



## ~ Sanctify Yourselfes ~

***“And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” – Joshua 3:5***

In the bible, you often see examples of God calling His people to sanctify themselves. In Genesis 35, Jacob orders his family to sanctify themselves before fleeing the area surrounding Shechem. His sons had wrongly sacked the city during the night and Jacob knew he needed the protection of God in this situation. So, he called his family to put away everything among them not of God and prepare themselves for God’s help.

In Exodus 19, God told Moses to sanctify the people before He presented Himself on the mountain to them. “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.” – Exodus 19:10-11 The people were to prepare themselves for three days to be ready to receive the fullness of God’s presence.

Again, in Joshua, God commanded Israel to prepare themselves for the miracle of the Jordan crossing that the Lord was going to do for them before all the surrounding nations.

In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus told the believers that were with Him, to not leave Jerusalem. “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” – Acts 1:4-5 During the next ten days after Jesus went to heaven, the believers obeyed the command. This was a time of consecration and heart searching for all of them as they prepared their hearts to receive the fullness of power of the Holy Spirit upon them as Jesus had promised.

This is an example for us today. God desires to pour His Spirit upon His people with even more power than with the early disciples. This will empower us to finish the work that is laid before us and to endure the last days upon us. However, there is a work we must do in order to prepare. That work is to “sanctify” ourselves. The definition of sanctify is: **1.** To set apart for sacred use; consecrate. **2.** To make holy; purify. **3.** To make productive of holiness or spiritual blessing. God wants to do this in our lives so He can heal us, revive us, and do a mighty work that will reflect His glory to everyone around us. However, we hinder this work in our life and put ourselves in a dangerous position when we don’t take what He asks seriously.

*“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” {TM 507.1}*

God is calling us to allow His power to sanctify and fill us with His Spirit. This begins to reflect change in our attitudes and life. This revival of our hearts happens as a result of humble, earnest, faith-filled prayer. This is the key that opens heaven’s storehouse. Won’t you commit to joining me today in prayer for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will not only change us, but change the world? “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” – Heb. 10:23

**Kimberly Mills**

**Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals**

*Daily tools of inspiration and hope for the journey home.*