

HOLINESS MESSAGES



“Be holy, for I am holy.”

1 Peter 1:16

Frank Warner

Holiness Messages

by

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“Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

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Preface

At the beginning of the 21st century the Church is far from being prepared to welcome her heavenly Bridegroom. Considering her teaching and practice, it's obvious, she is lacking holiness. At this time the missing link on her way is holiness.

The good news however is, that Jesus provided for our sanctification: „*Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish*” (Ephesians 5:25-27). In fact, in Revelations John saw the future, in which the beloved Bride of Jesus was prepared for the marriage: „*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints*” (Revelations 19:7-8).

May these messages be a humble contribution to the preparations of the saints.

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1

The Christian And Sin

Several Scriptures in the New Testament indicate that the relation of the believer in Christ to sin can be described with the word: *freedom*. Let us see some Scriptures to back this up:

First the well known John 8:34-36. “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abides not in the house for ever: but the Son abides for ever. If the Son therefore shall *make you free, you shall be free* indeed.”

And then Romans 6:18: “Being then *made free from sin*, you became the servants of righteousness.”

And let us read what the angel said to Joseph. Matthew 1:21. “And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for He shall *save his people from their*

sins.”

What does freedom mean? Simply that we are no longer compelled to do what someone else wants. Sin does not have dominion over us, so we are not bound to commit sins.

Being a servant of sin means that we don't want to sin, but an evil force, a power compels us to sin against our will. “For what I want, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do” (Romans 7:15). This is slavery, which is a horrible, miserable state.

Jesus' wonderful work is that He liberates us, saves us, sets us free from it. When Jesus delivers us from sin, He brings us out from under its evil power. He doesn't take away the possibility of sin, because He leaves us our free will. But if we don't want to sin, then we don't have to.

1 John 2:1-2: “These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”

God commands that we sin not. He does not give us commands that we can not obey, that wouldn't be fair. Of course we couldn't avoid sinning in our own power, but if we remain in Christ, then He keeps us from sinning. 1 John 3:6 “Whosoever abides in him sins not.”

The other thing He says is: “And if any man sin...” He

doesn't say *when*, He says *if*. So it is not necessary that we sin. But if it happens, we have a wonderful advocate with God the Father: Jesus, who already made propitiation for our sins. Because of that, if we confess our sins, God will forgive us our sins, and He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There remains no unrighteousness in us that would make us sin again.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” It is time for the people of God to walk in the freedom for which Jesus has set us free. Amen.

2

Two Problems - Two Solutions

In fighting against sin, Christians encounter two obstacles. One is, that they have committed sins in the past, the other is, that they will probably do so in the future. Both problems are disturbing, and have to be solved.

The good news is that God always has a solution. He is infinitely wise and omnipotent, so even if we can't see it, He always has a solution for everything. He cares about the minutest details of our lives, and He does so even in these matters of such great importance.

The first problem is the sins we've committed. Most Christians know the solution for this and use it. For the

sins we committed, we need God's forgiveness, and we can receive it, because our God will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7.)

So when we go to Him and confess our sins, He will forgive us. (1 John 1:9.) If we walk in the light with which God enlightens us, then the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Jesus' blood was shed, so that our sins could be forgiven. *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Matthew 26:28).

God loves us, and He payed a great price, so that our past sins should not interfere with our relationship with Him, and would not hinder our progress. This was the first problem that God solved. Most Christians know that when they confess their sins before God, and ask for His forgiveness, then He will forgive them.

For the other problem, however, most Christians did not find the solution which God has prepared. But it is in the Bible, and we will move on to grasp it now.

The problem for most Christians is that they feel they are in a state in which they are quite sure they will commit sins in the future. They feel they are not properly protected against temptations. When the enemy will attack again, when the world will entice again, they will quickly fall, and in shame they have to come to God for

forgiveness again and again and again... Most believers did not get out from the slavery of sin. In their state they are doomed to regular and frequent sinning.

But we learn from the Bible about God, that He doesn't only pardon abundantly, but with Him is also abundant redemption. *"Let Israel, hope in the Lord: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities"* (Psalm 130:7-8).

For sins committed, the New Testament solution is the *blood* of Jesus. For the slavery of sin God's solution is the *death* of Jesus.

