

# Sermon -- Entire Sanctification

by Martin Knapp

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*Sanctification is the process of being made holy and perfect in the sight of God through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to His commandments.*

**Scripture:** Genesis 5:22, Genesis 6:9, Genesis 17:1, Leviticus 19:2, Deuteronomy 18:13, Psalm 51:7, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 5:48, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:23

**Topics:** "Entire Sanctification", "Christian Perfection"

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## Description

Reverend J. H. Weber, in the Methodist church at the city of Adrian, preaches about the possibility of attaining perfection and holiness through sanctification. He emphasizes the need for believers to confess their sins, ask God to cleanse their hereditary sin, and strive for a life of obedience and purity. Drawing from various biblical examples like Enoch, Noah, and Job, he encourages the congregation to seek sanctification and walk with God in purity and holiness.

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## Transcript

Sermon delivered by the Rev. J. H. Weber, in the Methodist church, at the city of Adrian.

In 1 Thess. v. 23, 24, you will read these words, "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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Now, I am sure there is not a person in this congregation this morning but that will admit that Adam and Eve, who were created in the image of God, were perfect. And as Adam and Eve were perfect, God used to come down in the garden and walk with them, talk with them, commune with them; and there they enjoyed His favors and His smiles. But the time came when the serpent came in the garden. God had said, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." So this serpent, my old devil, injected within the first parents the desire for the Tree of Life; for he said, "You know that when you eat thereof, that you will become as God, wise." So the tempter tempted Eve until she ate, and she gave to her husband; and after they had sinned, transgressed God's law, God came down for His usual walk in the garden, to commune with them, and He looked around and He found no Adam there. And then He called out, "Adam," and He found him away yonder in the bushes. And the Lord said, "What are you doing here, Adam?" Well, yes-he began to make excuses. Don't you know that just as soon as a man sins he becomes a sneak? It is wonderful how sneakish sin makes us. Holiness makes men as bold as a lion. So they were

driven out of the garden, and man became a sinner. Oh, I am so glad that the seed of woman has bruised the serpent's head, and that if we will we can be perfect with God.

Now, turn in your Bibles and we will read some of the words of me Lord. Turn to Gen. v. 22, 24, "And Enoch walked with God, after he begat Methuselah, three hundred years; and all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years." So you see he was sixty-five years old when he was sanctified, when he was made perfect. In the twenty-fourth verse we read, "And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." Then again in Gen. vi. 9, we read, "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation, and Noah walked with God." There are two men who were perfect and walked with God. Again, let us turn over to Gen. xvii. 1, "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram and said unto him, 'I am the Almighty God, walk before me and be thou perfect.'" There is another man who walked with God seventy-six years. Glory be to his name! Oh, I am so glad that we have these examples of walking with God.

And then, again, if you will turn to Lev. xix. 2 you will read, "Ye shall be holy, for I, the Lord thy God, am holy." Again, let us turn to Dent. xviii. 13: here is a verse that has done me more good on the subject of sanctification than any other verse in the Bible. Let me read it to you. "Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God." How glad I am that my Father said that I will not be perfect with man; for, had God said unto me, "Mr. Weber, you must be perfect with man," I would have said, "Lord, your own Son could not be perfect with men; for they said, 'He hath a devil,' they called Him the prince of devils, they called Him all sorts of names." But when I read in this precious Word of God that "thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God," oh, it fills my soul with glory.

Now, sister and brother, you will never reach that stage in this world that you will be perfect with man; but all God wants in perfection is your love, your obedience, and your choicest heart's desire. And as long as I walk perfect with God, no matter what men may say about me, no matter what fault they may find with me, God looks upon me as being perfect. Let us again turn over to Josh. in. 5, "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Glory to His name! Sanctify yourselves, set yourselves apart, be a peculiar people! Be a holy people, and I will do wonders among you.

I have not got time now to stop and tell you about the judges, about the kings, and about the great men and women that lived and walked with God, but I want you now to turn over to Job i. 1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God and eschewed evil." Do you know he had a holy terror for a wife, but he would not curse God and die, as she said to him. He would have been a fool if he had. All his property taken from him, his children died, his wife forsook him, his friends pointed the finger of scorn at him, the devil had power to take and afflict his body with boils. Oh, what a wretched-looking creature he is! See him! But the last verse in this chapter of Job says to us, "In all this, Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." There is another man that walked with God.

Now I want you to turn to the Fifty-first Psalm, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgression; wash me thoroughly." A lady one time thought I did not know what I was saying, maybe I do not sometimes; but she wrote me a little note and said, "Mr. Weber, you said, 'Wash me thoroughly,' and the Bible says, 'Wash me thoroughly.'" Poor, ignorant woman, she did not know any better, so I did not blame her. You will find out that all English versions of the Bible read, "Wash me thoroughly"; all American version read, "Wash me

thoroughly." That is just the difference. I gave my Bible to a preacher, and I said, "Please read this." And he said, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquities." I said, "You better go to school and find out how to read;" he said, "Why?" I said, "Look here, that don't say thoroughly,' but it says throughly.'

