

The Image of God and the Sanctification of Man (Pt. 2) "The Forces of Sanctification"

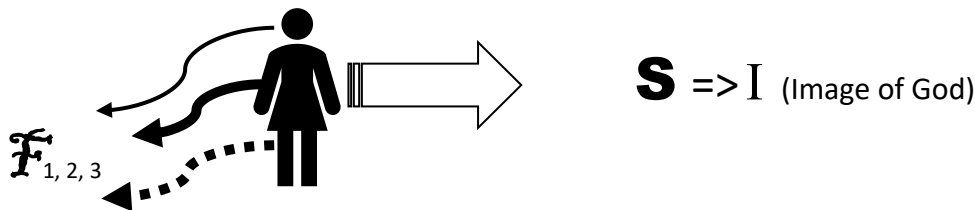
The Ministry of the Spirit

August 9, 2026

2 Cor 3:16-18 ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 Thess 4:1-3 ¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**...

Life is lived with forces that act on us.



S => I (Image)

Sanctification (Gk. Hagiasmos) [hagiazō (to make holy); from hagas (holy)] = *purification,— holiness, sanctification.*

...It is a "PROCESS word"

...It is a "FORCE" acting on our lives

Sanctification Force Analysis

- According to the Doctrine of Total Depravity—we will never simply 'evolve' into Holiness (the Image of God)

...If God doesn't exert a "Sanctifying Force" on us—we will simply spiral under the gravity of depravity (**Rom 3:10ff** "none is righteous, no not one; ¹¹ no one understand, no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside... no one does good, not even one ...¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.")

- Sanctification is NOT a random, unsourced process (like 'evolution' ...no origin, no destination, no purpose, not personal) ...It is God-guided and Purposeful

2 Thess 2:13-15 ¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits **to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth**. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

Rom 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

- **Sanctification contains a variety of "forces" at work** (A refiner's fire ...a Potter's Wheel ...a Gymnasium)
- **WE... are the 'object' of Sanctification's Actions** (body, soul, spirit ...physical, emotional, mental ...hopeful & happy ...dazed & confused) ...Sanctification is a "Full-Sensory-Experience" (words like 'grieved by trials', 'endure', 'suffered', 'futility', 'eager longing', along with 'rejoicing', 'joy', 'character formation', 'hope', etc.

1 Peter 1:1-2 ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles ... ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 1:3-9 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

..."Refining Fire" is a moving force in the process of sanctification (It is "sanctification" (alteration, change) as a result of the 'force' of HEAT!)

Rom 5:3-5 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

...Suffering is a moving force in the process of sanctification (Suffering can be a "slow-force" that must be 'endured'!)

...Suffering is an experience that NEEDS "the love of God (made real and impacting to us) by the Holy Spirit" .

Jam 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

...Trials are moving forces in the process of sanctification

F_{1, 2, 3}

Fallen World Force Analysis (In our world since Genesis 3)

F₁ — Satan is in our world ...he is the first "contrary force" to appear in the theater of life (Eph 6:10ff makes this "non-flesh and blood entity" to be a unique Force in this world)

Lk 4:1-2, 13 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil ...And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

...Satan was early on the scene to engage Adam's mission ...He is early to engage Jesus' Mission ...He will be early to engage OUR Mission!

F₂ — Sin, Temptation, & Self (these are NOT Satan, but they are influenced by Satan—among other things)

- SIN & TEMPTATION (Scripture locates a connection and a powerful influence in the 'molecule' that consists of sin + temptation + evil + desire)

James 1:12-15

...Desire, Temptation, & Sin ...form a cord of three strands that can powerfully pull on us!

- SELF (dimensions of "the flesh") ...the Bible makes clear that there is more than a list of "right/wrong or do's/don'ts" at work in our situation. There are sinful 'actions & attitudes & choices'—but there are also 'corrupt desires/passions' that are more like "the enemy within"

James 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

F₃ — The World (It is its own category, but it is inseparable from sin & Satan)

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind
...There is "an Entity" called "The WORLD"
...It Exerts FORCE (shaping, conforming force!)

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

...These forces resist, oppose, deceive, and challenge the Purpose of God in this Age!

Why This "Engineering Analysis"?

1 Pet 4:12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

The Vital Dimension of 'Living Exchanges' with the Holy Spirit

...Given that each of these forces "exceed" our capacity and have a track-record of success against humanity, it is vitally important that we learn/know how to receive the power and impartations of the Holy Spirit