

Being Sanctified by the Holy Spirit

by Richard Langworthy

The sermon emphasizes the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the ongoing process of sanctification and spiritual growth in a believer's life.

Duration: 48:21

Scripture: John 16:13, Romans 8:1-2, Romans 8:6, Romans 8:14, Romans 8:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Topics: "Sanctification"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the need for spiritual awakening and warns against being enamored with worldly things. He highlights the importance of being spiritually prepared for the times to come, as the majority of the Christian world will be spiritually unaware. The preacher also criticizes the focus on entertainment in churches, stating that it does not lead to true spiritual growth. He calls for a return to a hunger for spiritual things and a removal of any obstacles that hinder the flow of living waters in our hearts.

Transcript

The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and what is sanctification. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, I'm going to read you a little verse here, in chapter 3, it says for this, chapter 4 verse 3 rather, it says, for this is the will of God, your sanctification. And then it has that you should abstain from sexual immorality, and each you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.

This little word, sanctification, is the kind of word we think only happens to Bible school students, something they learn. There are three parts to our Christian walk, and I think the best way to describe it is to put it into three categories. The first one is, Bible calls it justification.

And that means what happens when we get saved. You are, we were sinners, and we're washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, we're saved by grace, we've been brought from a state of sin into the kingdom of God, God considers us justified, set apart, we are now standing before him without condemnation, justified. Then, we have the process of sanctification.

The word sanctification means basically to be set apart, to be made holy. Now that process starts from the day I get saved and continues until the day I die. It's an ongoing process.

Then we have a little word called glorification, which what happens when Jesus returns and we are saved, and we get a nice brand new body. I'm not quite sure of the year, but let's say it's 2016 model, we're going to get that one, you know. So when Jesus returns, we will get a nice brand new body.

I don't know if you're allowed to put in a prerequisite for what it's going to look like, but I've tried, you know. Mine definitely will be a bit bigger and have a few changes. However, so sanctification.

Does God take sanctification seriously? Is it something that's an essential part of our lives? When we get saved, as far as God is concerned, we are sanctified. So you'll find scriptures that talk about you having been sanctified. That means that as far as God is concerned, you were a rotten, stinking little sinner, and now you've been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, and you've come into His presence.

He's cleansed you, He's forgiven you, and He's made you a vessel that He considers holy, set apart for His purposes. So He says, you are now sanctified. You have been set apart for Me.

You've been set apart from the world, you belong to Me. And the fact that I've set you apart, and the fact that you belong to Me, makes you holy. Holiness is not a bunch of rules.

Holiness is a state. It's something where God takes a vessel, and He puts a vessel for His use, and whatever is put in for the use of God, as far as God is concerned, is something considered holy. Then we all know that none of us are perfect, and that most of us are full of scrap.

Amen? Yes? No? Alright. Just, I am the leader of, the chairman of the club. Now, how can you lead sheep, unless you have more experience than the sheep, right? So God looks for the rogue, and He says, there you are.

So now, the process of sanctification means I was declared holy. The process of sanctification is then the work that God does in my life, while I am a Christian, so that day by day, I am conformed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. So, sanctification is something God declares that I am holy.

It is then a process by which He is making me holier. He is removing things from my life that He doesn't want. He is shining the vessel.

He is cleaning the vessel. He is preparing the vessel for a purpose for which He has set it apart. And then the third part of sanctification happens when I die, and I inherit, I get my inheritance, because I will get into heaven, I will receive the reward according to my spiritual maturity.

We must be clear on that. God always rewards us according to the amount at which we have surrendered our lives to Christ, and our spiritual maturity. So, don't think that we can just die and go to heaven, and we've got this great big mansion there, and everything is fantastic.

What the responsibility we have in heaven is proportional to our service on earth. Did you understand that? Amen. And it's not proportional to works.

It's not proportional to well God, I've kept a record sheet. I went to church every single Sunday of the year. I never missed.