Now, I tell you I like that word "throughly" best. Why? I have a jar, and I have it sealed; I hand it to the servant girl and I say to her, "I want you to wash that thoroughly." All right; she takes and washes it all on the outside and it is nice and clean. I get it and I say, "Have you washed it thoroughly?" And she says, "Yes, sir." And I just take and unscrew the lid and I smell inside. Phew! "Why," she says, "it is thoroughly washed." But I say, "Now wash it throughly." And that is just the way with David. He wanted God to go right through him. You see, if God goes through you that takes the inside, the outside, the top side, and every side. Glory to God! So I like that word "throughly." It is God going right through me. Say, if God goes through some of you folks he will find quite a lot of dirt and filth on the inside. That is so; is it not? "Wash me throughly from my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin. Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest." Seventh verse, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."

Now you know as well as I do that snow is not pure white. For instance, you ladies say to the children, when the pumps are frozen, "Go out and gather mamma a big kettle of snow." The children go out and fill the kettle clear up. You then put it on the stove and melt the snow, and you find out that the snow that looked so white was not pure white, for you find some of the heavier settlings at the bottom, and the lighter settling on the top. The consequence was you said that that snow was not pure white. But now, how will I get snow pure white? Why, I will just take that snow yonder and melt it, then I will take and skim off the top, and put it through a strainer of very fine cloth, and then take and freeze that water, and from that at do I have? Snow whiter than snow. Some of you fellows need freezing over, it seems to me. And I tell you, if you will get frozen over, my brother and sister, you will get whiter than snow.

Now, justification as we read here in Isa. i. 18, "Come now, let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." That is justification. David here, in the Fifty-first Psalm and me seventh verse, says, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Then in the tenth verse he says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." All he wanted a heart from sin set free, he wanted a heart pure; he wanted a heart holy, he wanted a heart sanctified of God. And just as soon as he got that kind of a heart, what does He say? "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Glory be to God for that!

I asked a preacher down at Coldwater when David was called a man after God's own heart. He said, "After he was sanctified." I said, "You do not know what you are talking about." Well, he said, "I do, Mr. Weber." Well, I said, "You don't, for I want to say to you that nine-tenths of the preachers tell you that David, after he was sanctified, was called a man after God's own heart, and it is not so." There was an infidel who said to me one day, "David was a pretty man for God to call him 'a man after his own heart.' Why, if he had committed that sin in these days we would have put him in the penitentiary; and that is the man you hold up." Do you know, brother, when David was called a man after God's own heart? If you don't, I will tell you. Turn over here in your Bibles, to Acts xiii. 22, and you will read, "I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." Again, if you will look in 1 Sam. xiii. 14, you will find that it was when David was a little boy, out yonder tending his father's sheep, before he had been anointed king, that he was called a man after God's own heart. So that stops the mouths of infidels.

Now, I have not time to linger and talk to you about Isaiah and Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and some of the minor prophets, but I want you to turn now to Matt. v. 8, "Blessed (that means happy), blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Again, in the forty-eighth verse, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Do you suppose my Father would say to me, "Be ye perfect," if I could not be? I want to say to you, I would not worship that kind of God. I believe in the God who said to me, "Be ye therefore perfect even as I am perfect," that it is possible for me to be perfect with God. He did not say, with man.

Let us turn over to John xvii. 17. The Lord Jesus is here making a prayer, and in his prayer he says, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Do you suppose that the Son of God would have prayed for His disciples to be sanctified, if they could not be? Do you suppose that the Son of God, who was just about to go on Calvary's rugged cross, would pray that prayer, "Sanctify them through thy truth," if it were not possible? No, o, no

Again, turn to Acts xxvi. 18. He is speaking to Paul here, and He sends him out on a mission, and He says to him, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins." That is justification. And if I were to say to you, I am going to give you my knife, you would not look for something else, would you? So he says here, "And that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith." Let us turn over to Rom. vi. ii, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Now, he says, "reckon." Count it so, believe it so, and it will be so. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body." And fourteenth verse, "For sin shall not have dominion over you." But glory be to God, Brother Damon, that we shall have dominion over sin. Oh, how glad I am that God says, "Sin shall not have dominion over you." Bless the Lord.

Again, let us turn to 2 Cor. vii. 1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit; perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Again let us turn to 2 Cor. xiii. ii, "Finally, brethren, farewell." You see, they were in the Lord how; he calls them brethren; and them that benediction he offers and says, "Be perfect." Again let us turn to Heb. xii. 14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." i John iv. 18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear."