How does this work? When Jesus died, He among other things, died to sin. *"For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that he lives, he lives unto God"* (Romans 6:10).

How do we profit from this? When we were baptized, we became one with Him. *"As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death... we have been planted together in the likeness of His death"* (Romans 6:3-5).

What's the result of this? It is, that when we were united with Jesus in His death, *we also* died to sin. This is not so self-evident for us, therefore Paul requests us to consider ourselves dead to sin. *"So also you, reckon*

yourselves to be dead indeed to sin" (Romans 6:11).

The word "reckon" in Greek is *logizomai*, which means count, reckon, consider, or we could also say, to draw this logical conclusion.

We died to sin. If we received Jesus, if He is our Savior, if He lives in our hearts by faith, and we were baptized, believing in Him, then the death of Jesus became our death, and we are dead to sin.

As it is not natural for us to think this way, God's Word calls upon to think, count, reckon ourselves dead to sin.

What does it mean in practice that we are dead to sin? It means that whatever sin does, we do not react. When sin calls for our attention, when it speaks to us, when it entices, we react as a dead man would: with nothing. This is meant by being dead to sin.

This is very good news!

But we can not avoid the following question: If this is so, then why the Christians do not live like that? If we were united with Jesus in His death at our baptism, so He and we are dead to sin, then why do the millions of Christians live in sins?

They answer has to be found on the area of faith. God's works, all that He prepared for us, all that He promised us, are not ours automatically. Jesus died on the cross, so that we could have salvation. But still there are many people who are not saved. But when we believe in Him

and receive Him as our Savior, then He saves us.

The blood of Jesus was shed on Golgotha, so that we would receive forgiveness for our sins. This becomes real to us when we believe Him, and if we've sinned, then we confess our sins. There has to be faith. We can enjoy the blessings of remission if we believe that He forgave our sins.

The same applies to our death to sin. It is a Biblical, spiritual truth, that when we were baptized, we were united with Jesus in His death to sin, but this becomes a practical, experiential reality to us only through our faith.

The Bible is full of promises, but these promises will become a part of our everyday lives, when we accept them by faith. As we accept by faith the forgiveness of our sins, and we soon experience that the iniquity of our sins is taken from us, the same way we have to accept that together with Jesus we died to sin. As we stand in this faith, sooner or later we will experience God's deliverance, and we will begin to walk free from sin in actual experience.

I don't claim that this is absolutely easy. This is the area, which we may call the good fight of faith. But God is with us, and if we believe Him, when we believe His Word, then we will obtain His promises concerning sanctification.

3

Two Choices

As we want to be sanctified, we have to make choices in our path. We do better not to just let things happen unto us, but make our decisions. In this message we will deal with two of these.

The first is this: Whom will we follow? We may be ready to give the quick answer: Oh, of course we follow Jesus! Well, that sounds good, but how do we do it?

Just think about it: how many people do you know today, who are sanctified the New Testament way, people who are free from the power of sin? Probably not many. Today the church world doesn't really help us to be sanctified.

So let me ask you again: Whom are you following? And to give you some help, I narrow the question even more: Are you following the New Testament, or are you following the church trends of our day?

You may never have met a sanctified Christian in person yet. The only kind of Christian you may know are the struggling ones. If they are the only ones you follow, then you will be just like them. But if you want to be the kind of person the New Testament describes, then you have to follow the living Words of the New Testament.

So the first choice we have to make is the choice between the limited obtainments of other believers on the one side, or the Words of the New Testament on the other side. If Jesus says: be holy, then we must be holy, whether others around us are holy or not.

The other choice touches the area of faith. Jesus speaks about freedom from the power of sin, the New Testament says that we are dead to sin, but most Christians feel that they are very much alive to sin.

So the question is: What do we believe? The Word of God or our own feelings and experiences? Do we consider ourselves alive to sin because of our regular failures and falling, or do we consider ourselves dead to sin, for the simple reason, because the Bible says we are dead to sin?

This is the difference between walking by faith and walking by sight. Sight believes the earthly experiences, the eyes, emotions and feelings; faith believes what God says.

When our faith is right, it shows that we think God is greater than the things in the world. Our faith respects His Word more than the signs this world keeps showing us.

