

UNIT 3

THE ACTIVITY OF THE SPIRIT (PART 2)

III/ Salvation (cont.)

D. Justification

Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons righteous in his sight; not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone. –Westminster Larger Catechism #70

➤ 1 Corinthians 6:11

“As long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us... the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself.”

–John Calvin

E. Adoption

Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow heirs with Christ in glory. –WLC #74

➤ Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17, 26-27

Paul speaks of the believer crying, “Abba! Father!” His verb, krazō, normally indicates a loud or needy cry. The verb is used in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament in this sense. It is found in the Gospels of the blind beggar crying out for help, and of the crowd crying out, “Crucify him!” and in Revelation of a woman in childbirth.

The verb itself is onomatopoeic - its sound expresses the sharpness of the cry. Paul therefore seems to have in mind a loud cry that issues from a situation of great need. “Abba! Father!” is not a restful whisper of contentment and security. It is the cry of a child who has stumbled, tripped, and fallen, and is crying out for his or her father to come to help. It is the deepest instinct of the child in need.

*This is precisely why the cry, “Abba! Father,” is so significant. It expresses, at a point of intense need, an instinct that is absent from the unbeliever’s consciousness. At best such a person may (and often does) cry out, “O God!” but not instinctively, “O Father!” That cry is the fruit of the ministry of the Spirit; it is His co-testimony with our spirit; even in the hour of darkness the believer possesses an instinct, a testimony: he or she knows him- or herself to be a child of God! –Sinclair Ferguson, *The Whole Christ**

F. Sanctification

Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God has, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life.

–WLC #75

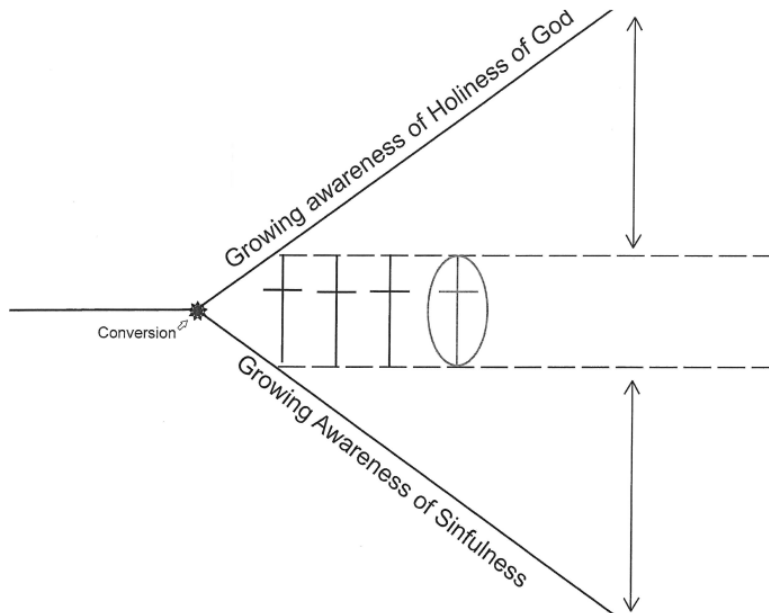
i. Initial (Positional)

➤ Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:9-11

ii. Ongoing (Progressive)

➤ Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 5:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18;
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Philippians 2:12-13; Romans 7:14-25

“The growth of trees and plants takes place so slowly that it is not easily seen. Daily we notice little change. But, in the course of time, we see that a great change has taken place. So it is with grace. Sanctification is a progressive, lifelong work.” –John Owen



iii. Final (Perfected)

➤ Philippians 1:6; 1 John 3:2-3

iv. The means of grace and the Christian use of the law

“The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness...Lord, make me as holy as it is possible for a saved sinner to be.” –Robert Murray McCheyne

He astounds and sustains us with his endless kindness. Only as we walk ever deeper into this tender kindness can we live the Christian life as the New Testament calls us to. Only as we drink down the kindness of the heart of Christ will we leave in our wake, everywhere we go, the aroma of heaven, and die one day having startled the world with glimpses of a divine kindness too great to be boxed in by what we deserve...What helium does to a balloon, Jesus’s yoke does to his followers. We are buoyed along in life by his endless gentleness and supremely accessible lowliness. He doesn’t simply meet us at our place of need; he lives in our place of need. He never tires of sweeping us into his tender embrace. It is his very heart. It is what gets him out of bed in the morning.

–Dane Ortlund

G. Sealing/Down Payment/Guarantee

- Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:5; Ephesians 4:30

H. Assurance

- Romans 8:15-17; 1 John 4:13

I. Glorification

- Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians