians 3:17).

What an ingenious concept God has for us with serving, giving and helping! It is simply unbelievable what God has prepared for us. And – how do we serve God? Are we working with our human abilities for God, or can God work with His divine abilities through us? What is the difference?

Jesus said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19 NKJV) In what surprising way does Jesus make coworkers out of us?

Helmut Haubeil shares how he learned to lead people to Christ step by step. A personal relationship with Jesus is the most valuable relationship there is. How can I show this to others? What opening question can be used to tactfully and straightforwardly get to the main issue? What tried and tested tools are available that make it significantly easier for helpers and participants when talking about faith? These valuable tools are included in the Starter-Set.

Then a spiritual-missionary concept will be introduced, which shows how we as individuals or groups, as a church or conference can victoriously advance under God's leadership.

May God give each of us the joy of being Jesus' spirit-filled coworker!