And the results follow our faith. Sight means: I see it, therefore I believe it. Faith means: I believe it, because God said it – and then I will see the results.

If we believe what we see in the world, then we will have an earthly, natural life – if we believe what the Word of God says, then we will have a godly, spiritual, heavenly life. The sanctified life is much better than the unsanctified, so we do much better if we believe God.

Two great examples of this are Zacharias and Mary. We can read about both of them in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 1.

When the angel told Zacharias that he will have a son, his reply was: Oh, I'm too old for that, it's not possible. The result was, that he could not speak for about nine months.

But even in this we can see God's goodness and mercy. Even though Zacharias did not believe at first, God

worked in his behalf, and he became a believer, and at the end he had a son, John, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he said a beautiful prophecy, which included these words: *“That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life”* (Luke 1:74-75).

The other example is the virgin Mary. When the angel told her that she will have a son, although she knew that it is impossible in the natural, her response was: *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38).

The result in her case was, that she had a son, Jesus, and she was blessed beyond any human measure, with a heavenly bliss which is remembered from generation to generation, as it is in our days also.

When she met Elisabeth, Elisabeth told Mary: *“And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord”* (verse 45).

Mary also said a beautiful prayer, in which she magnified the Lord and said: *“For He that is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is His name”* (verse 49).

This same God whose name is holy, is more than willing to sanctify us. His requirement is that we believe

His Word – not the weakness of other believers, not our own weaknesses, but His Word. And when we do that, He sanctifies us and we will rejoice in His works.

4

The Will Of God

“This is the will of God: your sanctification.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:3)

In our walk with God it is of vital importance that we know what is God’s will for us. And this great Scripture doesn’t leave us in uncertainty. *“This is the will of God: your sanctification”* (1 Thessalonians 4:3). God’s will is that we should be sanctified.

So as we seek sanctification, this is a great encouragement. If we were ever questioning whether God wants to sanctify us or not, there should be no doubt remaining in us. God wants us to be sanctified.

Sometimes in our prayers we may come to Him and try

to convince Him to want our sanctification. We may think that somehow we should pray to change His mind and make Him desire our sanctification. We may sometimes wonder whether He wants our sanctification as much as we want it.

Well, this should not be so. I had these problems myself, but the Lord straightened me out. God wants our sanctification. He knows the benefits of it better than we do, and He wants us to have them accordingly. He loves us more than we love ourselves, and He wants to bless us according to His love.

In fact, God has paid a very great price for our sanctification.

We know well John 3:16. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* This Scripture says that God loved the world so much, that He gave Jesus, that through faith in Him we should have eternal life. Wonderful!

Now let's see, how Jesus loved us: *“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”* (Ephesians 5:25). The Father loved the world, and this moved Him to give Jesus for us. Jesus loved the church, and this moved Him to give himself for His bride.

The Father gave Jesus, so that we could have eternal

life through Him. But Jesus gave Himself for the church for another purpose: *“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify it”* (Ephesians 5:25-26). Jesus gave Himself for us, His beloved church, that He might sanctify us. This is the price that Jesus paid for our sanctification: He gave *Himself!*

It is God’s very earnest desire that we should be sanctified. How much we want something is shown by the price we are willing to pay for it. We are willing to work for money. We are willing to give money for things. But when it came to our sanctification, Jesus was willing to give His all for it. He gave Himself!

Jesus is in love. He is burning with love for His bride, the church. He wants to marry His church. And He will marry the church after He completed the work He is doing in her. Let’s read Ephesians 5:25-27. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

One encouraging fact about God is, that whatever He wants, He does it. *“Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever he pleases”* (Psalm 115:3). In fact, in Revelations

we can even read about the scene, when Jesus will marry His church.

Jesus desires to marry us, and He will marry us. Jesus wants us to become beautiful, and we will be beautiful. Jesus wants us to be glorious, and we will be glorious. Jesus wants us to be holy, and we will be holy. Glory to our wonderful Savior!

5

Two Levels Of Sanctification

As we read the epistles of the New Testament, we often find that the authors refer to the believers as saints. Let's see some examples:

“To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called saints” (Romans 1:7). *“To the assembly of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus”* (1 Corinthians 1:2). *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus”* (Ephesians 1:1). *“Paul and Timotheus, servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi”* (Philippians 1:1). *“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse”* (Colossians 1:2). *“I charge you by the Lord that*

this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren" (1 Thessalonians 5:27).