Where's my mansion? You're not rewarded according to attendance. We're rewarded according to the state in which the form or the amount in which Christ has been formed in our lives. Spiritual maturity.

So, sanctification is the process on this world in which Christ is preparing me, maturing me, so that when I die, I can, I am mature enough for that for which He has prepared for me. So, I'm set apart to be holy now. I continue the process of being made holy, and when I die, I enter into that which He has set apart for me in eternity.

So, sanctification is very, very important, because my whole eternal future will depend upon how I work with Christ in that process. Does that make sense? Amen. It's not about us being goody-two-shoes on this earth.

It's about the work of Christ in our lives. Now, come with me to Romans chapter 15. Again, there's two sides to this.

One side is the Holy Spirit. The other side is my response. Romans 15, verse 16.

He says, that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. So, right there, just remember that, and come with me with, to 1 Peter chapter 1 and verse 2. He says, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, in sanctification of the Spirit. Do you think there is a relationship between us and the Holy Spirit in this process of sanctification? The answer is 100 percent yes.

Now, I want you to come with me to John chapter 16. We've read this a few times. From verse 13.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, guys. Verse 13. However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth.

He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak. And He will tell you things to come. He will glorify me, that means Jesus, for you take of what is mine, and He will declare it to you.

Right. So now, we need to understand that sanctification is not something I can do myself. I do not wake up at the first day of the year, and I don't write on the back, on the side of the mirror, all the things I'm going to change in my heart.

I promise never to shout at my wife again. There it goes, on the mirror. Every morning when I'm brushing my teeth and shaving, I can see it.

There it is. Okay. All the things you'd like to change, we're going to put there on a piece of paper for us to have a look at.

Do you realize you'll never be able to do it? It's impossible. So, rub it off the mirror, it's not going to happen. Something has to happen.

We have a friend called the Holy Spirit. He has come on the earth, He lives inside us, and He walks with us. And the key to our Christian growth is our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Now, in the last little while I've been thinking a lot about it, because I think that part of the problem in modern Christianity is that many Christians have lost, how do we put it, the art of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We are so busy being Christians, we've actually lost the art of prayer, we've lost the art of listening, we've lost the art of hearing God, we've lost the art of opening our hearts and allowing the Spirit to speak to us and to direct us. And as a result, we struggle with our flesh.

As a result, we struggle to live godly lives, because the very thing, the very person that God sent to be with us, the Holy Spirit, the one to walk with us, and to talk with us, and to encourage us, and to help us to see, and to show us spiritual truths, and to give us the revelation of things to come, it's as though we are not talking to our friend. It's as though we are not listening. It's as though we're watching, we'd rather put on TV and watch a preacher on TV, we'd rather put on a CD and listen to someone on a CD, we'd rather go and have fellowship and talk to someone in the church, and do all these natural things, and have lots of natural wisdom, and people speaking to our lives, and directing us, and guiding us, and running here, and running there, and asking this one, and again, no problem to seek help.

But who has got more wisdom than every human being put together? The Holy Spirit. Who does God want us to fellowship with? The Holy Spirit. Where do signs, and wonders, and miracles come from? The Holy Spirit.

How are we going to get out of the boat, and trust God in the realm of faith, and the supernatural, if we're not learning to listen, and walk clearly with the Holy Spirit. And one of the traps I see in the modern church is that we have lost touch with our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. When is the last time you knew you heard God speak to you clearly? In your heart? Maybe we should rewind that.

When is the last time we made space for God to speak to us clearly in our hearts? Because I believe God talks all the time. Yes? Do you think God is a chatterbox? He is. I think the Spirit of God talks to us all the time.

Come on. Amen? He really does. It's just that we are so busy hearing other voices, and we're so busy doing other things, that we've lost touch with the One right in front of us, who is there to help us, and to guide us.

The basic form of Christianity is our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Romans chapter 8. Okay? The whole of chapter 8, I think, is basically on the subject of sanctification, but anyway. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

And we say Amen. But don't say Amen until you read the rest of the verse. Okay? Who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Now, the action word in that verse is walk. I hope so. I'm not very good at English, but I do believe the action word in that verse is walk.

