

Collective Youth 21 Days of Prayer

Theme: Sanctification

Week 1

Sunday, Day 1

Sanctification – definition 1

~ When you look up the meaning of “sanctification” there are three parts. Let’s focus and meditate today on the first part of the definition.

~ Sanctification – 1. the action of making or declaring something holy.

~ Have you ever stopped to think about, really dwell on the fact that God, our Father, the King of Kings, the Holy of Holies, has **declared you** holy?

~ What does that mean? Let’s look at the definition of “holy”. → dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred. Sacred. You are held dearly to the heart of God. **You** are sacred to god. You have become dedicated to Him when you placed your faith in Jesus.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord God, we thank You because You loved us and You chose us from the beginning to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the Truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Praise You, Father that You have opened our eyes, so we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified. (Acts 26:18) Holy Father, as we go about our day today, remind us of how beloved we are. Remind us of how sacred, held dear, dedicated, and connected we are to you through Your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen. Amen.

Monday, Day 2

Sanctification – definition 2

~ Sanctification – 1. (from yesterday) the action of making or declaring something holy.

2. the action or process from being freed from sin.

~ As we go about our daily lives, sometimes sin is the thing that feels so close to us. We know our own thoughts. We feel our own negative reactions to things people do or say. Even if the words don’t come out of our mouths, our grudges against the world are real to us.

~ Jesus came and took action on our behalf. He knows the grudges we hold. He knows the anger that threatens to take over. He knows the biting words that slipped out and the imperfect heart they came from.

~ Jesus took action. He freed us from our sin. Did He know that even after being set free we would still trip up? Yes, absolutely He did; but He offers a hand that beckons us not to stay there. Grudges don’t have to be held. Anger doesn’t have to take root. We have the choice to act out in sin, or we can take our faults to Jesus. We can lash out or we can take a look in.

Let's pray God's word:

God of Peace, may You sanctify us completely, and may our whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. You have called us into holiness, and You are faithful. (1Thessalonians 5:23-24) For all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 2:23) But if we confess our sins, You are faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Father God, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1) Holy Spirit, be with us today. Let our hearts, words, and actions honor and glorify who You are and the action Your son, Jesus took on the cross on our behalf.

Tuesday, Day 3

Sanctification – definition 3

~ Sanctification – 1. (from yesterday) the action of making or declaring something holy.

2. the action or process from being freed from sin.

3. the action of causing something to be or seem morally right or acceptable

~ Can you even imagine that there was a time when we were *not acceptable* to God? There was a time when our sin was the badge we wore. We belonged more to the world than we did to our heavenly home.

But God.

~ Jesus came to restore us; even more than that, He came to completely cover us with a new identity. We are clothed in His righteousness. When our Heavenly Father looks at us, He no longer sees someone who is hopeless, defeated, or unworthy; He sees His Son. He removes the badge of sin and replaces it with a seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

~ Our King has come, and He has made us acceptable, holy, set apart, righteous, hope-full. Even though we are still in these fallible bodies, prone to sin, our God holds us dear and close and forgives. And forgives. And forgives. Hallelujah.

Let's pray God's word:

Almighty God, You are a good and faithful God because even when we dead in our trespasses and sins in which we once walked, when we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind, You, God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which you love us, **even when we were dead in our trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. (Ephesians 2: 1-2a, 3b-5) We will rejoice greatly in our God, for He has clothed us with garments of salvation, He has wrapped us with a robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10) Thank You that You are a loyal and forgiving God. Thank You that You have offered us a way to be made right with You, to come home to You. Praise you, Almighty God.

Wednesday, Day 4

Sanctification leads to the service of God.

~ "Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21

~ Ever hear the phrase, “Saved to serve”? Did you know that each one of us, when we were saved were also called; called to be servants of Christ? To be the hands and feet of Jesus? To see the hurt and offer peace? To see the needy and offer help? To see the lost and offer hope?

~ We have been sanctified, set apart, made holy, and called. Followers of Christ have been renewed in the spirit of their minds, they have put on a new self, and have been created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22

~ God knows the purposes for which He has called you. Above all else, He has called you to worship Him. After that, we also **get** to look for ways to share the love, forgiveness, and sacrifice that He so freely offered us.