"Salute all those leading you, and all the saints" (Hebrews 13:24). *"You are a choice race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired"* (1 Peter 2:9). *"Judas, of Jesus Christ a servant, and brother of James, to those sanctified in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ kept"* (Jude 1:1).

It is good to see that this is how God speaks about us. If we are saved, then we belong to God's people, His church, and we are beloved of God, we are called, we are saints, believers and brethren. Hallelujah!

The sainthood of believers means that God has called us out of the world, and when we accepted His call, then He separated us from the world, so that we would not serve the world, sin, the devil and ourselves, but that we should be His servants. We are His people, His saints.

But the sanctifying work of God is not finished here. In the book of Revelations we read this: *"he who is sanctified – let him be sanctified still"* (Revelations 22:11). So the believers, the *saints*, need to be even more sanctified. *"for this is the will of God – your sanctification"* (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

After God first saves us, He doesn't want us to stop and say: "Oh, I am already a saint, I need nothing more on this

area.” He still wants to go on sanctifying us. And He expects us to participate in it: *“beloved, may we cleanse ourselves from every pollution of flesh and spirit, perfecting sanctification in the fear of God”* (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Sanctification is a process in which our attitude is essential. We must be committed: *“present your members servants to the righteousness unto sanctification”* (Romans 6:19).

We must not belittle this call. What we need is not just small, unimportant steps of sanctification. What we need is a Scriptural goal. God wants to take us to a critical moment in our lives, a turning point in our sanctification, which brings about a great change compared to our former condition. This is described in 1 Thessalonians 5:23: *“The God of the peace Himself sanctify you **wholly**”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

God wants to sanctify us *entirely, completely, through and through*, as other translations also express it. He wants to take us to a point, from which He can preserve us without blame: our spirit, soul and body; our relationship with Him, our actions, behavior, and even our thinking, desires and inclinations.

God wants to saturate us with His holiness. When we understand this, when we come to see, what a great

blessing it is when God sanctifies us wholly, this incites a new zeal in us. May the Lord work in us the desire and striving for His holiness! *“To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints”* (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

6

The Conflict Of The Flesh And The Spirit

We know well the part from Galatians which describes the conflict of the flesh and the Spirit. Let's read it from Galatians 5:17: *„the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you may not do the things that you want.“*

In addition to the Scriptures, our experience also proves us that there is a real struggle going on between our carnal desires and the will of God. As this is a daily experience in the lives of most Christians, we could easily conclude that this battle must accompany us for the rest of our lives.

But is it really so? Do we really have to struggle

against carnal desires and actions until the grave? Or is there a possibility of a decisive victory for the one and defeat for the other?

From verse 17, we won't get an answer for the question. It only describes the opposition, the contradiction, the conflict of the two fighters. But if we look at the previous and the following verses, we will see a clear picture.

First, let's look at the previous verse. Verse 16: *„I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and do not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* This is a command, which shows us the possibility, that the flesh can be defeated with its works. In fact, we must do it with God's help.

Here I note that verse 17, may not speak about every believer all the time. In this case it was written to the Galatians, who were in quite a bad shape, whom Paul earlier called foolish, and in verse 15, he wrote them: *„If you bite and devour one another, take heed that you may not be consumed by one another.”*

In verses 19-21, the apostle lists the works of the flesh, which includes some utterly horrible ones, like adultery, witchcraft and murders. And at the end of the list we read very solemn words which speak surely not for the Galatians only, but to everybody: *„those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Wow! We not only can win the battle against the works

of the flesh, but if we don't win, it may cost our salvation! God's Word holds out the prospect of damnation for those who do not walk in the Spirit but practice the works of the flesh.

Let's see an encouraging Scripture from another New Testament epistle: *„brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh”* (Romans 8:12). The flesh may try to work against us, but we are not its debtors. We don't have to do his works. *„for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live”* (verse 13). The works of the sinful flesh can be killed. Through the Holy Spirit we can make them dead, powerless, incapable.