Now, the Greek behind that means to walk behind, to follow. So, it has the idea of an adult walking down the road and the children following. Someone crossing a road and the kids following.

Hold my hand please as I go. And they're all there. Stay with me now.

Come on, come on. Mind the cars, mind the bus, mind the bicycle. Come, come, come, come, come, come.

We're all nice and safe. We've crossed the road. The adult goes ahead, the children follow.

The whole idea is the Holy Spirit walks ahead of me and I'm going to follow. I'm not walking next to Him. I'm not walking beside Him.

I'm not kind of looking around and saying, Holy Spirit, I'm going this way. Is that okay? Do you mind? I'm not like a little dog on the other side of the road using the bush when there's a car coming down and the owner jumping up and down saying, come back, come back, come back. You're going to get squashed.

That's not me. I need to be behind. The whole idea is I'm someone who's learned to hear His voice.

I'm someone who's walking in step. I'm someone who's walking in obedience. I've learned to see that the Holy Spirit goes.

I've learned to take my pace from the direction of the Spirit of God. Relationship. He said there's no condemnation for that kind of person.

Why? Because I'm at peace with God. Do you understand? My life is in harmony with the Lord. The other way is to walk in the flesh.

To walk in the flesh means I do not want the counsel of God. I take my own counsel. I take what is right to me, the wisdom of man, and I choose to go another way.

Once that happens, I break fellowship with God. Something starts to go wrong and out of that always comes condemnation. So he says right here, it's your relationship with the Spirit that is key to your freedom.

In the days in which we are living, these days of darkness, these days of increased pressure, it is essential that the Christian Church, the individual Christian, that we dig deep our wells of fellowship with Christ. Our faith must be based on our revelation of Christ, not on circumstances, not on the wisdom of man, not on the voice of preachers. It's got to be based on my knowledge of Christ in the Spirit.

For there will come times in which we don't have access to men and preachers and all that kind of stuff. We're going to find ourselves in times of trial where we're going to have to stand alone and know who saved us and who is guiding us and how to live. If we don't understand that, we're going to be in trouble.

Now it says this, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. So there are two laws at work. One is the law of the flesh, it never goes away, and the other one is the power of the Spirit of Christ to sustain me.

And again, it's like a little airplane flying. As long as the aircraft has momentum, lift will keep it above gravity. But the moment the engines die and he loses his momentum, what happens? The law of gravity is going to pull the little thing back to ground.

And so it is. We live in the flesh. The flesh will never ever not be grappling at our lives in one way or another as long as we have breath in our bones.

Amen? But there's a greater one. It's the life of the Spirit that lifts me above the counsel of my flesh. It lifts me above the wisdom of the flesh.

It literally sustains me. It says the law of life in the Spirit keeps me free from the law of sin and death. That belongs to the sinner.

This belongs to the saint. But it doesn't happen automatically. It comes as a result of my fellowship with Christ in the Spirit.

Right? I come down here to verse 4, that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Alright now, just keep that in mind. I want you to come back in the Old Testament to the book of Haggai.

Okay? Here we are. Zephaniah, Haggai, and Zechariah. He's stuck between the two Z's.

Now, there's a nice little picture here I want us to see. The Prophet is speaking at a time in which the Jewish people have come back from captivity and during the reign of Israel and them, they laid the foundation of the temple. Now, nothing has happened since then.

Alright? So, verse 2, thus speaks the Lord our host saying, this people says, the time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built. Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the Prophet saying, is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses? And this temple lie in ruins. Now, therefore, consider your ways, says the Lord.

You've sown much and you bring in little. You eat and do not have enough. You drink, but are not filled with drink.

You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he earns wages, earns wages to put them into a bag full of holes. Okay? Consider your ways, says the Lord.

Now, go up the mountain, bring wood and build my temple. For, it says in verse 9, for you looked for much, but indeed it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away.

