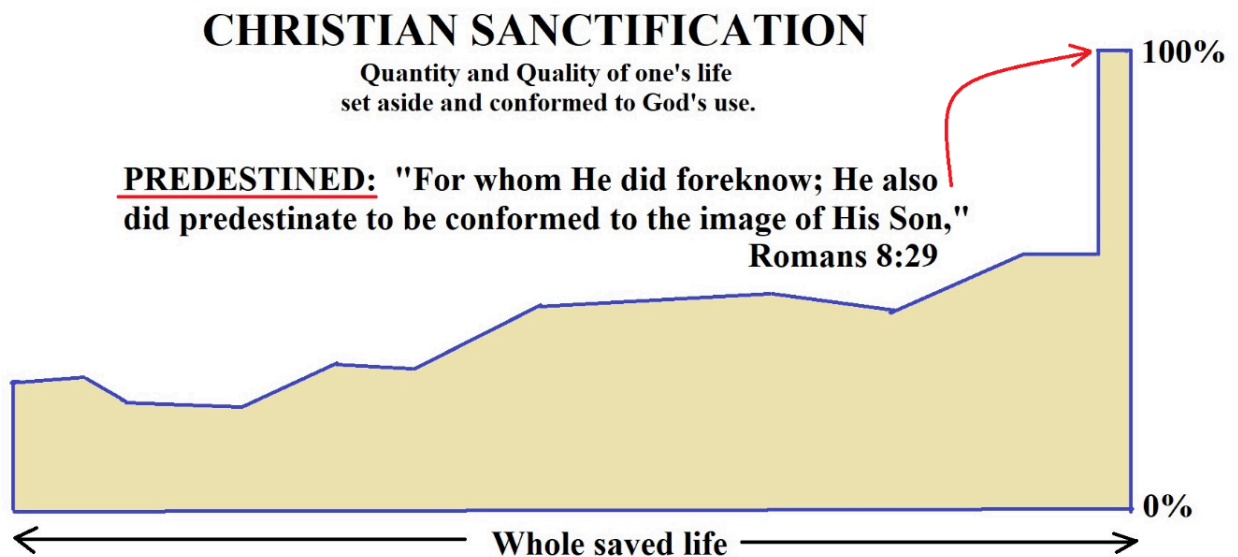
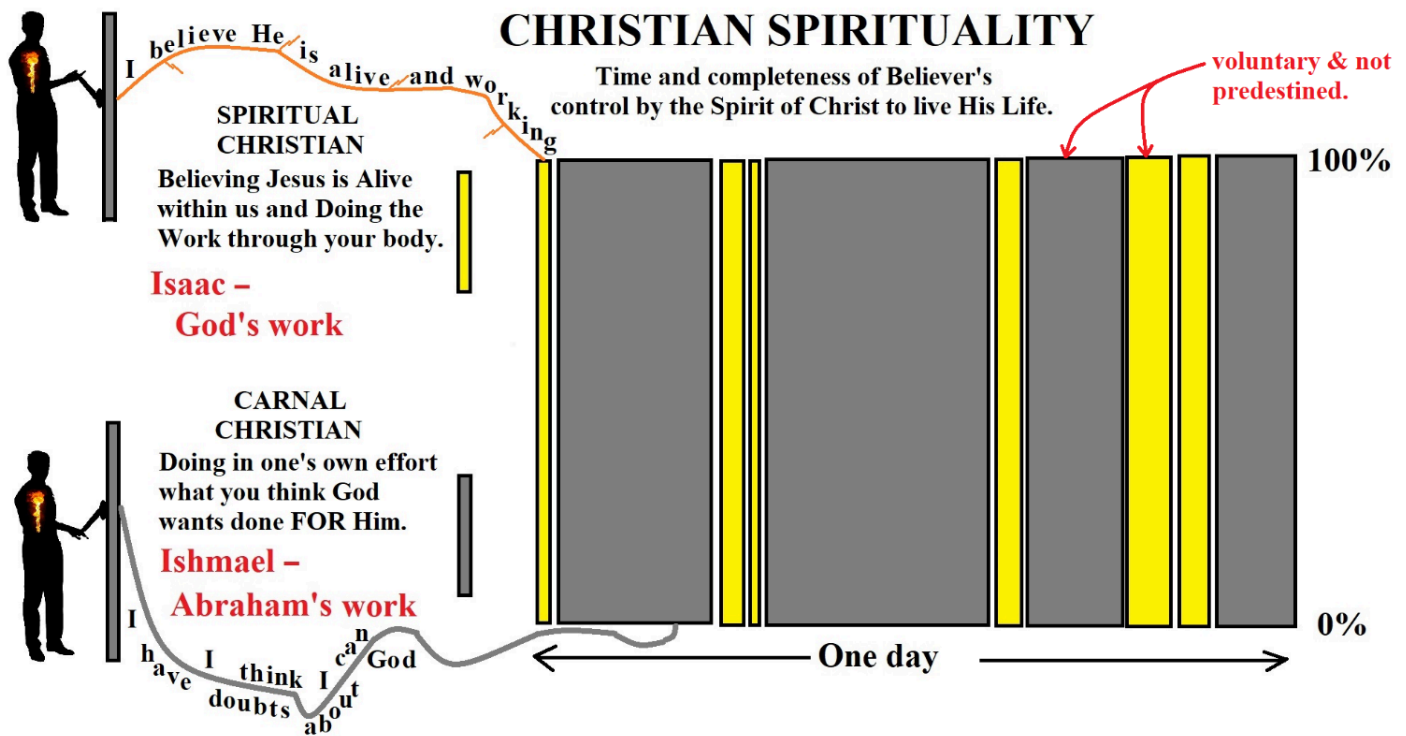


