

# **RTO™ School of Prayer**

## **The Sanctification Prayer**

**(T-A-P into God's Word)**

*John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."*

*Ephesians 5:26 "that he (Christ) might sanctify her (the church), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"*

When I first sat down to write, teach, and to practice what I preach in the RTO School of Prayer, I realized that God's word, the Bible, would be my best resource. In fact, the first lesson I ever taught (since rewritten) was titled "Praying God's Word".

At that time, the Lord did not reveal it to me, or I was "dull of hearing", but praying God's word has become the increasingly overriding driving force and theme of the School of Prayer. This is evidenced by the various lessons which directly drawn from God's word, such as The Self Sacrifice Prayer, based on Romans 12:1-2, and Prayer and Fasting, Nehemiah 1:4. Lessons have also been based on prayers directly from the Bible, such as Moses Prayer of Intercession, Exodus 33; Moses' Prayer of Purpose for All Time, Psalm 90; The Prayer of Daniel, Daniel 9:1-19; and The Real Lord's Prayer, Jesus in John 17.

Therefore, this will be yet another lesson on the praying God's word theme. This lesson will require more intentional participation by the reader/hearer, it will be more interactive than previous lessons, challenging but worthwhile. The intended result is a greater love for God's word, leading to a deeper richer more God

glorifying prayer life, and increased worship, which are always righteous responses. This has been my own testimony, as nowadays I rarely ever come away from my daily morning Bible study quiet time without responding in prayer and worship, not only at that point, but also throughout the day. “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Before we arrive at the outworking of sanctification, the goal of this prayer, we’ll have a brief doctrinal lesson. When a person, by God’s sovereign calling, becomes a born from above believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, he or she goes through several stages of a process. The first is regeneration, known as a new birth, defined as (to) reestablish on a new basis. According to Vine’s Bible Dictionary, regeneration is “the communication of a new life, the two operating powers to produce which are ‘the word of truth, James 1:18, “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” 1 Peter 1:23, “since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”, and the Holy Spirit, John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” Regeneration enables a person to have a new worldview, to see all things from a different perspective, from *God’s* perspective, not like the way we continually saw all things when we were unconverted sinners, from our own self-centered view.

The next part of the process is salvation, a word Christians frequently use, especially in referenced to being “saved”. Salvation is defined as being saved from danger, destruction, evil, and in the case of the Christian, saved from God’s

justifiable wrath in hell due to unforgiven sin, saved from spiritual death after physical death and saved from eternal separation from God. Salvation is attained by grace through faith, by the believer placing his/her trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, dependence upon Christ's sacrificial atoning death and resurrection for the forgiveness of those sins and the justification before God that Christ's death has paid the price for the believer's sin. There is an exchange that takes place here, Christ takes on the believer's sin, the believer takes on Christ's perfect righteousness, since Christ was sinless, lived a perfect life here while on earth, and was the acceptable perfect sacrifice (the spotless Lamb of God) for sin. With Christ's perfect righteousness, the believer can stand blameless before God, who will not look favorably on anyone who has unforgiven sin since God Himself is perfect and cannot even *look* at sin (Hab. 1:13a).

The believer must declare Christ as Lord and believe that God has raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10), and commit to repent, that is, to change his/her ways now that a rebirth, a new creation within the individual has occurred. "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus," (Acts 3:19-20).

After salvation comes the process of sanctification and this process will occupy the remainder of the believer's life in Christ on earth up until his/her death until the final phase, glorification. We will go into more detail on glorification later, but first, sanctification because the main point of this lesson is to pursue sanctification through time in God's word and prayer.

According to Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology (biblestudytools.com), "The generic meaning of sanctification is 'the state of proper functioning.' To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is "sanctified" when used to write. Eyeglasses are "sanctified" when used to improve sight. In the theological sense, God's created elements are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose." God created man and woman in *His* image (Genesis 1:27), to do His work, so man could honor God, do His will, and rejoice in God's presence and fellowship. Starting with Adam and Eve's first sin, that purpose was blurred, marred, and severely hampered. Christ's life, death and resurrection, our salvation and sanctification are meant to restore that.