From Galatians 5:22 we learn that if we walk in the Spirit, then the fruit of the Spirit will flourish in our personality, headed by love.

As we go on reading Galatians 5, we find the way of putting to death the works of the flesh. *„those who are Christ's, have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”* (Galatians 5:24). If we are Christ's, then our sinful „flesh” was crucified. When we received Jesus, we became one with Him in His death on the cross. *„I have been crucified with Christ”* (Galatians 2:20).

How will all this become real in our experience? Of course it is through our faith. If we believe that we were

crucified with Christ, when we know that because we are Christ's, our body of sin is crucified, then the works of the flesh, our sins will die out of our lives.

By willing, endeavoring and human efforts we can not overcome the flesh, but through faith and the Holy Spirit we can put to death its works, and then we can freely and abundantly bear the fruit of the Spirit.

7

Through Faith And Patience

As we pursue holiness, the question is raised in us naturally: How do the promises of God come true in our lives? What shall we do to be sanctified? The answer is described very accurately in the New Testament: *“Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises”* (Hebrews 6:12).

In the writings of the Holiness Movement most authors pointed out two or three conditions for obtaining holiness. The two were total commitment to God and faith. Some mentioned fervent prayer as a third condition.

I have committed myself to the Lord many years ago, and from time to time I confirmed my commitment. I

believed God will sanctify me. I knew that the promises of the Lord, our Sanctifier, were made for me too. The months, however were passing by, and I was greatly missing holiness.

Once I've had a chance to seek the Lord more intensely than as usual. My family went to another town for a two week holiday. On the first week I stayed at home, and as I was alone, I had more time to pray, read the Bible and holiness books than at other times.

One week later I went to join my family. On the way I had some hours on the train which I could spend alone in a compartment. I prayed as fervently as I could, that the Lord would sanctify me. But it was like banging on a closed door. I was striving for hours, but the Lord seemed to be even farther away from me then on my normal days.

I arrived to the station in a rather frustrated and dejected mood. But there a wife in love was waiting for me, which was very good. (Very, very good!)

Not long after that I've read Andrew Murray's book: Waiting On God, which brought me a lot of comfort and encouragement.

The Lord's silence pointed out my own inability. It didn't feel good, but I had to learn with my heart, what I knew in theory, that God is the Lord. He is the Almighty, and He decides to whom, when and what kind of blessing

He gives.

We want to see the blessings of the Scriptures fulfilled in our lives immediately, but God often wants to plant precious truths in us first, the value of which we may not see as clearly as He does. And one of the great truths concerning faith is this: to obtain the promises we need not through faith only, but also through endurance, persistence and steadfastness. *“You have need of endurance, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise”* (Hebrews 10:36).

If we didn’t obtain some of God’s promises, if He didn’t sanctify us yet, we should simply go on and walk in His will. He knows what and when to give us. He is a wise God, and His timing is perfect. He won’t give us anything too early, but He won’t be late either.

Up to this point we saw two conditions for obtaining the promises: faith and patience. If we go back to Hebrews 6:12, we find one more help: we should follow those, who through faith and patience inherit, or already possess the promises.

As I didn’t know anybody personally, who was sanctified, I was zealously reading holiness books and searched the websites of sanctified people.

In my own life the breakthrough came about six months after my ardent attempt on the train. My wife and

my children were in the living room, and I was praying in the kitchen. There was no striving, no struggle, no exertion. The Lord saw that the time has come, and He has simply done the work. Glory to His holy name!

None of us is God's favorite. We are all His beloved children. He is your Sanctifier too. And what He promised in the Scriptures, He will do it gladly to you too.

8

The End Of Struggling

Let's imagine ourselves standing in water and having an air filled rubber ball in our hands. Our task is the following: we have to push the ball under the surface of the water. This is not difficult. Now comes the second task: we have to *keep* the ball under the water. This won't be difficult either – for a short time. But as time goes, it will be more and more difficult, and sooner or later our patience or physical strength will run out and the ball will come to the surface.

As believers we find ourselves in a similar situation when we try to fight sin. We live in a sinful world, which is full of evil powers. We are tempted, but we love the Lord

and we do not want to sin.

