

CHOSEN IN THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT

1 Peter 1:2 “(chosen) . . . in the sanctification of the Spirit . . .”

There are any number of words found in the Bible that require definition. In today’s words from 1 Peter there is one such word. It is the word sanctification. The Small Catechism states: “The Holy Spirit sanctifies me (makes me holy. . .)” The Catechism expands on this: “. . .sanctifies me by bringing me to faith in Christ, so that I might have the blessings of redemption and lead a godly life.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 explains why the Holy Spirit must sanctify you (make you holy,) “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” This is why the Catechism states that you “cannot by your own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, nor come to Him.” It goes on to explain, “But the Holy Spirit calls you by the Gospel, enlightens you with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps you in the true faith . . .” Note how once again the Gospel is the means used by the Holy Spirit to bring you to faith in Jesus Christ. I might add, and the Holy Spirit uses the Gospel to then keep you strong in this faith God has gifted you.

Jesus, in His teaching, taught about the importance of the Holy Spirit’s work of sanctification. “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” (John 3:5-6) Jesus here describes the new life the Holy Spirit, through His sanctifying work, gives you. This new life replaces the control of your old sinful nature with which you were conceived and born.

For most of you, the Holy Spirit gave you this new life at the time of your Baptism. 1 Corinthians 6:11 speaks of this work of the Holy Spirit through your Baptism, “You were washed (Baptized), you were sanctified, you were justified (declared sinless by God for Christ’s sake) in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

How comforting it is to know the forgiveness of your sins is through the saving work of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit for your salvation. God has chosen and sanctified you to be His very own dear child.

Prayer: Thank You, Holy Spirit, for sanctifying me and keeping me in the true faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.
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