

## A Second Work of Grace

One night, when my family and I lived in Geneva, Georgia, I could not sleep. God had been dealing with me for the past couple of weeks about sanctification, but I hadn't moved on his calling yet. This particular night the urging was very strong so I went to my father and told him how I felt (it's a blessing to have saved parents that can help in time of need). I had been saved for a while but deep inside I could sense that there was a higher level in my experience that God had for me.

That night, I told my father about how I desired sanctification. He asked me if I understood the details about it and if I was willing to do all that God asked and I said yes. We prayed together and I could tell that I was sanctified. My faith took hold and I believed in God. That specific night, I settled it in my mind that I would do whatever God told me to do, and by God's grace I mean to live up to that commitment.

When seeking for sanctification, there are two aspects that you must understand. First, you have to know what God requires for sanctification and secondly, you have to be willing to give up all of Self and worldly desires in exchange for what God has for you.

In sanctification, you have to truly understand what God wants you to do prior to sanctification. When I was studying sanctification, I referred to Romans 12:1- *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.*

This verse clearly explains what God requires of you before sanctification. You have to present yourself before God as a living sacrifice. This means that you are sacrificing all of your desires and ambitions in this present world. You are deciding to give up all of your personal comforts in life in exchange for what God wants you to do spiritually.

The second clause of the verse says that you have to present your body holy before God. You should already be living a holy life prior to sanctification. Salvation and sanctification are two separate works of grace.

When the third clause of the scripture says that you should present your body acceptable unto God, I believe that it means that you have to be living an acceptable life before God. I believe that you should already be faithful to God in everything that you do whether that includes being on time to service or any other activities you participate in for God's glory. You shouldn't have a lackadaisical attitude towards your experience prior to sanctification. God should have his stamp of approval on your experience before you try to attain a deeper consecration in God.

If you are following God and living up to all God has shown you, you will be able to smoothly follow God's leading and direction into sanctification. God wants us as young people to be sanctified. I Thessalonians 4:3 says "*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...*". God knows your heart and what you truly desire. If you truly desire to be sanctified and if you are willing to give up everything for God's cause, God will bless and give you the desires of your heart.