~ What are some ways today that service to God may be evident in you? Is it a sacrifice of time? Giving? Encouragement? Prayer?

Let’s pray God’s word:

Mighty God, thank You for setting us apart as holy, as vessels for honorable use. Make each one of us ready for every good work that You have for us. Father God, help us to put off our old self, which belongs to our former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and renew us in the spirit of our minds, and help us put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteous and holiness. For we are Your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which You prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10) Amen.

Thursday, Day 5

Sanctification leads to a closeness with God.

~ “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...” 1 Peter 3:18

~ When Jesus chose the cross and gave His life for us, He knew also that He was bridging the infinite distance between us and God. He was creating a balance and rightness that was intended from before the earth was made.

~ The phrase, “...that he might bring us to God...” gives the image of Jesus taking our hand, walking over to God the Father, and placing our hand in His. This was the intention all along. When we allow sanctification to take root in our faith walk, we are restored back to “default settings”, the original plan, the way it was supposed to be.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Holy Father, thank You for Jesus Christ, who suffered once for our sins, the righteous One for an unrighteous one like me. Help me meditate today on the magnitude of how Jesus **brought me to You**, put to death all the things of my flesh that cause me to sin, and made me alive in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18) I believe, trust, and know me so intimately and yet still love me. I have been made right with You through the blood of Jesus and I can trust You at all times. I can pour out my heart to You, for You are my refuge. (Psalm 62:8) Amen.

Friday, Day 6

Sanctification leads to Christ.

~ “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

~ Every day that goes by on this earth is another day closer to the second advent of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, what do we do? How do we maintain a strength in faith so that if He came back tomorrow, our first instinct wouldn't be to run and hide?

~ Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Similarly, as followers of Christ who have been set apart, the expectation is that we leave all we've known of the world and hold fast to Jesus. This world can no longer serve us the way it once did. We leave all our needs, all our expectations, all of our desires in the hands of Jesus.

Let's pray God's word:

God of Peace, sanctify me completely and may my whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. You have called me and all those who believe; You are faithful and will surely be by my side. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) I want to be prepared for the day that Jesus returns. I want to be able to lay my heart out before Him and have no shame. Help me today to cling to Jesus and His Truth and let it change my thoughts, my words, and my actions.

Saturday, Day 7

Sanctification leads to the Holy Spirit

~" We all, with unveiled faces, 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. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

~ When anyone or anything is set apart, it usually means that there is something unique or different about them. They don't look like everyone else. They don't sound like everyone else. They have different expectations. They have different desires. Those around them might question *why* they seem so different.

~ This is the Holy Spirit. When we are born again, we are given the promised Holy Spirit to indwell us. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to make us more like Christ, to transform us. The more we meditate on the word of God, the better we get to know the voice of God through His Holy Spirit who He's given us to guide us, counsel us, and teach us.

Let's pray God's word:

Lord, praise You that I am being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. Thank You that this comes directly from You and that You are the Spirit. Thank You God that You had the forethought from the beginning of creation that You would find a way, that You would send Your Son to sacrifice Himself for me, so that Your Spirit would live within me to guide me, protect me, teach me. I pray that today, Your Holy Spirit will do just that – guide me, protect me, and teach me.

Sunday, Day 8

Sanctification leads to sacrifice.

~ "So, Jesus suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13: 12-16

~ Have you ever thought about how our praise is considered a sacrifice to God? A sacrifice is an offering. When we praise God, we're offering up thanks for who He is. We're offering our heart. Can we wake up every day, offering with a heart full of thanksgiving and admiration for who He is and for what He's done?

~ Our sacrifice also comes when we surrender our flesh to God. We surrender to Him all the things we may desire, dwell on, worry about, put before Him and we *get to* walk away unhindered by those things. Jesus' sacrifice led to death on the cross. Our sacrifice always leads to freedom.

Let's pray God's word:

Lord, thank You for Your sacrifice. Thank You for sending Your Son to sacrifice His life for our freedom. Praise You that You have no need, like the high priests before Jesus came, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since Jesus did this once for all when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:27) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:17) Help me to trust and rely on You. Help me to revere You above everything else that this world would want me to put before You. I surrender any desire that not of You. I offer up every sin that is entangling my heart and ask that You guide me in Your truth and make my heart more like Your Son's. Amen.

Monday, Day 9

Sanctification leads to joy in suffering.