So what do we do? We probably pull our willpower together and make up our minds to resist the evil one: we will not give in to temptation, we will not do wrong, we will not think wrong, we will not say wrong, we will not listen to evil, we will not look at evil, we will not be nervous... This usually works for a few days or a couple of weeks, but then we run out of the energies that we can mobilize against sin, and we fall... again!

As a result of the continuing failures, most people give up the struggle against sin. They accept it as a fact of life, that as long as we are on this earth, we will sin. They find Scriptures which seem to prove this, and arrange their lives accordingly.

Let's go back to our ball which wants to come up to the surface, and let's check our possibilities. We cannot increase our physical power. Even if we would go to a gym for months and make our muscles big, that would not be a solution. We cannot eliminate the buoyancy of the water, as it is controlled by laws even we are submitted to.

However, we can do something about the rubber ball. It is a drastic solution, but if we have a sharp or pointed tool nearby, then we can pierce our ball, the air escapes from it, and we find ourselves in a radically different situation.

Of course it's not our purpose to cause harm to innocent objects. But God solved our sin problem in a similar way.

Our own strength, will and resolutions are powerless in the struggle against sin, because there are laws at work there, which we cannot change. *„I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members”* (Romans 7:23).

But God has dealt with the sinner, and with it the power of sin also: *„our old man is crucified with Him [Jesus], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin”* (Romans 6:6-7). Glory to Jesus!

Salvation has put us into this position, but this is not ours automatically. It is ours through our faith, and this is a part of God's sanctifying work. When this happens to us, it doesn't mean that every sinful thing in our surroundings will cease to exist. Temptations will not come to an end, and the devils will not retire just because God sanctified us.

However, we get into a radically different situation: into a much better one. The compulsion, the continuous pressure, the power weighing on us to make us stumble over and over again, comes to an end. We experience that the liberty to which God delivers His children, is

glorious indeed. (Romans 8:21.)

Let me add as an encouragement, that we can find plenty of Scriptures, which call us for not sinning. We do well if we strengthen ourselves with these.

1 Corinthians 15:34 „*Awake to righteousness, and sin not!*”

Romans 13:11-12 „*now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now our salvation is nearer than when we became believers. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*” Amen!

9

Checking Our Job

We spend a great part of our time working. And that's all right. "If any one is not willing to work, neither shall he eat." And if we pursue holiness, we have to be blameless on this area also.

What does that mean? It means that our work has to be pure, morally unquestionable. I'm not referring to "jobs" like prostitution or drug dealing, because these are obviously sinful. I would rather point to those which are legal and generally accepted, but wouldn't pass the test with God.

Once a businessman came to our church. He was told to be a strong supporter of the church and missions. He

was the owner of a “head-hunter” business. This meant that they were finding and getting excellent workers for generous companies. They were not a simple employment agency, to whom people go to find a job, but they were searching out the workers with the offers.

We had a dialog similar to this:

Me: What percentage of the workers you approach have a workplace?

He: They all have a workplace.

(From a business standpoint this is totally understandable. The good workers are not looking for a job, they are working effectively.)

Me: The employer, whose worker you take away, what does he say?

He: He is probably unhappy.

Hmmm, is this fair? It's true, that the new employer is happy for his new worker, the worker is happy for his step up and the higher payment, and a part of the money even goes to God's work. But do these things make God forget, that as a result of our work a trail of employers is left behind, who feel – not without any basis – that a good man was stolen from them; to whom they gave work and salary, whom they may have trained, and whom – who knows – they may even have loved?

So one test of our job is this: is it only useful, or are we

hurting others with it?

Or what, if we are in a legal fine business? What would we say if we would take someone's money for parking in a wrong place on Friday, and on Sunday morning he would walk into our church and take the seat right next to us?

The Word of God says: "*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31). So the second test of our job is this: is it glorifying God or is it a disgrace for the Kingdom of God?

We live in the world, and we need money, so we have to advance the earthly life. But we still have to keep in mind that we are God's children and His servants, and we have a commission: to take the Good News of the Kingdom of God to people.

Not every one is called to be a preacher or minister or pastor. But we still have to please God in our job. And even those "in the ministry" have to check, whether they are in God's will in their denomination or movement or place of service.