Lesson 6 – Spirituality and Sanctification

Definitions

1. **Sanctification** – The believer's being set apart by God (positional) and made increasingly holy (practical).
 - Positional: Already set apart
 - **1 Corinthians 1:2 (KJV)**
²Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:
 - Practical: Becoming like Christ over time
 - **Romans 8:29 (NET)**
²⁹because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NET)**
¹⁸And we all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2. **Spirituality** – Christ living His life in and through the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 2:20; John 14:16-23**).
 - Not self-effort but surrender to God's indwelling Spirit (**Romans 8:1-9**)
3. **Availability** – The heart-attitude that makes sanctification and spiritual service possible.



Spiritual Gifts, Availability, and Sanctified Service

- From the very beginning of the church, believers were not only taught that they were **forgiven**, but that they were also **uniquely gifted for service** (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10).
- While some **sign gifts** used in the early church were temporary and foundational (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), God continues to gift every believer for **ongoing ministry within the local assembly**.
- The ministries of a local church depend on the faithful use of **spiritual gifts by servant-members**.
 - Ephesians 4:16 (NET)**

¹⁶From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love.

Scriptural Support for Spiritual Gifts

- Instruction on motivational gifts like teaching, exhortation, giving, etc.

- **Romans 12:6-8 (NET)**

⁶And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; ⁸if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness.

- Emphasis on the Spirit distributing gifts according to His will.

- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NET)**

⁴Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are different results, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. ⁷To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. ⁸For one person is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, and another the message of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another performance of miracles, to another prophecy, and to another discernment of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues [languages], and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹It is one and the same Spirit, distributing as he decides to each person, who produces all these things.

- Ministry gifts for building up the body toward maturity.

- **Ephesians 4:11-16 (NET)**

¹¹And he himself gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God--a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature. ¹⁴So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes. ¹⁵But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love.

- Use your gifts to serve one another as stewards of God's grace.

- **1 Peter 4:9-11 (NET)**

⁹Show hospitality to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹Whoever speaks, let it be with God's words. Whoever serves, do so with the strength that God supplies, so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Each of these passages shows:

- **Variety** – Gifts are diverse, not identical.
- **Incompleteness** – No list of gifts is exhaustive, not even within 1 Corinthians 12 alone.
- **Purpose** – Every gift is given to **edify the body** and bring glory to God.

