



The Privilege of All Believers

We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Do you own anything which you set a part for special purposes? (Share on this.)
2. This is one of the meanings of sanctification. In the Bible, 'sanctify' sometimes means that God sets things or people apart for his special purposes. When he sets things or people apart, it is said he makes them holy. For example, the temple in Jerusalem was holy, because God set it apart for himself.

When God saves you, he sets you apart to be different for him. He sanctifies you in that way. Paul wrote:

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

How do you feel about being sanctified by God in that way?

3. The second meaning of sanctification in the Bible is, God works in a person to make them holy. It refers to the work God does to change us. Paul prayed:

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Why do you think this is so important to God?

4. Are you surprised that Paul said that to such new Christians?
5. Holy people live differently. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

God wants you to be holy and to stay away from sexual sins. He wants each of you to learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable. Don't use your body for sexual sin like the people who do not know God . . . God called us to be holy (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5,7 NCV).

Paul told the Philippians: *'Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life'* (Philippians 2:14-16). And Jesus told his disciples: *'You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light that gives light to the world'* (Matthew 5:13-14).

In what ways can holy people be a help to the people in the world around them?

6. How do you feel about the idea that God gives special attention to changing our hearts?
6. Can you give an example of where you've been aware that God has been at work in you? Even an example of how he's doing it today?