The Holy Spirit Sanctifying the Believer
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I. Introduction.

    A. Text: II Thessalonians 2.

    B. Sanctification means something set apart for God and by God.

II. Sanctification is a position that God sees us having.

    A. The Spirit placed believers in a position that is set apart when they first received Christ.

    B. Even if people still sin, there is a sense that they continue to be sanctified. (I Corinthians 5:9, Hebrews 10:10, I Corinthians 6:19)

    C. There is no second work of grace in this life that prevents a person from sinning. (I John 2, I Peter 1)

III. Sanctification is a process that goes on in a believer's life freeing him from the power of sin.

    A. The Spirit convicts a person of sin and sets him apart from it. (I Thessalonians 4:1)

    B. If we are to be holy, we need to think of ourselves as sanctified. (I Peter 1:13)

    C. We are to keep ourselves clean in the process of sanctification by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices. (Colossians 3, Romans 12:1)

    D. We are to live under the lordship of Christ.

    E. Sanctification can be a crisis experience in the process.

        1. Every time someone comes to a deeper understanding of Christ, it is a second blessing.

        2. God's goal in this is conforming us to the likeness of His Son. (Romans 8)

        3. We must keep having these experiences, but they must be based upon the Word of God.

        4. God sanctifies us by His blood and by His Word.

        5. What is more important than a feeling is right conduct.

IV. Sanctification is an ultimate act. (I Thessalonians 5:23)

    A. One day we will be like Jesus. (I John 3)

    B. The believer's eternal sanctification will finally be complete when Jesus returns. (I Thessalonians 4:16)

C. We are not responsible for this type of sanctification—God is.

Application questions:

1. What are the different types of sanctification?
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2. What does the speaker mean by a "crisis experience?"
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3. If sanctification is an act of God, how should the believer expect to partake in it? Explain.
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