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VICTORY FOR YOU
By Ercel Carter

Five Messages That Will Help You to
Find Real Victory for Your Life

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DEDICATION

Many of my friends have requested that some of the radio messages be made available in booklet form. I have preached these messages in revivals, campmeetings, and in regular services.

It is my sincere prayer that God will use this little book for His glory. Read these pages with an open heart and mind, seek to know the will of the Lord, try to find the divine plan for your life

And Victory Is For You
I John 5:4.

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1

SANCTIFICATION, WHAT IS IT?

"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 1:5.

The following messages are not for argument sake, but to look sincerely into the Word of God for a full experience of Grace in our lives. Well do I realize the subject of sanctification has caused much disagreement and discussion. However, I am not preaching to cause division or strife, but that we might see the fullness of God for our life. May I remind you there is a sane, sensible, and a simple approach to every part of God's dealing with man. Everyone who believes the Bible, will agree there is an experience called sanctification. The word sanctify, sanctification, and sanctified, appears 164 times in the Bible. Therefore, we cannot pass over such a subject without proper consideration. When I hear a person say, "I don't believe in sanctification", there are two things I immediately know about that person. They are either ignorant of what the Bible teaches, or not truthful about what they do know.

Let us notice some of the New Testament statements:

"And the very god of peace sanctify you wholly: and i pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thes. 5:23. Notice also Jude in the introduction, "Jude the servant of Jesus Christ, and the brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. This makes it clear that sanctification is experienced in this world, and not after death. Jude writes, "To them that are sanctified." By no stretch of imagination or changing of the tense can we make this statement future. It is present tense, not being sanctified, or will be sanctified but, are sanctified.

Now, I give you the definition in the Standard Dictionary. Sanctify -- to make holy, render sacred, morally or spiritually pure, cleansed from sin -- sanctification especially in theology, -- the

gracious work of the Holy Spirit, whereby believers are freed from sin and exalted to holiness of heart.

In the great plan of human redemption, God has provided that all of His children may receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that they might have a perfect heart toward Him. Now notice John the Baptist's preaching. Without fear he proclaimed a message to the people from his wilderness pulpit. Without compromise he preached, "O Generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come." Luke 3:7. Then he continues in verse nine of the same chapter, "And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: Every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Thank God for John's preaching! We need more of it today. However, this is not all of his message. Turn to Matthew chapter 3, verse 11, John is speaking to doubters and skeptics, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes i am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. If you will carefully read John 1: 26-33 you will notice the same thing mentioned again. John promised a special blessing to those who would receive it.

This is exactly what happened to the waiting, praying, and believing group in the upper room, and this has happened over and over again today, in believers' hearts. Many today are living in the fullness of God's love, having not only been justified, but sanctified wholly by the baptism of the Spirit. When we consider the two aspects of sin, inherited sin and committed sins, we can then see the provision that was made for our need.

In the new birth we receive a new nature, II Cor. 5:17, a great change was wrought in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The love of sin was destroyed, the power of sin was broken and the world about us looked different. "The mountains and hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12. This promise was made true in our experience of justification. What joy flooded our soul, words cannot explain it. Praise His name! But this is not all of your birthright. I am sure by experience and by the teaching of the Bible there is another experience for you, a cleansing and in-filling. This experience can be had by presenting yourself unto God, according to the command in Romans 12: 1,2. When we can stand upon His promise, the Holy Spirit will witness to our heart, this day, of our sanctification.

There can be no doubt that sanctification is an instantaneous work of the Holy Ghost, in our hearts, yet we must be willing to surrender all. John Wesley said, "I do not know of a single instance in any place of a person receiving at one and the same moment, remission of sin, and the abiding witness of the Spirit, and a new and clean heart." Adam Clarke said, "I have been acquainted with some thousands of Christians during my ministry, who were in different states of grace: and I never to my knowledge met with a single instance, where God both justified and sanctified at the same time."

May I conclude by saying, sanctification follows regeneration. It has positive and negative aspects, the cleansing-and filling. Regeneration is for a perishing world. Entire sanctification, wrought by the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for a powerless church or Christian. If you have not been filled with the Spirit, joy awaits your surrender. Peace like a river awaits to flood your soul.

You hold the key to the fullness of power, praise and promise. Let Him cleanse you today.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see:
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

* * * * *

2

SANCTIFICATION, WHOM IS IT FOR?