God's Design for Diversity in the Body

- God gives **different blends of gifts** to every believer.
- Our differences in gifting and opportunity are **by God's design**, not to be envied or resisted.

- **1 Corinthians 12:18-21 (NET)**

¹⁸But as a matter of fact, God has placed each of the members in the body just as he decided. ¹⁹If they were all the same member, where would the body be? ²⁰So now there are many members, but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor in turn can the head say to the foot, "I do not need you."

- Every gift and opportunity—no matter how small—is important to the cause of Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 12:22-26 (NET)**

²²On the contrary, those members that seem to be weaker are essential, ²³and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our unpresentable members are clothed with dignity, ²⁴but our presentable members do not need this. Instead, God has blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lesser member, ²⁵so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, everyone suffers with it. If a member is honored, all rejoice with it.

- **We must not bury our gifts.** Refusing to serve is disobedience.

- **Matthew 25:24-30 (NET)**

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent came and said, 'Sir, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered, 'Evil and lazy slave! So you knew that I harvest where I didn't sow and gather where I didn't scatter? ²⁷Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received my money back with interest! ²⁸Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. ²⁹For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- God encourages **unity through interdependence**—no member is self-sufficient.

- **Romans 12:4-5 (NET)**

⁴For just as in one body we have many members, and not all the members serve the same function, ⁵so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another.

- **1 Corinthians 12:25 (NET)**

²⁵so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another.

The Key to All Gifts: Availability

- While there is value in studying gift lists, your primary qualification for usefulness is **availability**.

- Without availability, **faith has no avenue to act**.

- **Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)**

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Psalms 37:4-5 (KJV)

⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD;

trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Availability means:

- **Watching** for God-given opportunities.
- **Responding** in love when God places needs before you.
- **Trusting** Christ to work through you in ways beyond your ability.

Only when we are available can God **activate the gifts He has placed within us**.

Discovering Your Gift

Spiritual gifts are often revealed as you respond to **real-life opportunities**:

- You recognize joy and fruit in specific kinds of service.
- Others affirm where God is using you.
- You begin to do things **spiritually** you never could before salvation.

It is a **misconception** that God will only use you in things you dislike. When we delight in Him, **He shapes our desires** (Psalm 37:4). He will not waste your design. God may not give you the thing you want in the moment, but He will give you **what is best for His glory and your purpose** (James 4:3).

From our perspective, we are **saved to serve**,
From God's perspective, we are **saved to be used**.

Practical Questions to Discern Your Role

- What kind of ministry brings you joy and a sense of spiritual fruitfulness?
- What do others affirm you do well?
- What can you do now that you could not before you were saved?
- What do you *desire* to do in service to Christ?

These questions matter not only now but over the course of your Christian life. Like the question, "*What do you want to be when you grow up?*", sanctification is shaped by **a thousand decisions of daily availability**. You become useful to God through years of walking in the Spirit and responding faithfully to His leading.

Biblical Spirituality

Humanity's Need for Restoration

- Humanity is made of body and spirit, forming a "living soul" (Genesis 2:7).
- Because of sin, every part of us was corrupted, rendering our self-generated efforts unacceptable to God (Isaiah 64:6).
- Any attempt at "spirituality" that does not begin with God's Spirit is a counterfeit.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)**

¹⁴But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God's Solution: Spiritual Renewal

- Through Christ's death—holy, infinite, and eternal—God provided full payment for all sin ([Romans 3:23-25](#); [Hebrews 10:10-14](#)).
- Salvation comes when we place **no faith in ourselves** but **all our faith in Christ alone** ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)).
- At salvation, God makes our spirit alive again and places **His own Spirit** within us ([John 14:16-23](#); [Romans 8:9-11](#)).

