

In Progress - Spirit, Soul & Body

Every season of life I'm in, no matter what my status, I am In Progress; God is bringing me to wholeness. That wholeness is for every part of my being. From the moment I was conceived to the moment I die, I am a work In Progress.

Psalm 139:15-18

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* NASB

The spirit is the highest and most unique part of man that enables him to communicate with God. The soul is the part of man that makes him conscious of himself; it is the seat of his personality. The body is the physical part through which the inner person expresses himself and by which he is immediately recognized.

- **Walwood and Zuck, Bible Knowledge Commentary**

1. Every person is In Progress, moving toward that moment when we realize we are incomplete without a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. *John 3:5-8*

2. There are three kinds of sanctification we progress through as Christians, and we know them as:

Positional sanctification- instantaneous

Progressive sanctification- influence

Perfection sanctification- integration

2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 10:10; Romans 12:2; 1 John 3:2-3; Romans 8:5b-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Philippians 1:6

3. Sanctification is the process of grace; it's growth and change that only the Spirit of God does in us, and we simply give way to His influence, agree with His values, and work to participate with Him as His spirit works with us to change our mind.

Next week's reading guide:

1 John 5

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 2:14-21

Galatians 4:4-7

Romans 8:9-17

Ephesians 3:1-6

Hebrews 12:5-13

Discussion Questions:

1. Share the moment you received Christ into your life and like Mary, describe what led up to your positional sanctification.
2. Discuss the 3 kinds of sanctification and what you understand and don't understand about them.
3. Discuss grace vs. legalism. Why is grace so much better? What does the Bible say about grace vs. trying to keep the rules? (Review Romans 8)