By reading the Bible we find sanctification is the birthright of every believer. That due to the nature of sin it takes the fullness of the Spirit, to completely purify our hearts. We will also notice, John the Baptist preached this message; Jesus upheld it, and many men through the years have had the experience, and are in possession of the victory that comes from a completely surrendered life. May I remind you I am not preaching for argument sake, but that honest, sincere people might find the need of their hearts supplied.

Many are crying as did Paul: "Oh, wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24. After Pentecost Peter preached, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Now notice carefully. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38,39. Not to the early church alone but, to as many as the Lord our God shall call. After regeneration one will receive hundreds of spiritual blessings. These are necessary to encourage, and strengthen, yet these blessings leave the individual on the same plane as they found him. Even a sinner may have thousands of blessings, home, friends, health, and many others. There are two definite blessings that change our plane of living; Regeneration where the heart is changed from a sinner to a child of God and, sanctification where the inner motive is purged by the filling of the Spirit.

When a sinner is seeking pardon he usually does not realize his need for an inward cleansing, he is seeking forgiveness of sins committed. However, many of you know full well something was still in your heart that is not to be desired. In order for us to receive the blessing of God we must realize, and acknowledge our need. Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6.

Only those who are truly justified and are trying in all sincerity to live a Christian, in looks, deeds, and thoughts, are acquainted with the conflicts of "the old man," -- "the carnal mind," -- and, "the Body of this death." These are Paul's ways of expressing the conflict within man's heart.

Many unregenerate and backslidden professors are under the complete domination of the "old man." They humor his whims, gratify his lusts, feed his appetites, and try to please him in every way. Dear friend, you might as well pray for a bird to swim, or a fish to fly as to ask God to baptize you with His Spirit if you choose to be carnal. But, if you are tired of the buffeting from within, why not rest your case now with God? He is able to do above that which we can ask or

think. Praise the Lord! What a Saviour! Sanctification is not for the world, Jesus prays in the seventeenth chapter of John for those that are not of the world. Worldly professors who hold on to the world with one hand and the church with the other are completely by-passed. If you know your sins are forgiven, you have fellowship with Christ, and desire to walk with Him blameless, the filling of the Spirit may be yours.

All the preliminary steps of grace, all the blessings of our experience, are the preparations of our lives to be the temple for His dwelling place. The reception of the Holy Spirit, in His fullness, is a climax in the history of personal redemption. God is longsuffering, with love He seeks to come into your heart and have full control of your life. Happy indeed, should you be if the Spirit has revealed to you your need. May I beg you, do not let the noise of the crowd stop you, do not be bound by tradition, and, don't be cheated out of the blessing that is yours to know. Open your heart to God this very moment.

The following is Moody's testimony about sanctification. "The blessing came upon me suddenly like a flash of lightning. For months I had been hungering and thirsting for power in service.

I had come to the point that I think I would have died if I had not got it. I remember I was walking down the street in New York. Right there on the street the power of God seemed to come upon me so wonderfully that I had to ask God to stay His hand. This happened years after I was converted." This is only part of his testimony.

At Moody's funeral, December 22nd, 1899, the following things were outlined as the secret of Moody's power with God.

1. A definite experience with Christ.
2. He believed in the Divine authority of the Scripture.
3. He was baptized with the Holy Spirit, and knew he was. It was to him as definite an experience as his conversion.

Dear one today are you saved? If so thank the Lord for it. But don't be satisfied, surrender your all to the Lord, according to Romans 12:1,2. Open your heart for the Holy Ghost to abide. If you have a definite experience of sins forgiven, if you have been born of the Spirit, then if you will claim the promise, sanctification is for you. Why not wait before Him?

Let me lose myself and find it Lord in Thee.
May old self be slain, my friends see only Thee.
If I lose my life in vain I will take it up again.
Let me lose myself and find it Lord in Thee.

* * * * *

SANCTIFICATION, WHEN OBTAINED?

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." Thus, begins the general epistle of Jude. To them, "that are sanctified." This leads us to know that even in Jude's day some were enjoying the blessing. Paul prays., I Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." John Wesley, taught that scriptural Holiness was to be obtained in this present life. Six years before his death, Wesley wrote, Rev. Freeborn Garrettson, saying, "It will be well as soon as any of them find peace with God, to exhort them to go on to perfection. The more strongly you press all believers to aspire after entire sanctification, as obtainable now by simple faith, the more the whole work of God will prosper."

At another time Wesley said, "We must be justified by faith and then go on to full sanctification." Thus, we see Wesley, along with many others, preached, professed, and was in possession of the blessing.

In order to receive heart purity we must come to a place of entire consecration. "That ye present your bodies a living sacrifice," is the command of Romans 12:1. Consecration is not the giving up of something evil. It is the giving to God, unconditionally, that which is good. Entire consecration actually means we give all to God. All we have and all we expect to have; all we are and all we hope to be; All we know and all we don't know, all this with a sincere, honest, and determined promise of an eternal yes to God's will in the future. However, we do not make a consecration to a work or calling, but to God. In order to receive the fullness of God, we must sign a deed to our lives for time and eternity. Is this too hard? Not when you realize what Jesus did for you.

The poet wrote,

"Here I give my all to Thee,
Friends, and time, and earthly store,
Soul and body Thine to be,
Wholly Thine forever more."

When we meet the condition, then, with appropriating faith we claim the promise, the Comforter comes in. May I remind you, the time spent in seeking is only lengthened by our failure to take God at His word. God's promises await our faith to claim them. When we meet the conditions for salvation, sanctification, or healing God is ready at that moment to answer our petitions. Praise the Lord! In the final analysis we open and close our heart's door. Why don't you throw your heart open and let the full rays of God's sunshine fill your soul? The happiest people I have ever met are those most devoted to God. You too, may share this happiness that thrills the soul.

Practically every church doctrine has something to say about sanctification. We shall discuss the following theories:

One theory teaches that justification and sanctification are experienced at the same time. That whoever is justified is sanctified. Paul in writing to the Corinthian Church 'stresses the fact that they need a deeper work of Grace. He addresses them as, "Brethren, Babes in Christ, and Saints," yet he declares they are carnal. If we had time we could find that Paul's charge could be brought against the Apostles, Ephesians, Galatians, Romans, and the Colossians.

Another is the growth theory. However, it is so easy to confuse maturity and purity. If we grow into sanctification, How long does it take? Does it take two years or twenty years? Don't you think these are fair questions? There is a great need for growth, but be sure and don't get confused and believe you can grow into heart purity. Sanctification helps us to abound toward Him.

I have never met an individual that has grown into sanctification. Have you? But many testify they received the blessing the moment their faith looked up through consecration.

The third theory advocates sanctification takes place at death. Not a single passage in the Bible would prove this claim. According to Paul, death is an enemy not a refiner. There are those that teach sanctification is a postmortem affair and it takes place sometime after death. While a man may be freed from sin by some ecclesiastical personage he must go through the refining fires of purgatory. It has been observed many times, that the time spent in purgatory is related to the size of the purse of the deceased.

Another is the theory of imputed holiness. If we stand in Him we are in the holiness of God. While the individual never enjoys the blessing of the sanctified life, he is made holy for Christ's sake. It is easy to see that this theory makes void Romans 6:22. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruits unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Also read I John 1:7.

Last, notice the teaching that sanctification is an experience following regeneration, conditioned upon our consecration and faith. Sanctification then, is the privilege of every believer. Not only in the world to come but in this present life. Praise the good Lord! This teaching is that by the filling of the Spirit the heart is perfected in love. Many have this experience today. Since sanctification is a work, God must and can do for us, we need not wait for growth, death, or purgatory. But now by faith enter the experience. We may approach it gradually on the human side, but God's part is transacted in an instant. Believe Him now and make this your prayer:

More and more of love I claim,
Glowing still with quenchless flame.
All my heart to Thee aspires,
Yearns with infinite desires.

May God bless you this day as you follow Him.

* * * * *

"I 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." Romans 12:1.

What will this kind of a surrender do for us? Can we expect a consecration that includes our very life to change our pattern of living?

May I remind you, many people like to live in sin. Their lives are under the sway of the Devil. Naturally these people don't care for holiness preaching. I have noticed this all along. The card playing crowd don't like it, the dancing crowd don't like it, the beer guzzlers don't care for it either. Even many people do not like the preacher because he dares to preach a Gospel that redeems from sin. There could be found no better example than that of John the Baptist. Herod, the old licentious devil, was living in adultery. John had enough backbone to preach against it and the whole crowd got mad. Read Mark 6:17-29. There's not much difference today, is there? The worldly professors like little card sermonettes, that tickle their ears, and never challenge them to greater heights. Yet it is reasonable to trust God to cleanse from all sin God will not be pleased to share our affections with anyone. To think He will allow His temple to be polluted by indwelling sin is most unreasonable. Sin is like a thorn in the side or a foot out of place. It is like cancer in the blood or like Miasma in the liver. It is reasonable to expect the Great Physician to utterly cure it and make the heart as pure and clean as though it had never been defiled. The old illustration pictured a hog in the spring and a man down stream hoping for clear water. The water would become fairly clean at times, then the old hog in the spring would turn himself and the stream would become muddy. When the man discovered the cause he drove the hog from the spring and enjoyed clear water.

Sin, inbred sin, is the hog in the spring. It is reasonable for us to expect God to drive him out by the power we receive in our sanctification. With this blessing in our lives the stream becomes clear all along.

Sincere Christians are burdened today, they are aware of the great need about us. Empty pews, worldliness, and a letdown in moral standards tell us we need power to witness. The promise is yet the same. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses..." Acts 1:8.

There are some things sanctification will not do for us. It does not take away our freedom to choose the path we shall take. I have heard people say, "Those people teach that sanctification makes people so good they cannot sin." Nothing could be so far from the truth. Free moral agency has been man's right since Adam. The power to choose the right to disobey or obey is the privilege of every person regardless of their state of grace. There is no blessing that we cannot forfeit. The promise is, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13.

Sanctification is not to keep from sinning. When you were born of the Spirit, if you did not quit the sin business, you need not pray for the Baptism of the Spirit. You cannot present to God that which is sinful and defiled. When it is realized that there are two foes that battle for supremacy, the full value of the sanctified life can be seen. That inward conflict has ended in sanctification and our full attention can be directed to the outward foe. Thus we are helped to

overcome many temptations, that might cause us to fall. However, we must be ever watching lest we fall into condemnation. Peter said, "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure." Paul said, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Someone said, "If I am sanctified I will never have any trials." This is another great error. It is by trials and testings, God proves us, brings to light the spirit of our purpose. Not only do testings prove us but they teach us that in the darkest hour God watches over us. We are assured that somewhere in the shadows we will find Him. Haven't you found this true? The Devil will do everything to destroy your testimony. The nearer you live to Him, the greater may be your trials, but grace sufficient is yours.

Very few people in the history of the church, that have accomplished great things have missed the severe trials. They were hated by the world and their own generation. For instance, study the life of Jesus, John, Paul, The Disciples, Luther, Wesley and other reformers.

Sanctification does not guarantee us against mistakes. One man said to me, "You teach deliverance from sin, all error, and defects." By his own words, I could see he did not understand, or had perverted the teaching of sanctification.

Sanctification is not infallibility. There is a vast difference in a mistake and a Sin. A mother by accident gave to her child a deadly poison thinking it was medicine. This was a bad mistake. The neighbors looked on with pity. However, this was not a sin, But, if she willfully destroyed her child it would have been murder in the first degree. You can see the difference. Sin is a willful transgression of God's law, mistakes are brought about by faulty judgment. However all sins are mistakes, but all mistakes are not sins.

What, then, are some of the benefits of the Spirit-filled life:? The promise to receive power is ours. However, the power for service is not the primary purpose of sanctification. Not one place in the Bible do we read of a "baptism of power" or "power for service". The power is the result of a pure heart, or the reflecting of the Holy Ghost from our presence.

Who would not desire to be all they could for God? Why would anyone, if sincere, fail to seek all God has for them?

The blessing of full salvation can be yours by following these four simple steps.

1. Be sure all is clear between you and God.
2. Make a definite and complete surrender.
3. Trust yourself without reservation to God's care.
4. Believe and accept by faith.

Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ!
Who would not gladly endure

Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth,
Riches like these to secure.
Precious, more precious;
Wealth that can never be told;
O, the unsearchable riches of Christ!
Precious, more precious than gold.

* * * * *

5 FIVE STEPS TO VICTORY

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39.

"And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, let us go up at once, and possess..." Num. 13:30.