True Spirituality

- True spirituality is **the life of Jesus expressed through us** by the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is the **source of life**, and when He lives through us, our service becomes spiritual and acceptable to God ([John 15:1-5](#); [Romans 8:1-4](#)).
- True spirituality is not self-generated energy but **Christ living in us** by the Spirit.
 - [Galatians 2:20 \(NET\)](#)
²⁰I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Availability Precedes Power

- Spirituality is not a one-time experience, but a moment-by-moment availability to Christ.
 - The more we yield ourselves to God, the more His life flows through us—you might call this "progressive sanctification" ([Romans 12:1-2](#); [John 15:5](#)).
 - Christ doesn't call us to "live for Him," but to allow Him to live **through us**.
-

We Are Saved to Be Used

- If God had no purpose for us here, He would take us to heaven at conversion.
- We are saved so that Jesus can work **through our bodies** to continue His ministry of reconciliation
 - [2 Corinthians 5:18-20 \(NET\)](#)
¹⁸And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!"
- This is why we are called "Christians" — vessels for **Christ's life and mission**.

Spirituality vs. Counterfeit Spirituality

Spirituality

- Depends on Christ's life flowing through the believer ([John 15:1-5](#))
- Is obedience to the Word of God empowered by grace and motivated by love

Counterfeit Spirituality

- Self-driven effort, even if religious, is carnal ([Genesis 17:18-21](#) – Ishmael as the product of self-effort)
 - [Romans 7:18 \(KJV\)](#)

¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
 - Jesus is the true source of spiritual fruit.
 - [John 15:5 \(NET\)](#)

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me--and I in him--bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing.
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The Example of John Mark

Early Promise and Youthful Enthusiasm

- John Mark was likely from a well-connected family in Jerusalem ([Acts 12:12](#)), involved with the disciples and the early church.
- He may have been the young man who fled naked from Gethsemane ([Mark 14:51-52](#)), showing early zeal but also immaturity.
- He joined Paul and Barnabas as their assistant on the first missionary journey ([Acts 13:5](#)), not as a preacher but as an **assistant** (ὑπηρέτης being synonymous with διάκονος).

Failure in Ministry

- Mark departed from the mission field prematurely ([Acts 13:13](#)), a decision that later caused conflict between Paul and Barnabas ([Acts 15:37-39](#)).
- His early desire may have been more about adventure or recognition than humble service, and he seemed unwilling at first to fully embrace a serving or helping role.

Redemption and Restoration

- After returning to Jerusalem, Mark eventually authored the **Gospel of Mark**, the first inspired account of Christ's life (~AD 50).
- Barnabas, the encourager, gave him a second chance and mentored him even after Paul's rejection ([Acts 15:39](#)).
- Over time, Mark matured and became a trusted coworker—so much so that Paul, nearing death, said:
 - [2 Timothy 4:11 \(KJV\)](#)

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Lessons from Mark's Story

- **Sanctification** often comes through failure, repentance, and steady obedience—not instant success.
- **Availability**, not ambition, is what God requires. God shapes us over time through surrender and service ([Romans 8:28-29](#); [John 15:1-5](#)).
- Our **role** in ministry may change, but our **calling to be a servant** never does.
 - [Mark 9:35 \(NET\)](#)

³⁵After he sat down, he called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all

and servant of all."

- God may set aside our grand desires to test our humility—and reward us not for prominence, but for faithfulness ([Matthew 6:33-34](#); [Luke 16:10](#)).
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Final Thoughts

- **Be Available** – Spiritual growth begins with a yielded heart.
- **Be Faithful** – Use the opportunities God gives.
- **Be Humble** – God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble ([1 Peter 5:5](#)).
- **Be Intentional** – Serve in the assembly.
- We are not saved merely to go to heaven, but to let Christ live His life through us on earth.
- Spiritual maturity (sanctification) comes through a daily faith, a daily service, and a daily surrender.
- Every believer has a gift, a place, and a role in the assembly.
- You grow into what you were saved to be by walking daily in the Spirit.
 - **Romans 8:4 (NET)**
⁴so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
 - **Galatians 5:16 (NET)**
¹⁶But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.