

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | JULY 17, 2024

GRACE CHURCH
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Question 20

Explain the **synergistic** nature of sanctification being sure to describe the **relationship** between **God's grace** and **moral effort** in the Christian life.

Question 20

A **pastor's** greatest purpose in ministry: the **sanctification** of the sheep!

A **believer's** greatest purpose in life: to be like **Christ!**

The **greatest challenges** to these purposes which believers face:

- **Worldliness** (being like the world in heart and life)
- **Sinfulness** (resorting to living in the flesh, the old life of sin and self)
- **Deceitfulness** (Satanic deception and self-deception)

God's weapons for our successful struggle against these challenges:

- The **Holy Spirit** and **God's Truth**

Question 20

We could turn to important passages which outline the spiritual weapons for warfare—weapons like prayer, salvation and the gospel.

But if we boil it down to the most basic items, we end up with the **transforming power of the Holy Spirit as He uses God's Word to change us into Christlikeness over the course of our lives.**

Therefore, Satan's attacks are always based in some aspect of deception and temptation aimed against the Spirit's work in His use of God's Truth to change us into greater Christlikeness.

Question 20

God tells us to combat these schemes and temptations at the level of our **hearts**:

- *“My son, pay attention to my **words**; incline your ear to my **sayings**. Do not let them deviate from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your **heart**. For they are **life** to those who find them and **healing** to all his flesh. Therefore...*
- ***Guard** your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”*
(Prov. 4:20-23)
- *“You, my son, listen and be wise, and **direct** [guide] your heart in the way.”*
(Prov. 23:19)
- *“Little children, **guard** yourselves from idols.”* (1 John 5:21)

Idols form in our hearts as we give loyalty to what we treasure most.

Question 20

Satan aims at the knowledge, loyalty, love, and devotion of your **heart**; he wants to **corrupt your worship** at the level of your mind, will, emotions, and affections.

Question 20

God has given us His Truth to help us make sense of life for what it really is under His wisdom and control. We need to live in God's wisdom so that we learn to fear the Lord and not fear life.

- Ephesians 4:20-32
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Romans 12:1-2
- James 3:13-18

Question 20

The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to **renew** us in the **mind of Christ**—in godly thinking about life.

We are **becoming** in **habit** who we **are** in **heart**; we are growing up into Christ.

We are God's new spiritual **children** applying God's spiritual **wisdom** to the matters of life as we learn to love, honor, and please God in the **good works** of our lives which He prepared beforehand.

Question 20

Remember the vital relationship between **God's Word** and personal holiness as we see it in the **four steps of personal change** outlined in **2 Timothy 3:16**:

1. **Teaching** – the work of God's Word as heavenly wisdom to make us **heavenly-minded**; the comprehensive, sufficient **content** of the Bible.
2. **Reproof** – the work of God's Word in us to **expose** falsehood, sin, wrong thinking, disobedience, etc., **rightly and accurately**. What **not** to do!
3. **Correction** – the work of God's Word to make **positive provision** for those who accept Scripture's negative reproof. What **to** do!
4. **Training** – the work of God's Word to **instruct and build us up** in a spiritually disciplined life of righteousness—godly thinking/living.

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And notice the basis, or the only **profitable source**, of this process of change:

“All Scripture...” = God’s truth!

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