



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Transforming Faith Series (Fall 2019) | Lesson #5, Thursday, October 3, 2019

Transforming faith is a play on words. Faith is transforming in and of itself, but the adding word “transforming” as an adjective or descriptor gives our faith a dynamic element as mature in Christ. Faith is necessary to be saved from the “penalty of sin”, but it’s amazing how as Believers we can failure to experience salvation from the “power of sin”.

Faith is evidence of God’s work in our lives. Scripture tells that it is *impossible to please God without faith* (Hebrews 11:6). I’ll go a step further - absent faith and an underlying belief in God’s ability to accomplish anything, we will never be able to accomplish all God has called us to do. When we truly get hold of this concept, we will be in a position to move mountains. Now, that is transformational living!

In this series we’ve got four goals:

1. Explore what the Bible has to say about faith and learn from our “Heroes of the Faith”.
2. Try and understand WHY faith is important to us. The WHY drives the HOW and WHAT.
3. Identify areas in our lives where faith can really transform our Christian living.
4. Have fun! Following Jesus is the greatest experience we can have. We of all people should enjoy life.

Series Bible Verses

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

Series Quote

Faith is acting like it is so, even though it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so!

Dr. Tony Evans

Provided below is the outline for our 6-week series.

1. **September 5th:** Why is faith important to us as followers of Jesus in how we live?
2. **September 12th:** What’s the opposite of faith? Taking shortcuts limits God’s work in our lives
3. **September 19th:** Exercising the muscle of faith – it’s got to be exercised!
4. **September 26th:** Houston, we have a problem. How lack of faith is impacting Christians in America.
5. **October 3rd:** **Faith’s role in salvation – stepping to Sanctification from Justification.**
6. **October 10th:** The Power to Move Mountains and the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Tonight’s lesson is focused on **Faith’s role in salvation – stepping to Sanctification from Justification**. Unfortunately, the teaching of most denominations on salvation is poor. It is either works-based requiring that in order to be saved one must do something or face the consequence of lost salvation, or the teaching is simplistic in that after the Believer trusts in Jesus they’re never again challenged to pursue God. About 20 years ago when Joe Wall was pastor at Cypress Bible Church, he brought in Dr. Earl Radmacher (1931-2014) for a Bible Conference. That week I was taught a concept that significantly impacted by understanding of salvation and my role in salvation. Tonight’s lesson builds on what Dr. Radmacher taught as we seek to better understand the distinct characteristics of justification, sanctification, and glorification and the role of faith in each.



Provided in the figure below is a graphic showing the three facets of salvation. I want to be very clear – this is NOT a progressive salvation, or stages of salvation that we see in cults where people work to earn their salvation. Rather, there are three distinct facets of salvation we experience as Believers. Once we make a profession of faith and are justified, we are eternally secure. From that point forward until death (or the Rapture of the Church), we are being sanctified.

To better understand justification, sanctification, and glorification, consider the following:

- Justification – saved from the **PENALTY** of sin
- Sanctification – saved from the **POWER** of sin
- Glorification – saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14

As discussed previously, most teaching on salvation does not distinguish between what can be called the *facets of salvation*; specifically, failing to distinguish between justification and sanctification. Failing to make a distinction between justification and sanctification at best results in confusion when discussing salvation, while at worst creates a works-based salvation that is common-place among the cults.

We'll read the following verses and discuss how the three facets of salvation are presented.

- Justification (Romans 5:1 and 8:33)
- Sanctification (2 Timothy 2:15-26)
- Glorification (John 12:12-16, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Table 1 on the following page is a summary of concepts associated with salvation¹, including the role of faith, eternal security, differences between justification and sanctification, and rewards. You might consider spending some time reviewing the contents of this table. For those of you who really want to dive into understanding the various facets of salvation, the chart on the last page provides the Greek words used to express each form of salvation along with the associated definitions.

Here's the "So What?" associated with this lesson – for those of us who are followers of Jesus and have been justified, it's important to understand what's involved in sanctification. As with justification, faith plays a central role in sanctification. As we've discussed in this series it's important in following Jesus that we take "missional risks" and pursue activities that require faith. Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:1) and communicates to Him that we are confident in His ability to do anything in and with our lives.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_grace_theology



Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Briefly share with your group how you came to know Jesus.
2. Prior to becoming a follower of Jesus, were you brought up to believe that your actions were necessary for salvation?
3. Consider the following passages as a foundation for our discussion on sanctification.
 - a. John 17:18-20
 - b. Romans 15:15-17
 - c. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
 - d. 1 Peter 1:1-3
4. In what areas of your life do you believe God is expecting to see a greater level of sanctification?