Why? Because of my house that is in ruins, while everyone runs to his own house. Now, this is a natural picture of these people that come back from captivity, they built the foundation, they all wept, they all cried, they all excited, and then they ran off up the mountains, and for the next 40 years, what they did is they built their own houses. And every Saturday, they'd look and say, there's the foundation of the temple.

One day, we'll have a temple. One day, we'll build the walls. One day, we'll make a sacrifice.

But in the meantime, I am busy serving the Lord. I love the Lord. I'm a Jew.

I've been come back from Babylon. I'm so grateful, but here I am building my house, running my business, doing all that I want to do. And the Prophet stands up and says, in doing that, all that ever happened to you was barrenness.

Whatever you earned, God says, I blew it away. Your crops, I blew on them. The money, I blew on them.

Your effort, I blew on it. And so, no matter how hard you worked, it came to nothing. Your efforts resulted in barrenness, because my house is not in order.

Now, that's, for me, a very neat picture of many Christians' lives. We get saved, and the foundation of Christ is laid. After we get saved, we get busy doing what we want to do.

We run around building our lives, pursuing our dreams, doing the things that we want to do. But we do not pay attention to the spiritual things that God wants. The construction of this temple in the order of Christ.

The building of the temple on the inside, the way the Holy Spirit wants it built. We want a certain amount of freedom to say to God, I know I'm saved. I know I'm going to heaven.

And one day, Lord, one day I'll come and I'll give you my life, and I'll surrender everything, and we can do all the things that I know need to happen. But, you must understand, I have these dreams, I have these desires, I have all these things that I want to do. My heart, I'm coming, Lord.

I really promise you I'm coming. I go to church on a Sunday. I even respond to the altar.

I cry a few tears. I'm coming. Remember, I'm coming.

But in real terms, what am I building? My life. And you know what happens? I have barrenness. All my efforts, I come to church and I say, you know, I'm so dry.

I struggle to read my Bible. I struggle to pray. It's like my Christian life, it just lacks something.

It's so dry. Maybe God's blowing things away. Maybe God, whoosh, just breathes on all our efforts, and all our dreams, and all our little schemes, and all our love of the world, and all the places that we go.

He just, whoosh, breathes on it. No matter how hard I chase these things and try and find my dreams, they never seem to bring satisfaction. I live in a state of spiritual barrenness.

Does that make sense? I think it does. Why? Because we're not paying attention to what needs to be paid attention to. He said, if you walk in the Spirit, you will not be in condemnation.

The law of the Spirit of life is greater than the law of sin and death. When I allow Christ to construct what He needs to construct in my life, when I allow myself to be led by the Spirit, when I allow the relationship with the Holy Spirit to be alive and within me, so that Christ can start to build on the foundation of that cross that He died upon, to start to build upon that foundation, day by day by day, the revelation of Jesus Christ, when His house is in order, the rest of my life will be in order. So many Christians today are in church, but barren.

How many sermons do we hear that don't change our lives? How many decisions do we make? Times we come to the altar, raise our hands, pledges that we make, and yet years later, where are we? We're just dry. Is it God's fault if I'm dry? I don't think so. I really don't think so.

I think that somewhere we have lost sight of what we're supposed to do, and that is to humble ourselves and learn, open our ears, and again learn to allow the Spirit of the Lord to take charge of our lives and to direct us. How can I put it to you? It's like I'm walking down the street with my best friend talking next to me. He's right there.

And he's chatting to me. He's talking all the time. And I get so used to him talking, I don't hear his voice anymore.

I was going to say your wife, but I'd say my best friend. But I've seen men do that. Do you understand? The wife is going, Whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta whatta.

And he's going, yes, dear? What did I say? Sorry? Did you say something? Yes, I said something for the last two hours. What has the guy got? He's got an off switch. Tink.

It comes. It's associated with a certain tone of voice. After that cut out.

Now, we do the same with God. God talks to us and talks to us and talks to us because it speaks to my conscience. It's all the time.