~ When we've been set apart, pretty much everything we do will look different than what the world says it should look like or what is considered normal or acceptable; this includes the way we handle suffering and hardships.

~ Look at how the temporary sufferings of this life lead to eternal gifts in Christ. In Romans 5:3-5 it says, "...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces *endurance*, and endurance produces *character*, and character produces *hope*, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

~ Being sanctified means that when we go through any type of suffering, we have the knowledge that God is using it for our God good, for endurance, and character, and that all of this is leading to a hope that we are called to share with those around us. Even when sharing is the last thing we feel equipped to do when we're going through a hardship, it's the way we handle ourselves, it's not lashing out at the world or those around us, it's continuing to walk in love and *trusting God with the outcome* that sets us apart.

Let's pray God's word:

Heavenly Father, because of Your Holy Spirit, I can count it all joy when I meet trials of various kinds, for I know that the testing of my faith produces steadfastness. Lord, let steadfastness have its full effect, that I may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1: 2-4) My hope is in knowing that You will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4) I know that the adversity of this life is temporary and expected. My peace and my help come from you alone. I know I can rest in the knowledge that You hold the outcome. Amen. Amen.

Tuesday, Day 10

Sanctification leads to obedience.

~ Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. John 14:23-24

~ Let's think about your relationship with your parents. You obey your parents because you trust them and what they're asking of you, and through your obedience you're showing love towards your parents. Through your obedience, you're showing honor towards your parents and towards the role that they hold in your life. You're acknowledging them as an authority in your life and a leader in your home. Hopefully, you're looking to them as spiritual guides.

~ Jesus expects the same. We position ourselves in a way that submits to the authority and commands of Christ. We're obedient because we have hearts of gratitude for the grace that we've received through Christ. This obedience transforms us from within and leads to sanctification and spiritual growth. The more we obey God the less we obey or submit to the authority of this world.

Let's pray God's word:

Father God, help me keep your word. Come to me and make your home with me. I know that within me the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father has sent in your name will teach me all things and bring to my remembrance all that you have said to me. (John 14: 23, 25) Father, help me live as your obedient child not slipping back into my old ways of living to satisfy my own desires. I didn't know any better then. But now help me be holy in everything I do just as God who chose me is holy. (1Peter 1:14-15) Amen.

Wednesday, Day 11

Sanctification vs. justification

~ Justification sets people free from sin's *penalty*. Sanctification means being set free from sin's *power*. Justification is something that God does *for* us; sanctification is what God does *with* us.

~ "Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins you used to live in sin just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil - the commander of the powers in the unseen world...All of us used to live that way following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature....But God is so rich in mercy and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God's grace that you have been saved." Ephesians 2: 1-4

~ So, justification is about forgiveness. Forgiveness is God's hidden work. If you were walking down the street and someone saw you, they probably wouldn't say, "Wow. Look at that person walking in the freedom of forgiveness." Sanctification though, is the work that people can see. It's the change that starts to happen *as* you walk in the freedom of forgiveness and as you begin to spend more and more time with Jesus through the word and through prayer. As you begin to become more holy, people see it. People see the sanctifying process unfold.

Let's pray God's word:

Lord, PRAISE You that it is Your will that we should be sanctified. (1 Thessalonians 4:3) Thank you that we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10: 10). For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (Hebrews 10: 14) Father, help us to make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy. (Hebrews 12: 14) Help us to be grateful that as

followers of Christ we have been washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6: 11) Amen.

Thursday, Day 12

Sanctification leads to boldness.

~ “Whoever acknowledges me before other, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

~ “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. “Ephesians 3:12

~ In Christ, through justification and sanctification, we gain two types of boldness: One type is the boldness we get to have as God’s children, approaching Him with our burdens, our delights, our worries, our victories, and our failures, knowing that none of it surprises Him and that he expects it. He waits for us to come to him with our hearts.

~ We also obtain a boldness through the Holy Spirit to proclaim who God is in our everyday lives. How do we handle ourselves? What do we sound like? What are we allowing into our hearts and mind and eyes? How do we respond to people? Do we share our faith? Is it natural to bring your Heavenly Father into a conversation with others? Do we pray for ways that God would use us throughout the day? Opportunities to love *in His name*?