In the preceding messages we found that sanctification is an experience, that not only is possible to enjoy in this present world, but is the birthright of every believer. However, our spiritual inheritance is similar to a financial inheritance, inasmuch as both must be claimed. A beggar in New York may remain poor even to the filling a pauper's grave, while in a bank in Oklahoma a fortune awaits him only for the asking. This is true of the blessings of God. You may exist spiritually, but in the bank of Heaven, resources unlimited, uncounted, and unclaimed, await your appearance and acceptance.

If we deliberately refuse to walk as God reveals His plan for our life, we will die spiritually. If the Spirit reveals a need in your heart and you refuse to walk in the light you are on dangerous ground. When light is revealed we either go forward or backward. Some people today have lost out because a plan once was presented for their lives. Rather than accept they have walked away from the blessings of God.

Many are asking, "How can I walk with the Lord in the fullness of the blessing?" We must keep in mind that the Holy Ghost was given as a free gift and we must accept Him as a gift. See John 14:16.

May I remind you that only a child of God is in a condition to receive the fullness of the Spirit. Assuming you are in fellowship with God, five steps will bring you to the fullness of God in your life.

The first step is a definite belief. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6.

You must know that He commands you to be holy. That it is His will, even your sanctification; that Christ gave Himself for you, as a part of the church of the Firstborn; that He

might sanctify and cleanse you. You have also learned, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14.

Every child of God finds in the spiritual birth that condemnation is removed and there is a new loyal loving heart given. Yet, there remains the carnal mind, with its desires and ambitions, that war against the Spirit. You have recognized this, also that it is the provision of the Atonement, and God's will that you be made pure in heart. Matt. 5:8. You know you have a need and that it is the infilling of the Spirit. You also have come to the place where you know you must be sanctified to be victorious, you believe that God has this blessing for you. This clear definite belief is the first step.

The second step is complete surrender to God. You bring yourself as an offering to God. Be sure it is to God, not to service, usefulness, or happiness. But a desire to be in His will. This surrender is all inclusive. The surrender is to the extent that at any time you forfeit any of the grace given you, your experience becomes empty. Everything is surrendered so you can actually say, "The world is crucified unto me, and i unto the world." Your prayer is, "Thine forever Lord to be."

Third, you must recognize it is God's work. It is as impossible for you to make yourself holy as to create a universe. Thus, you become a diligent seeker, in your desperation you have abandoned everything to be in His perfect will. Actually you have 'sold all to purchase the great pearl of a clean heart and victorious life. Your desire is expressed by the poet:

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right, and pure and good
A copy Lord of Thine.

This is a very important step.

In the fourth step many people fail. It is to believe God. In believing you must rest your case upon the immutable promise of God. Do not trust in feelings, experience of the past, but in the plighted troth of God. Having put your case in His hands you must now believe Him. If you have fully surrendered you will have little difficulty. The word becomes real, "The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin." John 1:7. You will be able to say, "Lord, i do believe." Then standing on God's Word you know it can never fail, that all the promises are for you. You will know He not only wills your sanctification, but every need has been met for you. From your very soul you can sing, "'Tis done the great transaction's done." There is a great calm and quiet in your soul. This is the assurance of the finished work. Praise the Lord!

Now for the fifth step, The Holy Ghost Manifestation. With a believing heart you wait peacefully, thankfully, trusting, and expecting, that He will reveal Himself to you by His own infinite wisdom. It is a time of holy, intense, expectant waiting as you gaze into the face of God through His promise. You have the assurance that He will come to His temple. He makes known His coming and every doubt fades away as the mist before the morning sun. Praise His Name! Obedience, faith, and trust merge into the knowledge of a perfect relationship with Him, until your

entire being is illuminated with His presence. Here the mystery of the Gospel is unveiled and you stand cleansed and endued by the Holy Ghost.

Physical emotions may be different. Some may shout, others weep for joy, while to others only a deep calm within, this is your assurance do not wait for some special feeling. Trust and take what is yours to receive.

From this position you look back and wonder why you waited so long, why you feared, why you ever doubted, for now the joy and peace passes all understanding. Knowing within that all is completed you can shout to the world, "Praise the Lord, it is done."

Now free from inner conflict your soul actually prays:

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make,
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea;
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

* * * * *

THE END