I would like to go that way. The Holy Spirit says, ah, ah, ah. I'm like, shut up.

Don't you understand something? I like the world. I like my flesh. I want to do that.

Stop bothering me. Leave me alone. So off I go.

And what happens to the Holy Spirit? He's talking. So what do I do? I put mufflers on. It's like, no, no, no.

I can't hear God. I'm at peace. Yes? And we close our hearts down.

Because if I'm willing to listen, I have to be accountable. If you hear your conscience speak, if you hear the Holy Spirit speak, understand, we are going to see the world in different eyes. If I'm the same today as I was six months ago, and I'm not changing, it's because I'm not listening.

If my love for the world and the things in my life are the same today as they were a few months ago, there's a problem. The problem is I'm not walking in the Spirit. I'm not listening to the Spirit.

I don't have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. My ears are hearing too many other voices, and I've closed down the one that will save my life. The foundation is there.

I'm saved. But it's got dust on it. It's got weeds growing around it.

I don't know. We're not taking care of it. But the building is not being built.

The process of sanctification is not happening. I'm not going from strength to strength. I'm not going from maturity to maturity.

I'm not going from one grace to another. I may be worldly today. I can't be worldly tomorrow if I'm walking with the Spirit.

I can't. I will see the world day by day in different eyes. Because the Spirit will come, and He's going to bring to me the heart of Christ, the revelation of the Kingdom of God, the person of Jesus Christ, the character of Christ, the thought of Christ, the wisdom of Christ.

As we fellowship, and as we talk, so the way I see the world, its values, and how it thinks, and how it operates, will change by the hour. You cannot be spiritual and worldly. You cannot have fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and love the world.

You cannot be claiming to have identified with Christ, and not have your nature change. It doesn't happen. So, if we are in pause, if we're in a place of spiritual barrenness, if we're in a place of spiritual dryness, if we're in a place where church is boring.

Before we say church is boring, ask ourselves the question, when was the last time I found pleasure in the presence of God? Maybe God is boring. And if God is boring, there's a problem, because I'm looking, I'm falling in love with something, that is, I'm not supposed to fall in love with. It's a philistine, the world.

My concern, when I see churches today, is we have lost the centrality of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And so, we've replaced it with entertainment. We've replaced it with, you know, not worship and music.

I'm talking about the kind of music that is entertainment. We see smoke, and lights, and programs, and advertising, and whatever we can, to bring people to church. They can leave church thinking, man, that was a good show today.

That was really great. We had songs, and we had skits, and we had this, and we had that. It was really great.

What they mean was, I was well entertained in the house of God today. But it's not spiritual. And when trouble comes, those Christians are going to get blown away.

If you read the parable of the ten wise, or the five wise, and the five foolish virgins, they're waiting for the Master. That parable only applies to the church, just before Jesus comes back. They're waiting for the Master.

They know He's coming. They're not virgins in the community, and suddenly someone shouts, oh, there's a bridegroom, and they go, whoo, bridegroom. Where is he? They're not doing that.

They've all got their little lamps. They're all dressed in their clothes. They're all beautiful.

They're waiting. He's coming. There's only one problem.

Half of them have no oil. So when He comes, they cannot go into His presence. The oil is the presence of God in our lives.

The oil is the work of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't matter how beautiful our clothes are. It doesn't matter how expectant we are for the return of Jesus Christ.

If in the Spirit, my heart is not ready for His return, I will not be part of the rapture. So that means, there's a whole pile of Christians who are staying behind. All of them knowing Jesus is coming.

All of them talking about it. You know, He's coming one day. Do you see what's happening in the Middle East? This and this and this.

We're all ready. Whoo, He's coming. Boom! The trumpet blows.

The earthquake happens. And up go the believers. What a surprise when we stay behind.

What a surprise. Because God does not mess with carnality. Do you understand that? He does not take carnal Christians in the rapture.

He does not take the worldly church in the rapture. He does not take those who are messing with the world in the rapture. They can stay behind and join the Jews and face the Antichrist and all the things.

