

Now What?

1. Write down the date, time, and place where you believe God sanctified you. (Space provided at the end of this lesson.)
2. Since the problem of your sinful nature has been dealt with, some of the things that hindered your spiritual growth have been removed. You may now expect to grow more rapidly.
3. God will probably begin to use you in a greater measure than He has before.

What Doesn't Entire Sanctification Do?

1. It does not make you exempt from temptation. You will always need to be on guard against the tricks of Satan to make you fall.
2. It does not dehumanize you. You will always be subject to human weaknesses. Your memory might fail. You will still inadvertently make mistakes. God sees your heart and judges you by your motives.
3. It does not make you instantly mature. Like physical growth, spiritual growth also takes time. Christian maturity comes only through experience.

For the Record

On this ___ day of (month)_____ of the year _____, at (place) _____, I made a complete consecration of myself to God, and I believe He filled me with His Holy Spirit. From this day forward, with His help, I am committed to seek His will and serve Him faithfully to the best of my ability.

(signed): _____

Lesson Four Making Christ Lord

You Are Making Good Progress

From the moment of your conversion, you have been growing spiritually and making progress on your Christian journey. Your knowledge has increased as you have studied, and your love for God has grown as you have experienced Him working in your life. This process should never stop as long as you live. Progress sometimes occurs as a gradual process. At other times, God does something special instantaneously. Both aspects are important.

You Feel A Need for Something More

While the conversion experience is wonderful in itself, at some point you have probably become aware that there is still something more that you need. You may have experienced some inner conflict, or instability, or even struggle. The solution of that problem is what we want to talk about in this lesson.

It Is Time to Get Serious About Consecration

As you have grown in your knowledge of God, your love for Him has no doubt increased also. You have felt a sincere desire to please God, to seek His will, and to live for His glory. You have enjoyed so much what He has already done for you, you will want to receive anything else He wants to give you.

That love for God, together with your desire to please Him, will lead to acts of consecration (giving more and more of yourself and your life to God). That means giving God more control over your life.

When Consecration Becomes Complete

If a person continues in obedience, the process of consecration will eventually become complete. That means that at that point nothing is withheld from God. You love Him more than anything else, and He is in complete control of your life. Christ your Savior has become Christ your **Lord**. At that point, God does something special. It is described by various terms such as: the baptism with the Holy Spirit, being filled with the Holy Spirit, perfect love, heart purity, or entire sanctification.

The Example of the Apostles

The story of this experience in the lives of the apostles is described in Acts 2. Jesus had told them there was something they still needed, which He called "The promise of the Father." He urged them to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they received it. They had previously demonstrated jealousy, self-seeking, personal ambitions, and weakness. After a prolonged period of prayer and preparation, suddenly they were all "filled with the Holy Spirit." It happened 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus on the day of a Jewish festival called Pentecost.

The results were immediately evident. Although they had been cowardly, fled, and even denied Jesus a few days before, they now confronted the crowds with boldness. They spoke with a power they did not have before, and literally thousands were converted.

The experience of Pentecost is still available today (Acts 2:39).

How to Seek for this Wonderful Experience

1. Seek it with your whole heart! "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Mt. 5:6).
2. Consecrate to God everything you are and everything you have for time and eternity. Include the unknown future.
3. Receive it by faith the same way you received the forgiveness of your sins.
4. Be patient. Keep seeking until God answers.
5. Testify to the experience when the Spirit comes in His fullness.

What Will Happen?

1. The entire level of your spiritual life will be lifted higher.
2. The same level of consecration needed to receive the experience must be maintained in order to keep it. Walk in close fellowship and total obedience to God.
3. You will experience more interest in the needs of others.
4. You will have greater intimacy with God.
5. You will have more power in your testimony.
6. You will grow more rapidly in your relationship with God.

7. You will be more sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He guides you.
8. God will use you in a greater measure than He could before.
9. There will be an increase in your enjoyment of times of prayer and communion with God and in fellowship with God's holy people.

A Checklist for Seeking the Fullness of the Spirit

- Yes No Are you sure your sins have been forgiven and you have been born again?
- Yes No Are you living in complete obedience to God's commandments?
- Yes No Do you really want to be all that God wants you to be?
- Yes No Have you consecrated yourself totally to God?
- Yes No Can you say you love God more than anything else?
- Yes No Are you willing to accept God's will for your life, even before you know what it is?
- Yes No Are you hungry for the fullness of the Spirit?
- Yes No Have you prayed and asked God to cleanse your heart from all sin?

Is there a Problem?

If you have sincerely answered all of the above questions "Yes," you may exercise faith to claim God's promise now!

If you still do not have the assurance of the fullness of the Spirit, thoughtfully go back over the questions again to confirm that your answers are really sincere and true. Search your heart and ask God to show you what is lacking.

If you have answered any of the questions "No," stop at that point and do whatever necessary to be able to change your answer to "Yes." There are no shortcuts. You cannot bargain with God. If there is any failure to enter the experience, the reason must be sought on the

human side. God is never reluctant to sanctify anybody who meets the conditions. He wants to do it more than you can imagine.