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, help me show that I am a letter from Christ...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living god, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. I have this confidence through Christ before God. Not that I am competent in myself to claim anything for myself, but my competence comes from God. (2 Corinthians 3:3-5) Let it be my heartfelt expectation and hope that in nothing will I be ashamed but will have enough courage so that now and forever Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (Philippians 1:20) Amen.

Friday, Day 13

Sanctification leads to loving others better.

~ “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and peace.” Colossians 3:12

~ When we see the word “holy” in this verse and remember that it means set apart, and is our goal as we walk through sanctification, as we read on, we can also see that being set apart means walking in a way that looks entirely different from the world.

~ What are some ways we might live today? What might we say or not say? How might we reach out in ways that show compassion? How can we make sure that someone feels seen and that they are being seen through the lenses of love?

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, I pray that today, as Your chosen child, holy and dearly loved, that I when anyone interacts with me they would see and feel compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and peace.” (Colossians 3:12) I pray that they will see You. Let others know that I am Your disciple by the way I love. (John 13:35) Let my love be patient and kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Help me not to insist on my own way. Spirit convict me when I am irritable or resentful. (1 Corinthians 13: 4-5)

Saturday, Day 14

Sanctification leads to joy.

~ Sanctification shifts our desires from the fleeting and empty satisfaction of sin and death to the joy of getting to live in God's will. By submitting and saying yes to God's plans for our lives, we find peace and blessing. By delighting in His word and knowing the true freedom and joy that comes from meditating and obeying His word, we find true satisfaction.

~ "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

~ "The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." Psalm 119:72

~ "Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word." Psalm 119:74

Let's pray God's word:

Holy Father, I delight in You, my King and my God. Praise You that the plans You have ordained over my life are to prosper me and not harm me, that they are plans to give me hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11) I pray that I go so deeply into Your word and knowing Your voice that it would be better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." (Psalm 119:72) I want nothing more than to be in sync with You. I pray that others would see my joy in You, because of the hope that I have in Your word." (Psalm 119:74)

Sunday, Day 15

Sanctification leads to peace.

~ As we are being sanctified, we should be making every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy..."

~ We are also called to make peace with our past mistakes and our present sin or grudges. "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." Colossians 3:5

~ We are living in a world that is so far from the ideal of living in peace with one another. It seems that a lot of people we see or hear about in the news (or see at school or work!) are making every effort to live for themselves and their own agendas, disregarding everyone around them. There are so many things that the enemy would love for us to be fearful at all times, especially our futures. But we have a peace that surpasses all understanding when our hearts and minds are set on Christ Jesus.

Let's pray God's word:

Lord, in a world that is constantly disturbed, agitated, and distressed, I crave order in my heart, love, and peace. Father, help me to set my mind on the things above. Help me "not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving I will give my requests to You. And I trust that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Monday, Day 16

Sanctification leads to patience.

~ “Be still in the presence of the LORD AND wait patiently for him to act. Don’t worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm.” Psalm 37:7-8

~ Oh boy. There are a lot of things in this world that are offensive. We are exposed to so much negativity and because of our constant access to all things, we unfortunately get to hear things and see things that may enrage us because of the blatant wickedness that is threaded throughout certain words and actions. It’s hard not to let that resentment or anger build up.

~ But God calls us to patience. As we are being sanctified, His Holy Spirit is changing us. We are not to lash out. We are not to use our words or actions impulsively because we are called to look different.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, I pray today that Your Holy Spirit will remind me to be still and to wait patiently for You to act. I will not worry about evil people who prosper or about the wicked things they do. I will not be angry. I will turn from rage. I will not lose my temper because I know that it only leads to harm. (Psalm 37:7-8) I pray You give me strength to run with endurance the race that is set before me, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of my faith. (Hebrews 12:1b-2a) Amen.

Tuesday, Day 17

Sanctification leads to kindness.

~ Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

~ Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12

~ We learn in preschool to be kind, right? But as we get older, we begin to see that it’s not that easy for everybody! We begin to realize that maybe...it’s not that easy for us! We start to notice that it’s easy for many of us to hold a grudge or make a sarcastic comment or share something that wasn’t for us to share.