That's going to purify them. You're not ready? Stay behind. I have a program for you.

It's called purification. It probably means you get your head chopped off by some Muslim. You can't.

There will be a time of great persecution when the Muslims will come along and say, So choose, Allah or Jesus. Now the carnal Christians are going to be going, Allah, Allah, Jesus, Allah. I don't know! Alright? Because he doesn't want to lose his life.

Yes? Some of them will just go, Get it over with. Just do it. We have no idea of the seriousness of the times that are coming upon our lives.

And all the scriptures promise us that prior to return of Jesus, the majority of this Christian world will be sleeping. We'll be spiritually unaware of what is about to happen to us. We'll be blind.

A sleeping man is blind. He's unaware of his environment. And the church today largely is sleeping.

She is enamored with the world. She's enamored with all the latest things that the world can offer. I watched, I'm not going to mention the names, but I watched two programs the other day with Christian artists entertaining 10,000 people.

And I had no problem with them coming along with their great big bands, although I felt the bands obviously were a bit carnal, and all the smoke, and the lights, and the colors, and all the Christians there. And they're singing their latest songs. And the songs themselves are nice.

I had a problem with them calling it worship, because to me it's not worship. It's entertainment. Everybody paid to go there.

And the artist put \$20,000 in his pocket and walked out thinking, Amen, we worship God tonight. Bless the name of Jesus. And all the Christians are there, I mean thousands, dancing, going like this, yeah, yeah.

And the guy, the one guy, he comes along and he, maybe I'm wrong, but it's suddenly in the middle of it, he goes, I'm going to pray. And he moves across here and he, I'm like, Stop it, stop it, stop it. Just grab your guitar and say, Guys, let's have a good time.

We're here to sing songs. We're here to have fun, yeah. Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow.

Let's go for it. Don't call it worship. Call it what it is.

Entertainment. You come to hear me sing, I'm going to sing. Let's go for it.

But for the Christians, that's worship. That is worship. It's not.

The presence of God is not there. We have lost something, folk. We have lost godliness, righteousness, old-fashioned holiness, not found in the modern church.

We have choices to make. The Holy Spirit wants to take each Christian individually and take us on a journey of conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ. Here we call it the work of the cross.

But only the Holy Spirit can put you on the cross. Don't try to put yourself there. The Holy Spirit comes and He points to things in our lives and we go, that's painful to lose, I need to die.

He says, I will help you. I will give you the grace. It's the friend, my friend the Holy Spirit that takes me day by day to the point of the altar and the life.

The altar and the life. The altar and the life. It's He who does it.

I can't find the altar and I won't find the altar by myself. The only way God gets glory out of a human being is when that human being is willing to go on the altar and lose their life. But I can't crawl on it by myself.

It's the Spirit of God that comes and He points out to me things that maybe my neighbors are quite cool with. Maybe my friends are cool with it. Maybe the Christian community is cool with it.

But the Holy Spirit is not cool with it. He comes along and says, I'm not cool with that. I'm not asking what your friends think or all your school friends or all your neighbors or all your classmates or whatever it is.

I'm not asking for their opinion. I am telling you I'm not cool with that music. I'm not cool with that attitude.

I'm not cool with that style of dressing. I'm not cool with what you are doing. I'm not cool with it.

And I'm asking you to put some bricks on this foundation and to build the temple my way. It's that point where we have the conflict. It's there that we have trouble.

It's there that we say to the Holy Spirit, No, I don't want you to talk to me anymore. I don't want to build a house. I don't want a spiritual temple in my life.

I'm happy for the foundation. I'm happy to come out of captivity. I'm happy to have my little deal.

But I want to do my own thing. God says that's fine. All I can do is breathe barrenness on your efforts until you realize it's time to build my house and not your house.

But we're living in times, folks, where people are not seeing clearly. The Christian church is not seeing clearly. We're enamored with the world.