Yes, this may mean that I have to give up my job, thus losing my income. That's right. You may say that if you don't do it, someone else will. Then let someone else do it! You just trust God, that if you serve Him, He will take care of you and He will provide an acceptable way to get your income. "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His*

righteousness, and all these things will be given to you” (Matthew 6:33).

And what if I’m not sure whether my job is acceptable for God or not? Then stop sitting on the fence, and make sure! *“Whatever is not from faith is sin”* (Romans 14:23).

For entire sanctification we have to put our lives in order. We have to give up not only the “big” sins, but the “little,” hidden, hardly visible falsehoods also. *“As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’”* (1 Peter 1:15).

Does God Speak Seriously?

God says a lot to us in His Word. Some of His sayings are easy to understand and seem possible to be kept: *“You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal.”* Others however seem much more difficult to attain: *“Be holy, for I am holy.”* And what about those, which we feel intuitively, that they are impossibilities: *“Be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

Did God speak seriously, when He said these things? Were we in His mind, when these Scriptures were written? Is it possible, that these Words are addressed directly and personally *to me*?

One difficulty is our understanding of these words. We

have a rather obscure concept of holiness in our churches, and it is rarely mentioned. And we almost never hear about perfection. But they are there both in the Old and the New Testament. *Holy* or *saint* in its different forms, more than a thousand times, and *perfect* more than a hundred times.

So God does not just mention His calls casually to us. If we consider the fact that the word *holy* is used twice as many times in the Bible as *love*, we can conclude that God meant something very seriously concerning it.

The other difficulty is that somewhere inside we feel that we are not able to fulfill the commandments of holiness and perfection. Do not kill and do not steal seem they can be kept, but for us to be holy and perfect, well, they are surely beyond our abilities. Holiness and perfection are God's attributes and not man's. So how could we fulfill them?

It's all true that from our own strength we could never rise to the heights of holiness and perfection. This is an important, in fact, indispensable realization for us to go in the right direction: not in the way of human endeavor but of faith.

Also, it is good for us to see that from our own power not only holiness and perfection are unattainable. The fact is, that from our own power, without God, we can achieve *nothing*. Jesus spoke seriously, when He said:

“without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

But if we are unable to obtain holiness and perfection, we have only one chance remaining: God must work. And we can trust Him for that, because He has made promises.

In the Old testament the Lord tells His people several times that He is the One who sanctifies them. And He says this in the New Testament: *“to them that are sanctified by God the Father”* (Jude v. 1).

And there is the well known 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: *“And **the God of peace Himself sanctify you** wholly; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calls you, **who also will do it.**”* So God said very clearly, that He works, He sanctifies us.

And what about perfection? Does God have promises on this area? There are some. Let's see one here. 1 Peter 5:10-11: *“**the God of all grace**, who has called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, **make you perfect**, establish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.”*

God Himself works. He makes us perfect. He is our Sanctifier and Perfecter. He has the willingness and the power to do it. Let us believe that He does it to us too. To Him be glory! Amen.

11

The Name Of Jesus

In the book of Numbers, Chapter 13, we find an interesting scene. Here it is written that Moses sent out twelve heads of the tribes to search the land of Canaan. Moses chose one man from every tribe, but he was dissatisfied with the list of names.

The chosen one from Ephraim was a man named Oshea. Oshea in Hebrew is *Hoshea* and it means: deliverer. Moses knew God intimately for a long time, and he didn't accept the situation. He used his authority as a leader, and changed Oshea's name: „*And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua*” (Numbers 13:16).

Now, this was acceptable. The meaning of Jehoshua is:

Yahweh the deliverer. The greatest deliverer of all is always God, and it is better to have a name which glorifies God and not man.

We are talking about the man whom we know today as Joshua. His Hebrew name, Jehoshua became a known and popular name in Israel through many centuries, and some people in the Old Testament were also called by this name.

Close to one and a half Millennia later, a young man had a surprising experience. He was engaged to a girl, his thoughts were about a happy marriage, when on a painful day it appeared that the girl was pregnant. In all human consideration this meant breaking off the engagement and the cancellation of the wedding.

However, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said: „*she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus*” (Matthew 1:21). This is Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer and God. Jesus in Hebrew is *Jeshua*, which is the short form of *Jehoshua*, and means the same: *Yahweh the deliverer*.