Table 1: Summary of Salvation Concepts

Belief	Explanation
Faith alone	God declares a person righteous by faith in Christ (imputed righteousness) regardless of works accompanying faith either before or after. John 3:14–17 compares believing in Jesus to the Israelites looking upon the bronze serpent in the wilderness for healing from deadly venom (Numbers 21).
Relationship differs from intimacy	A permanent relationship with God as Father and the Believer as a child begins by faith alone. When someone believes, there is a “ new birth ” and this spiritual birth cannot be undone. However, the familial relationship does not guarantee fellowship; intimacy with God requires obedience.
Justification differs from sanctification	Justification before God is a free unconditional gift by faith alone but sanctification requires obedience to God. Sanctification of all Christians is not guaranteed. Only final glorification of all Christians to a sinless state is guaranteed (Romans 8:30; Philippians 2:12).
Eternal security	Once a person has believed in Jesus Christ as God and Savior that person spends eternity with God regardless of subsequent behavior. God’s eternal acceptance is unconditionally given. Belonging to God’s family is a permanent and irrevocable gift (Romans 11:29).
Assurance of salvation	Confidence of spending eternity with God is possible for every Christian since God justifies through faith alone and provides eternal security.
Rewards and discipline	All Christians will undergo judgment by Christ based upon their works and degree of conformity to Christ's character (or lack thereof). This is called the judgment seat or Bema Seat of Christ, where Christians are rewarded based on obedience to God through faith. This judgment does not concern heaven or hell but rewards (payment for service) or temporary punishment. God’s familial acceptance of his children is unconditionally given. However, God's payments of eternal honor, riches, and positions of authority are only given for children who obediently served God. Good parents discipline their children and will not approve behavior that is detrimental. Neither will God approve sinful behavior that leads to destructive consequences (Hebrews 12:5–11).



The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon: Justify

Strong's Number: 1344	Browse Lexicon	NAS Verse Count
Original Word	Word Origin	Matthew 2
dikaioo	from (1342)	Luke 5
Transliterated Word	TDNT Entry	Acts 1
Dikaioo	2:211,168	Romans 14
Phonetic Spelling	Parts of Speech	1 Corinthians 2
dik-ah-yo'-o	Verb	Galatians 6
Definition		1 Timothy 1
1. to render righteous or such he ought to be		Titus 1
2. to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered		James 3
3. to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be		
NAS Word Usage - Total: 39		Total 35
acknowledged...justice 1, acquitted 1, freed 3, justified 24, justifier 1, justifies 2, justify 4, vindicated 3		

The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon: Sanctify

Strong's Number: 37	Browse Lexicon	NAS Verse Count
Original Word	Word Origin	Matthew 3
agiazō	from (40)	Luke 1
Transliterated Word	TDNT Entry	John 3
Hagiazō	1:111,14	Acts 2
Phonetic Spelling	Parts of Speech	Romans 1
hag-ee-ad'-zo	Verb	1 Corinthians 3
Definition		Ephesians 1
1. to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow		1 Thessalonians 1
2. to separate from profane things and dedicate to God		1 Timothy 1
a. consecrate things to God		2 Timothy 1
b. dedicate people to God		Hebrews 6
3. to purify		1 Peter 1
a. to cleanse externally		Revelation 1
b. to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin		
c. to purify internally by renewing of the soul		
NAS Word Usage - Total: 28		Total 25
hallowed 2, keep himself holy 1, sanctified 16, sanctifies 2, sanctify 7		

The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon: Glorify

Strong's Number: 1392	Browse Lexicon	NAS Verse Count
Original Word	Word Origin	Matthew 4
doxazo	from (1391)	Mark 1
Transliterated Word	TDNT Entry	Luke 9
Doxazo	2:253,178	John 16
Phonetic Spelling	Parts of Speech	Acts 5
dox-ad'-zo	Verb	Romans 5
Definition		1 Corinthians 2
1. to think, suppose, be of opinion		2 Corinthians 2
2. to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate		Galatians 1
3. to honour, do honour to, hold in honour		2 Thessalonians 1
4. to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour		Hebrews 1
a. to impart glory to something, render it excellent		1 Peter 4
b. to make renowned, render illustrious		Revelation 2
1. to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged		
NAS Word Usage - Total: 61		Total 53
full of glory 1, glorified 20, glorifies 1, glorify 19, glorifying 12, had glory 1, has...glory 1, honor 1, honored 2, magnify 1, praised 1, praising 1		