John MacArthur defines sanctification this way: "It basically comes from the idea of being separated, set apart . . . but goes back to being set apart from sin, so that sanctification is the progressive disconnect in the life of the believer from sin toward righteousness. (I like to tell the men that I disciple "it is being closer to God, farther from sin."). So, when you become a believer, you have been justified, you have been declared righteous (saved), and then the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) begins a process of not only *declaring* you righteous but *making* you righteous and progressively the Spirit of God works in the believer's life to continually separate the believer from sin. The goal is to be like Christ, to be conformed to Christ. Romans 8:29: "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

The sanctification process that will occupy the remainder of our days on earth is designed by God to lead us to glorification. Christ Himself prayed for the sanctification of His disciples, and by extension, for us as His disciples too, John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." In 2 Corinthians 3:18 we read: "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." In Philippians 1:6: "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

While this process of the Holy Spirit makes us progressively righteous, continually separating us from sin, it requires our *active participation* in that process. This is not the time to only say, "Let go and let God." Philippians 2:12-13 gives us the overview: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." This indicates our partnership with God.

Romans 6:17-18 more specifically tells us, "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness." It may seem harsh for the apostle Paul to use the term slave, but this is to underscore the fact that we are *compelled* to serve whoever is our master. Before we knew Christ, only sin was our master, and now that we are Christ's, we serve Him alone as our master. Being obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching requires an effort on our part. We first need to learn that standard, as it is written on the pages of God's word, in the Bible.

This is where we “T-A-P” into God’s word, it means Truth, Application and Prayer, and I have found this to be a helpful aid to learn the standard of teaching from God’s word to which God has committed me. I learned this at a church in suburban Chicago where I was once a member. On the back of the weekly bulletin, the pastor listed a verse or verses for each day of the week, and a small space to write out the truth of the verse(s) for that day, how you can apply that truth to your day-to-day walk with Christ, and a prayer to God to help you know, understand, and apply that truth.

You may not be much of a writer and may worry about spelling, grammar, and punctuation, but no one is asking you to be an award-winning writer, or no one will be judging the quality of your writing, but remember, you are trying to be obedient from the *heart*. Also, I have found that writing helps to organize thoughts, to be able to understand better through a clearer expression of what God has placed upon your heart. You can start small and slowly, concentrating on a single verse or two, taking maybe 5 to 10 minutes in a day, trusting God to help you, especially through the prayer you write for each verse(s). If you use a study Bible or follow a daily devotional that is keyed to a Bible passage each day, you can use those resources to help you to discern the truth(s) and possible applications from the passage.

It goes without saying, but I’ll say it anyway, just as a friendly reminder, the more you practice something, the better you become at it, the greater your skill level. My goal, and I have been doing this *every day* for well over 30 years now, is to read and study a portion of God’s word *every day*, and I exhort and encourage those I teach and you to do the same. No one is expecting perfection here, and

sometimes circumstances dictate that you will not be able to do this daily but strive to try to do it as many days each week as you can. You will not regret it, “For the word of God is living and powerful.... (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV). No other book, only the Bible, contains the words that are living and powerful.

Now let’s try a few examples to get started. Psalm 119:11: “I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

**Truth:** If God’s word is stored in my heart, it can prevent me from sin.

**Application:** Memorize God’s word, that can help you to overcome the temptation to sin. Also, you can memorize other applicable verses to guard against specific sins.

**Prayer:** “O Father, Your word is very powerful, direct, and encouraging. Please help me to memorize appropriate parts of your word, so I will not sin against You. Thank You. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

If you’ve never done an exercise like this, Psalm 119 can be a good place to start. It contains 176 verses, the longest chapter in the Bible, all the verses say something about God’s word, identifying His word in many ways. It contains many verses where it is easy to see the truth, application and some can even be prayed directly like verse 18, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.”

1 Peter 2:2: “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation . . .”

**Truth:** God’s word, the pure spiritual milk, will help you grow in your salvation (the very topic of this lesson).

**Application:** Right from the verse itself, long for God's word as a newborn baby longs for milk, wanting only milk, wanting it badly.

**Prayer:** "Father in heaven, please help me to desire Your word as an infant baby desires milk, only Your word and with great desire, so I can grow in the precious salvation You've so graciously given me in Jesus' Name. Amen."

From the Old Testament: Hosea 6:6 (NKJV): "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

**Truth:** God desires mercy and knowledge of Him rather than ritual actions.

**Application:** Just as the verse says, do mercy (to others as God has done mercy to you), and get knowledge of God through His word.