At this time Israel was groaning under the hand of the Romans. Of course they hated the oppression which was manifest in taxes, laws restricting their freedom, and everyday nuisances. The people were craving after the promised Anointed One, the Messiah, the son of David.

And the Messiah, the son of David came indeed. The Redeemer, Deliverer and Savior came to Israel and to the whole world. Almost everybody expected Him to shake off the yoke of the Romans from the back of Israel. But Jesus kept Himself at a distance from that issue. When they tried to involve Him into political matters, He gave spiritual answers.

But then what did He deliver His people from? We read: „*You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their **sins***” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus delivered His people from a bondage which was much worse than military and political oppression. He came to deliver from the worst slavery: from our sins.

Jesus is Deliverer, Redeemer, Savior and He is our God. In the Old Testament God was known as Yahweh, but we call Him Jesus. When we speak to Him, pray and call on His name, we call Him: *Jesus, Yahweh the Deliverer*.

And He is not just any kind of deliverer, but „*He will save His people from their sins.*” In Him the words of the psalm are fulfilled: „*He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities*” (Psalm 130:8).

Jesus is the One, who delivers us from *all* sins and iniquities. That’s why He came to Earth. „*He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. For*

this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

So let us approach Jesus with this faith. When we go to Him, we go to the One, who delivers us from our sins. *All* our sins. He destroys everything in us, that the devil built up.

Dear Brother, Dear Sister, Jesus is your deliverer too. This is His will, plan and purpose for you. He came to destroy all the works of the devil in you and to deliver you from all your sins. Believe that He does it to you. Jesus is *your* Deliverer.

Prayer For Holiness

It happened right after I've read a message from Andrew Murray about entering the Lord's rest. It's the fourth chapter of *The Master's Indwelling*, titled: *Entrance Into Rest*. In this he wrote that by our own power we cannot enter God's rest, but we have to commit ourselves to Him, and put ourselves at His disposal, so that He would bring us in.

When I've read that, faith came into my heart. I did not think that the Lord would sanctify me then, but I was touched by the message. I stood up from my computer and went to our kitchen. I was not thinking what will I say to the Lord, the words just came out of me: „Lord, thank You

that You sanctified me!”

The Lord answered immediately. I was seeking sanctification for over two years at that time, and the Lord worked. I felt His holiness flooding my being. Glory to His wonderful name!

God always sees and hears us, and He is pleased, when His children pray to Him. So speak to Him in faith! He loves you. He gave Jesus for you, and He is ready to give you with Him all things.

Here I write a model prayer, that you can say to God. Or you can say similar ones. He hears you and He is glad to answer you.

God, thank You for the blessing of entire sanctification. Jesus, thank You that You gave Yourself to cleanse and sanctify me. Thank You, that on the cross You took the sins I've committed, and my sinfulness also.

I believe that my old man was crucified with You, so that I should not serve sin any more. I ask You to make it real in my life.

My God, I am not a servant of sin, but I am Your servant. I deny the devil, sin and the world with its lusts. I put off the old man and I put on the new man, whom You created in righteousness and true holiness.

Thank You for sanctification, especially my own personal sanctification. I know that You are working in me, and

I am very thankful to You for it.

Holy Spirit, You are in me, and You are doing God's wonderful works in me. You are entirely holy, and I want to be entirely holy too. I ask You to permeate me with Your holiness.

Heavenly Father, may Your name be hallowed in my life. I want people to see Your holiness in me. Let Your light so shine through me, that people may glorify You.

Thank You for calling the believers saints in Your Word. I confess that I am a believer and a saint. Sanctify me entirely for Your glory.

Holy and perfect God, I believe in You. I believe in the fullness of Your love, in Your omnipotent power and in your complete holiness.

Thank You that You want me to be holy, and you do whatever You please. I thank You for the sanctifying work that You do in me.

In the name of Your wonderful, holy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen!

God is not slow in working. He hears you and accomplishes whatever He planned. He loves you and answers your prayers, including your prayers for sanctification.

May the Lord bless you abundantly as you pursue holiness and as you walk on the way of holiness.

„Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without

which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). „And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein... the redeemed shall walk there” (Isaiah 35:8-9). Amen!