Now, then, we have seen by these Scripture promises that sanctification, perfection, holiness, entire consecration, fullness of the blessing, are one and the same. I do not care so much what the people call it; some call it "second blessing," some prefer to call it "baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire," and some prefer to call it "Fullness of Blessing." Get it and then just live it, and you will be all right. Do you know I never saw a young convert opposed to holiness. It is some of you old backsliders that oppose holiness, do you know it? It is some of you who have been living in sin all your life, who oppose holiness. No truly converted man will ever oppose it. Just as quick as you get to be a kicker against holiness, put it down that you are backslidden. Let us go back to the text again, i Thess. v. 23, 24, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole soul and spirit and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

When I started out I said there was not one in this congregation but what will admit that Adam and Eve were perfect; but as David says, "In sin hath my mother conceived me; behold, I was shapen in iniquity." So, then, here is a little child. That little child is born in the world with sin in it. But the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ provides for the perfection of that child; if he dies before he reaches the years of

accountability, that child goes right in the presence of God, perfect. But just as soon as that little boy or girl yonder learns right from wrong, learns to disobey, learns to be, learns to do evil, just so soon that little boy or girl becomes a voluntary sinner against God, and, as a voluntary sinner against God, that boy or girl is responsible before God. Now, then, he says, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Then that little boy or girl must get down, and say, "Father, in the name of Jesus, forgive me my sins." Now, when he becomes pardoned, all of his actual sins are forgiven him. But still that hereditary sin is within him. For justification is cutting off the tree by the roots, and sanctification is going down and getting the roots all out. So, then, I confess my sin, and God is faithful and just to forgive my sin. That is, my actual sin. Now, my hereditary sin, I must ask him, and believe him, and have faith that if I say "Father, in the name of Jesus, cleanse my hereditary sin," that God then comes and sanctifies me, and washes me, and makes me pure, and makes me a fit temple for the Holy Ghost to dwell in. Who, then, would oppose holiness? If you do, I tell you it is holiness or hell. For God says that without holiness no man shall see God. Some churches teach that a man receives holiness just before he dies; but I read in my Bible here about Enoch receiving it three hundred years before he died, and he walked and talked with God for three hundred years and lived perfect.

The Roman Catholics have a purgatory, for they say that no man can go in the presence of God, who is not pure and holy, so that they have yonder a refining process in purgatory, to get men holy. But, oh, I bless God that you and I can be made perfect in this life, if we will, for He says we can. If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is, my hereditary sins. And I pray God now, "That the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Now, my brother, do you want to be sanctified? Do you object to asking God to cleanse you from your hereditary sin? If you do, you better ask Him, first, to pardon you as a sinner. Glory to God! I have not told you what this man or that man says; I have told you what God says; and if you have any fault to find, you find it with God, for here is his word. Now, then, my brother and sister, do you enjoy this state of grace? One says, "I am afraid to acknowledge it, for fear they will expect more of me." Expect more of you? God says, if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another; and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Oh, sister, if you don't walk in the light of God, you are not even justified. You have the light this morning; you must go on to perfection, or else go to hell! One or the other, Holiness or hell! Glory to God, I am going to take holiness.

Do you want this state of grace? Do you want to get where you can give up our business and go to prayer meeting? Do you want to get where you won't be a kicker in a revival meeting, because they do not preach just to suit you? Do you want to get where you just love to worship God? Where it will be just joy to serve the Lord Jesus Christ? If you do, this morning ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, to sanctify you wholly, and He will do it. Be careful now, do not say that you have entered into a state of grace unless you have. Every one who believes you are sanctified, stand upon your feet. Don't stand up unless you know. Don't stand up unless you know it; be honest, and if you have it, God bless you.

Now, how many of you want it? stand up! Everybody wants it in this house. Everybody wants to be sanctified in this house. Glory to God, look at this sight this morning.

Now, I want every one of you to get right down on your knees where you are. Now, my brother and sister, you ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, to cleanse your hereditary sin. You were saved as a sinner, but you are not saved yet from all your sin. Now say, Father, in the name of Jesus, sanctify me wholly, make me pure, cleanse all my hereditary sin, and cleanse me and purify me and make me holy now. He will do it. Now, you must believe Him when you ask Him; for He says He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. Ask Him now, don't be afraid; ask that your joy may be full. Ask Him now. Father, in the name of Jesus, we come to praise Thee, that the people are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and Thou hast said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst, for they shall be filled."

O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, sanctify these boys and girls, these fathers and mothers, these loved ones, just now. I believe! I believe! You have asked Him now, in the name of Jesus, to cleanse your hereditary sin. That places you before God, perfect. Now, walk and live and be.

"Lord, I give my all to Thee,

Friends and time and earthly store,

Soul and body Thine to be,

Wholly Thine forevermore."

Glory be to Jesus! Angels are looking with glad faces today. Let us give our praises to God.

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