**Prayer:** "Heavenly Father, this is tremendous! In this verse You tell me what it is that You desire. Praise You. Thank you. May I do mercy to others as You have done mercy to me. May I seek knowledge of You in word Your word, knowing this pleases You. By Your grace, Amen."

A longer passage, Luke 9:23-26: "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.'"

**Truth:** Note, many passages, or even many individual verses will have more than one truth. It's great if you can recognize more than one truth and write it out, but



don't worry about drawing out every truth. In this passage, various truths are, 1.) To follow Jesus requires denial of self, as to carry a cross of death to self daily. 2.) Losing your life for Christ's sake saves it, saving your own life for yourself will guarantee you will lose it. 3.) If you are ashamed of Christ and His words now, He will be ashamed of you at the sure judgment at the end.

**Application:** Deny yourself, learn to think as Christ does, following His examples from God's word, be bold for Him, as it will benefit you at the judgment we all will surely face. Be forewarned that by doing the opposite, there will be severe consequences.

**Prayer:** "Father in heaven, please help me. This seems so scary and difficult, to deny myself, to lose my own life. Please help me to have faith, as Jesus says that by doing these things, it will honor You and Him and greatly reward me for the heavenly Kingdom. Thank you for hearing and answering, in His Name. Amen."

Now try these on your own:

Ephesians 1:17: "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,"

**Truth:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

**Truth:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Luke 9:46-48: "An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.'"

**Truth:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Now on to glorification, the final process of the believer's new life in Christ. Remember, earlier in this lesson, we described and reviewed the first three, regeneration, salvation, and sanctification. The last one, the eternal one for all time is glorification.

According to Ligonier Ministries (<https://www.ligonier.org/guides/glorification>), "Glorification is the final benefit of redemption in the *ordo salutis*, (Latin) the "order of salvation" that describes the order in which the saving benefits of Christ are applied to His people." "God will immediately glorify all believers in the resurrection on the last day, conforming them perfectly to the image of His risen and glorified Son. The glorification of believers will include being renewed to perfection by God, without sin, in their glorified bodies."

The Compelling Truth website says: “Glorification is the theological term used to describe the final removal of sin from the lives of Christians at the end of time. Dictionaries generally define glorification as a state of high or heightened honor.” “Those who know the Lord will enjoy a perfect eternity with a glorified body perfectly designed by the God of creation.”

(<https://www.compellingtruth.org/glorification.html>.)

We will *see Christ* as He is, 1 John 3:2: “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like him, because we shall see Him as He is.” We will see Christ’s heavenly glory, as He prayed for all believers in John 17:24: “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me....” And as I have said and prayed, in glorification we will walk in sinless perfect fellowship with God and with each other forever. That is what I most lovingly anticipate, no more sin, perfect fellowship! Forever! With the Lord Jesus. Come Lord Jesus!

”Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV). Alleluia!

# # # # #

Suggested answers to the above exercise on following pages.

## **Answers to The Prayer of Sanctification Exercise**

Ephesians 1:17: “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,”

**Truth:** God can give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation to you in the knowledge of Him. Knowledge of God is important and precious.

**Application:** Pray this for other believers, pray this for yourself.

**Prayer:** (Your own response)

2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

**Truth:** The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as we see it, and is patient toward us, does not want any of us to perish with eternal death, and wants us to reach repentance. One of the elements of God’s will for us is to reach repentance.

**Application:** Remember that God is patient toward all of us, and do your best in Him to reach repentance, that is His will for you.

**Prayer:** (Your own response)

Luke 9:46-48: “An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, ‘Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.’”

**Truth:** Greatness in God's kingdom is recognized by Christ by the one who becomes the least, the one who receives the kingdom of God with childlike dependence. All who receive anyone in Christ's Name receive Christ and the Father, the One who sent Christ.

**Application:** Humble yourself, become the lowest to be received in God's kingdom, receive all, even the least, as Christ would. Do God's will and repent.

**Prayer:** (Your own response)

***For a copy of a transcript or questions, please contact [dmozdin.dfp@gmail.com](mailto:dmozdin.dfp@gmail.com)***

The above content was developed by Dave Mozdin and presented at  
Radical Time Out™ on May 25, 2023.

©2023 Dave Mozdin, Itasca, IL