~ The process of sanctification through the Holy Spirit is calling us to lay our grudges aside. It’s calling us to be tender and loving. It’s calling us once again, to look different. To be set apart.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, there are a lot of hurtful people in the world. I know at times; I can be hurtful. Forgive me. I lay down all parts of myself that do not please You, God. Give me a heart that desires to please You above all else. You’ve called me to something different. You have given me Your Spirit. Let the fruit of kindness grow in me, Lord. When others encounter me in any way, I pray they walk away feeling seen and loved and known by You. Help me be kind to everyone around me, tenderhearted, and forgiving, just as You have forgiven me. (Ephesians 4:32) As I ready myself for each day, I pray that just as I put clothes on my body, that I would be clothe myself in holiness, with compassion for others, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12) Amen.

Wednesday, Day 18

Sanctification leads to goodness.

~ “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

~ “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.” Luke 6:35

~ “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

~ We are called to good things; to the *goodness of God* and to *doing* good. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, being in the constant process of sanctification, being made holy and set apart, we should be choosing goodness above all else because that’s what Jesus did. He chose what was good.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, I pray that I do not grow tired of doing good because I know that at the right time I will reap spiritual blessings if I do not give up. (Galatians 6:9) Help me to love my enemies, to help and give without expecting anything in return because I know that I will never regret it when I choose goodness. I know how generous and gracious You are, through Your Spirit help me be the same. (Luke 6:35) In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thursday, Day 19

Sanctification leads to faithfulness.

~ “But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3

~ “If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13

~ “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

~ When we search the bible for faithfulness, it’s hard to find verses where the bible is talking about the faithfulness of man. Verses having to do with faithfulness are usually talking about the faithfulness of God...to us; to you and me. That shows what our hearts are naturally inclined to. But Jesus came. He didn’t leave us where we were. He came. He promised His Holy Spirit. He delivered. And now because He is so faithful to His promises, we get to live justified and we get to be sanctified. Praise God.

Let’s pray God’s word:

Lord, Your steadfast love never ceases; Your mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23) You are faithful. I trust that You will establish me and guard me against anything that is not of You that threatens my growth in You and my love for You. (2 Thessalonians 3:3) Even when I am faithless, You Lord God, remain faithful because that’s who You are. (2 Timothy 2:13) Praise You. Remind me to confess my sins because You are faithful and just forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 In Jesus’ mighty name I pray, Amen.

Friday, Day 20

Sanctification leads to gentleness.

~ "...speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." Titus 3:2

~ "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

~ "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." James 3:17

~ According to the dictionary, to be **gentle** means to exhibit kindness, mildness, and calmness. It involves treating others with a soft touch, showing consideration, and avoiding harshness or violence. Being gentle also implies being tractable, docile, and ready to do good. It's a quality that encourages peaceable interactions and amiable behavior toward everyone.

Let's pray God's word:

Heavenly Father, in a world full of words and deeds that are filled with harshness and contempt, let me be different through Your Holy Spirit. I will speak evil of no one, I will avoid unnecessary arguments, I will be gentle and show courtesy toward all people. (Titus 3:2) May my heart honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense, with gentleness and respect, to anyone who asks me for a reason for the hope that is in me. (1 Peter 3:15) Fill me with the wisdom that is from above, Your wisdom. Fill my heart and mind with the wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." (James 3:17) Amen. Amen.

Saturday, Day 21

Sanctification leads to self-control.

~ "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls." Proverbs 25:28

~ "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

~ "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

~ Living a life of impulsivity leaves us open to attack and making wrong choices. These last nine days, we've been focusing on the fruit of the Spirit. Why? Because when Christ came, He justified us. God our Father no longer sees a sinner deserving of punishment. He sees a dearly beloved child who has been made new, redeemed. Not only that, but He also gave us His Holy Spirit who walks with us each day, sanctifying us, changing our hearts, freeing us from bondage, allowing us to walk in a manner worthy of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. One of those ways is by walking in the spirit of self-control.

Let's pray God's word:

Father God, You amaze me. How abundant is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in you...! (Psalm 31:19) Let Your Spirit dwell mightily in me and let discipline be one of the marks of who I am in You. You have given me a spirit not of fear but of power and love and

self-control. (2Timothy 1:7) I claim that. Let the fruit of Your Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - grow and take root in my heart. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Praise You, Holy Father. Let my life reflect Your character. In Jesus' mighty name, I pray. Amen. Amen.