And we're putting Christian titles to worldly things and calling it Christian when it's not. But what the biggest problem to me is the Christian community have lost our ability to hear the Holy Spirit speak to our lives. I know that if we allowed our hearts to open and we started to allow the Spirit of God, we unplugged our ears and said, Holy Spirit, I'm willing to humble myself.

I'm willing to walk behind you. I'm willing to listen. We'd be amazed at how quickly He speaks to us.

We'd be amazed at how much conflict we'd have inside our hearts with where we are doing and what we are going through. We'd be amazed at how quickly faith comes back. We'd be amazed at how quickly spiritual things become clear and the Word of God becomes rich to us once again and our prayer life starts to change.

We'd be amazed at how quickly the rivers start to flow within our hearts and the spiritual hunger seems to awaken within our lives. We'd be amazed at how once again we'd have a relationship with Christ like it was in the beginning where there'd be a joy in our hearts and spiritual things would be like music to our ears. We would be amazed.

The question is, each one of us has to ask ourselves the same question. Do I want to do that? Am I too busy? When Jesus returns, because you happen to attend Selvon Park Church, is not your guarantee of the rapture. You know that.

Do you understand that? Mm-hmm. Amen. Amen.

I sincerely hope that I'm part of it. I really do. I'm doing everything in my heart to make sure that my little heart stays as clear as it can.

Because there's no trampoline when Jesus comes back. Amen. There's nothing.

I can't... Boing! Up we go. I'm not going to do that. However, neither do I have a little rope with knots attached to it.

One knot for each member of the church, like a little rope. Down, down, down, down to earth. Okay guys, I've got you.

Come, come, come, come, come, come, come. It's not going to be like that either. The rapture is a bit selfish.

It's every man for himself. We don't have time to think about it. It's like... We're going.

Amen. Folks, I am convinced that we are living in not only in the twilight hours of the last days, and I'm very concerned at the casualness with which the modern Christian community views spiritual things, especially our prayer life, especially our walk in the Spirit, especially our relationship with the Holy Spirit. We have a thousand excuses.

You can almost feel a resistance in people's hearts, like, I don't want that. That's old-fashioned. It's wrong.

It costs me something. It's not what I want. We have to dig our wells, each one of us.

Dig them deep. Dig them clear. Unplug our ears.

Become men and women who have learnt to walk behind the Spirit. We don't have a choice. That is going to be our security and our freedom.

And in that, we're going to find ourselves day by day beginning to understand the reality of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and who He really is. Amen? Yes? So, there's no article here. There's no conclusion here.

It's simply a concern at the same time, a challenge at the same time. Let's look at our hearts and let's go before the Lord when we go home and make it a lifestyle. But let's allow the Holy Spirit to be the one whose voice we start to hear again clearly in our lives.

Can we do that? Not too hard, eh? Not too hard. Just very hard. All right.

Shall we pray? Father, we thank You. Thank You for the Holy Spirit. Thank You, Lord, that we are saved.

Thank You, Father, that You've put Your hand upon our lives, that You've called us by name. But how I pray that You open the eyes of our understanding, all of us, myself included, that I'm not content to be where I am. I'm not content, Lord, with my prayer life.

I'm not content with the faith in my heart. I'm not content with my walk of obedience. I'm not content with who You are in my life.

Help us, Lord, to again find an appetite for spiritual things versus an appetite for the plastic things of the world, the empty things. Awaken our spiritual man. Oh, for a moment, Lord, open the eyes of our understanding.

We can get a glance of eternity, a glance of what You've called us to, a glimpse. And take out the rocks in the wells of our hearts where the rocks seem to have accumulated, that the water, the living waters, can flow freely once again. Help us, Father, so the law of the life and the spirit can lift me high and I'm free

from this law of sin and death and condemnation.

Oh, Spirit of God, keep on talking to us. Speak to us loudly, Lord. Stir our hearts, I pray.

Prepare us for the days that lie ahead. Father, we thank You, we thank You, we thank You for it. We bless Your name.

Amen. This message was brought to you by Sovereign Park Christian Church. We hope you have been blessed.

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