

Sanctification – the Continuing Work of God

成聖的生命-神持續進行的工作

Definition:

Sanctification is that continuous operation of the Holy Spirit, by which the holy disposition imparted in regeneration is maintained and strengthened.

- Dr. Augustus H. Strong

成聖的定義:

成聖是聖靈在得救的人生命中繼續的工作，藉此來保持和加強人在重生時所進入的聖潔意向中。

- 史特朗博士

Three implications 三點含義

1. That, although in regeneration the governing disposition of the soul is made holy, there still remain tendencies to evil which are unsubdued.

在人重生的時候，靈魂的主管意向，雖然已成為聖潔，卻仍有若干惡的傾向存在，不受約束。

John 13:10, Rm.6:12

2. That the existence in the believer of these two opposing principles gives rise to a conflict which lasts through life.

信徒心中存有這兩種相反的原則，以致他終生都有衝突。

Gal 5:17, Eph 4:22-23

3. That in this conflict the Holy Spirit enables the Christian, through increasing faith, more fully and consciously to appropriate Christ, and thus progressively to make conquest of the remaining sinfulness of his nature.

在這個衝突中，聖靈能使信徒藉著日益增強的信心，更充分而自覺的以基督為己有，因而把本性中的殘餘罪性，逐步予以克服。

Rm 8:13-14, 1Cor 6:19-20

The Explanations of Sanctification 成聖的意義

1. Sanctification is the work of God. 成聖是神的工作

1Thes 5:23

2. It is a continuous process.

Phil 1:6, Gal 3:9-10

a. Positional sanctification

b. Practical sanctification

c. Perfect sanctification

成聖是一個過程

a. 地位的成聖

b. 生活的成聖

c. 全然的成聖

3. It is distinguished from regeneration as growth from birth, or as the strengthening of a holy disposition from the original impartation of it. Sanctification is growth, it is a continuing life process.
成聖與重生不同。重生如同出生或誕生，是生命的開始。成聖是成長，是生命的繼續。
Eph 4:15, 1 Thes 3:12, 2Peter 3:18
4. The operation of God reveals itself in, and is accomplished by, intelligent and voluntary activity of the believer in the discovery and mortification of sinful desires, and in the bringing of the whole being into obedience to Christ and conformity to the standards of his word.
信徒發覺並治死有罪的慾望，以全心順服基督，遵從神真理的標準生活，都是自動的。同時神的作為，也在這些活動中。也就是說成聖是神與人的合作。
John 17:17, 2Cor 10:5, Phil 2:12-13, 2Pet 2:2, John 15:3, Eph 5:1
5. The agency through which God effects the sanctification of the believer is the indwelling Spirit of Christ.
神藉著基督的靈住在人心裡，來發動信徒的成聖。
John 14:17-18, John 15:3-5, Rm 8:8-9
6. The mediate or instrumental cause of sanctification, as of justification, is faith.
成聖的居間要素是信心。
Acts 15:9, Rm 1:17
7. The object of this faith is Christ himself, as the head of a new humanity and the source of truth and life to those united to him.
信心的對像是基督，祂是新族類的頭，又是與祂聯合者的真理與生命之源。
2Cor 3:18, Eph 4:13, 1John 3:3
8. Though the weakness faith perfectly justifies, the degree of sanctification is measured by the strength of the Christian's faith, and the persistence with which he apprehends Christ in the various relations which the Scriptures declare him as to sustain to us.
雖然最弱的信心，也能使人完全稱義；但是成聖的程度，卻是以基督徒的信心之強度來衡量的。基督徒應照著聖經所說的，去讓基督在各種情況中都來支持我們。這樣的持久力，也是衡量成聖之程度的。
Matt 9:29, Luke 17:15, Rm 12:2, 13:14, Eph 4:24, 1Thes 4:7
9. From the lack of persistence in using the means appointed for Christian growth – such as the word of God, prayer, association with other believers, and personal effort for the conversion of the ungodly – sanctification does not always proceed in regular and unbroken course, and it is never completed in this life.

成聖不是常常照著常規，自然不斷的向前邁進的，也不會在今生完全成就的。原因是基督徒沒有恆久的使用那些成長的工具——如讀經、禱告、與聖徒交往、引人歸主等。
Phil 3:12, 1John 1:8

10. Sanctification, both of the soul and of the body of the believer, is completed in the life to come – that of the former at death, that of the latter at the resurrection.

信徒靈魂和身體的成聖，是在來生成全的。前者在死時成全，後者在復活時成全。
Phil 3:21, Heb 12:14; 23, 1John 3:2, Jude 24, Rev 14:5

Stages of Sanctification 成聖的程序

1. Positional Sanctification 地位的成聖

If you have trusted Christ to save you, then you have been set apart once for all; you are saints - God's sanctified one. Every believer has been positionally sanctified permanently.

- Set apart through the operation of the Holy Spirit 1Cor 1:2
- Belonging to God Lev 27:28

凡是信主，歸在主名下的人，都被稱為聖徒，所有信徒，都有成聖的地位。

- 分別為聖 林前 1:2
- 歸主為聖 利 27:28

2. Practical (experiential) Sanctification 生活的成聖

All believers are saved by grace, justified by faith, and sanctified by God. We are not only positionally sanctified, but also need to be practically sanctified as well. It is our responsibility to live a self-sanctification life to be worthy of our calling.

- He purchased and purified the sinner by the Blood of His Son Heb 13:12
- We pursue holiness (self-sanctification) because our God is holy. Lev 19:2

信徒蒙恩得救即稱義、成聖；不僅有地位上的成聖，也要有生活上的成聖。每天過聖別的生活，才不愧為聖徒。

- 寶血潔淨的功夫 來 13:12
- 追求成聖的功夫 利 19:2

Rm 5:12-19, Isa 1:18, Heb 9:14, Psa 51:9-10, John 17:17, 19, 1John 1:7

3. Perfect (Ultimate) Sanctification 全然的成聖

Paul wrote about this in closing his First Epistle to the Thessalonians. "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"(1Thessalonians 5:23).

Some people view that this life can be perfectly sanctified. Some other view that are completely sanctified when our bodies are redeemed after the resurrection, the perishable has been clothed with imperishable, believers can perfectly sanctified.

保羅在為帖撒羅尼迦的信徒禱告說：「願賜平安的神、親自使你們全然成聖。又願你們的靈、與魂、與身子、得蒙保守、在我主耶穌基督降臨的時候、完全無可指摘。」(帖前 5:23)

有人認為信徒今生可以全然成聖。也有說法認為，全然成聖是在身體得贖，就是復活之後，必朽壞的變成不朽壞的，信徒才能全然成聖。

Conclusion 結論

We always heard people saying “Salvation does not cost you a penny”, but self-sanctification will cost you efforts and time. There is no short-cut in spiritual maturity. It takes time to grow.

我們常聽人說，得救不需花本錢，成聖須要花功夫。
生命的成長，需要時間的培育。