

Jehovah Mikkadesh (part 2) - Study 13

Over the past few months, our studies have focussed on God's holiness (**Kadosh**) and His desire for us to be declared Holy, the Cross of Christ as a righteous act (**Tsidkenu**) and His act being our declared Righteousness, and the Holy Spirit as sanctifier (**Mikkadesh**) and our being and becoming Sanctified through Him. Before we leave this theme, to explore other names used for God, and what they reveal about His character, let's review the main themes of the previous weeks, and our part in holiness, righteousness and sanctification.

Firstly, we have seen that we serve a Holy God! A God, who abhors evil, cannot allow sin in His presence, and who will deal decisively with all manner of unrighteousness. In essence, such things are at odds with who He is and He has no option but to pass judgement on the sin.

However, there is a payment for the sin that will allow this judgment to 'Passover' the sinner. It is not works, not an individual's taking on punishment, nor is it trying to be good. It is acceptance and faith in the Righteous act of Christ on the Cross. His goodness, faithfulness and ultimately righteousness are given to the sinner as a robe. This robe is 'purchased' by faith in Jesus, as He is our righteousness.

Finally, this paves the way for the *Holy Spirit* to live in the *unholy* man. Having been declared holy by God, having had His righteousness attributed to him or her through faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit is able to dwell in the heart of mankind. This indwelling of God's Spirit would have been impossible without Christ's righteousness, and God's willingness to declare us Holy in Him. And this leads to the believer having God with him always, guiding and teaching us how we ought to live. Jesus said it this way;

"If you love me you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counsellor...the Spirit of Truth...you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans...My Father will love him(you), and we will make our home with him...the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

(see John 14:15-26)

So the progression in the believer's life is this.

- Faith in a **Holy** God, through Jesus= declared **holy** / escape God's wrath *
- Jesus' **Righteousness** = we are declared **righteous** ie justified (paves way for Holy Spirit).*
- Holy Spirit, the indwelling **sanctifier** = declares us **sanctified** and begins a cleansing (sanctifyingwork from the inside out.
(* These happen simultaneously)

This is the basis for all we believe, and all that we should think and do. We believe in a Holy God, who we could never reach by our own effort, in whom we could never approach in our sinful state. We know that only through faith in the righteous act of Christ's cross, can we hope to come back into the presence of our God. And only in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit that is now able to take up residence in us, can we hope to be useful to the Master, as He guides us *into* holiness. Into the life God desires for us to lead.

This is all accomplished by God, in us through Christ and our part in all this was simply to believe. However, the Holy Spirit's work in sanctifying us can be hindered in our lives, if we refuse to listen and heed His prompting. Paul writes that;

"...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

(1Cor 6:11)

He goes on to write that man should **flee** immorality, our body now a temple, (or dwelling place for the Holy Spirit) and that we are no longer our own, living for ourselves, but have been purchased at a price. Therefore we should honour God with our lives (the way in which we live and conduct ourselves). (**see 1Cor 6:18-20**) Paul continually implores his readers to heed the Spirit's call, and live according to the commands of Jesus and the counsel of the Holy Spirit within us. He writes to the Romans;

"Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You however are controlled... by the Spirit...of Him who raised Jesus from the dead... will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you."

(see Rom 8:8-11)

He goes on in the next verse to proclaim that we have "*an obligation ...to live according to it (The Holy Spirit).*" He is explaining that though we are **sanctified** (declared set apart for use by God), the outworking in the life of the Christian (ie becoming more like Christ) is a cooperative effort by the Holy Spirit and the inner man. Once declared holy, righteous and sanctified for God, we need to listen to the Spirit's counsel and **flee** from sin, **live** according to His Spirit, **purify** ourselves(2 Cor 7:1), **avoid** every kind of evil (1Thess 5:22), **abstain** from sinful desires (1Pet 2:11).

These are verbs – doing words! This is the correct response to the holiness, righteousness and sanctification we have been given! Not to sit back in our new-found state, but to actively pursue a higher life, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us into a 'holier' life! To Timothy, Paul writes;

*"But you, man of God, **flee** from all of this and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love endurance and gentleness.*

Fight the good fight of the faith.

(1Tim 6:11, 12)

In his pivotal chapter on this subject in Galatians 5, Paul has this to say. (I have selected random passages). *“...do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature...live by the Spirit and you will not gratify...the sinful nature. For the sinful nature...is contrary to the Spirit...let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

Amidst this, Paul explains the fruit of the two natures (as we saw last study). This is the self-evident outworking in the individual’s life, depending on which nature is nurtured, whether the Holy Spirit is acknowledged, or if the sinful nature gains the upper hand. In short, it should be evident to us, and to the world, whether the Christian is moving toward holiness (& therefore becoming more like Christ in nature), or is ignoring the Holy Spirit and is living contrary to the calling God has given him / her.

In effect, God, having chosen us, accepting us through faith in His Son and sealing (or sanctifying us) with His Holy Spirit, places a real choice within us as to how we should live. We now have 2 natures warring within us, and it is we as individuals who fertilise the natures and thereby bear fruit according to the fertiliser we use.

So, what is the fertiliser for the Spirit? Peter, after telling his audience to **rid themselves** from all manner of evil, explains that we should crave *“...pure Spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation” (1Pet 2:2)* And what is this milk? It is the word of God. Jesus, praying to our Heavenly Father, asked that we *“be sanctified by the truth; Your word is truth.” (Jn 17:17)* Paul writes that the believer should *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” (Col 3:16).*

It stands to reason that the believer, with a healthy dose of Scripture in their heart, will aid the work of the Spirit within him / her, and therefore give the Spirit a greater opportunity to Counsel the individual. This will come, not only with prompting by the Spirit, but actually with the Spirit using the Word of God that has been placed within the believer and bringing it to mind whenever necessary. Of course, fertilising the Spiritual nature with prayer, obedience, singing etc is also important, but Scripture is like the ‘Dynamic Lifter’ of the Spiritual nature. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will...*“teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (Jn 14:26)*

How can the Holy Spirit remind us of the Scriptures if they were never placed within us in the first place? They are the most important of the fertilisers of

the Spiritual nature, and must be read (and obeyed – see **James 1:25**) if the Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is to see fruit.

The Holy Spirit dwells within us all, and stands ready to lead us into holiness. Our part is to acknowledge His presence and feed Him with the word, that we might be **Sanctified** in increasing measure.

1. We have read that the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer. What evidence should we look for in us that this is the case?

2. According to the Scriptures we have looked at, there is something mankind should do about his journey into holiness. How do you see your role in this?

3. How do you think Scripture fertilises the Spirit to produce fruit?

4. What sort of activities might fertilise the sinful nature, and how can these be avoided? Are there some you need prayer to get rid of?

5. Read **1Thess 4:3-8**. What is Paul saying to the church about the pursuit of Holiness (continued sanctification) What sort of punishment do you think Paul talking about?

6. Give an example of when the Holy Spirit has guided you in life / choices.

7. What has God revealed to you through this study?