# Please join me in The Prayer to the Holy Spirit – found on Pg. 48 in your Worship Books

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations.

Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

**YOU MAY BE SEATED**

# SANCTIFYING GRACE

**INTRODUCTION** (Picture of long, winding, hilly road) (3)

Life’s a journey, both physical and spiritual. The Apostle Paul refers to it as a race, running for the prize. Some of us would agree that life is a race. I believe that God is with us from beginning to end. His grace is there wooing us, changing us, growing us and perfecting us.

God has grown me through His grace many times in my life, e.g. accepting the call to ministry and seminary, death of a spouse, raising kids and day-to-day ministry. John Wesley calls it going onto perfection. I feel God’s grace perfecting me all the time. Am I perfect? NO! But being perfected? YES!

The title of this talk is **Sanctifying Grace.** And my name is **Greg Inboden (4)**

1. **ALL GRACE IS GOD’S GRACE. (5)**
2. We experience the one grace of God in many different ways.(5a) –along our spiritual journey.
3. Prevenient grace(5b) is God’s activity from the moment of our conception to the moment we say yes to God, and beyond. –Friday morning
4. Justifying grace(5c) is the gift of God by which we accept for ourselves the relationship offered in Christ. –Friday afternoon
5. The means of grace(5d) help us celebrate and strengthen our relationship with God. –Saturday morning and afternoon
6. Obstacles to grace(5e) are attitudes and actions that hinder our relationship with God and with our neighbor. In the cross, Jesus Christ has overcome every obstacle. –Saturday afternoon
7. **SANCTIFYING GRACE IS …(6)**

**THE GIFT OF GOD PROVIDING THE DESIRE AND THE**

**POWER TO GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD—FOREVER. (6a)(3x’s)**

1. Just as physical birth begins the physical process of growth and maturity, spiritual birth

(justifying grace) begins the process of spiritual growth toward maturity (sanctifying grace).

1. Sanctifying grace is the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit working in and through the

believer. Grace is: God’s active love—toward me and God’s love in action –Towards

others and His creation. Our response to grace is both love and action.

1. SANCTIFYING GRACE IS … (7)

THE PROCESS OF OPENING OURSELVES TO THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN AND THROUGH US. (7a)(3x’s)

Sanctifying grace is the divine energy transforming our heart and life.

It makes us RIPE for glory. Restoring, Imparting, Perfecting, Equipping (8)

***R=The Holy Spirit is restoring*** our relationship with God and others.(9)

1. We cannot earn God’s love by changing our ways. We change because God loves us
2. We receive God’s Spirit “bearing witness with our spirit” that we are beloved children of God (Rom. 8:15-17) This is our foundation of all our relationships
3. Restoration is the process of spiritual growth and recovery and the recovery of our health, since we were once sick with sin.
4. Person illustration of restoration --40 Ford Woody restorations –Pictures(10a,b,c,d)

***I=The Holy Spirit is imparting*** new life, new light, new strength and a new heart(11)

1. Justifying grace(12a) is the moment when the righteousness of Christ is *imputed* (ascribed to, to attribute) us—it is a change of status
2. Sanctifying grace(12b) is the process by which the righteousness of Christ is *imparted* (to bestow, make known) to us, it becomes a part of us and we experience a change of heart. We become more Christ like
3. To IMPUTE means to ascribe (sin or righteousness) to someone (us) by substitution (Jesus) (13a)
4. To IMPART is to present something as a gift or honor (13b)
5. Personal illustration of grace imparted to us—a real change. –Accepting call to ministry

***P=The Holy Spirit is perfecting*** us in the image of God and the likeness of Jesus Christ(14)

1. Conversion is a process. (Dying to evil-rising to good and true) it happens once but not all at once.
2. The gifts of the Spirit are given to help us grow and for the common good of the church/ the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12-14)
3. As a Christian matures, his/her life displays certain qualities known as the fruit of the Spirit. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal. 5:22.
4. Perfecting involves pruning (John 15:2). The Bible tells us that every vine and fruit tree requires pruning, and so do we. A life in grace is a life in process and some of this is painful.
5. Christian perfection is bothe instantaneous and progressive. The Greek word for perfect can also be translated “mature or complete” To be perfected in love is both God’s call and God’s promise—in Christ you can be perfect, mature, and complete today and continue to grow in grace and be more like Christ next month.
6. Sanctifying grace is the doctrine of “the more.” God has more love, power, peace, and joy in store for us.
7. The means of grace are means of growth. Sanctifying grace is our deepest joy and our greatest good in all our relationships.

8. Personal illustrations of perfecting. (Dr. Parrot’s pen---Picture of a nice pen dented) (15)

***E=The Holy Spirit is equipping*** us to do the work of Christ in the world—to be the hands and feet of Christ(16)

1. **Sanctifying grace is the work of the Holy Spirit empowering us to see and serve**

**Christ in the least and lost of our city, state, and world. Read Matthew 25:31-40 (17a)**

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31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

**1. The Holy Spirit equips us with gifts for ministry (17b)**

1. **The Holy Spirit equips us to obey the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-40) (17c)**

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments”

**and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). (17c)**

1. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
2. **HOW DO WE GROW IN SANCTIFYING GRACE?(18)**

A. Growth in grace is a natural process.(18a)Jesus told us that life in grace is as natural as the life of a branch connected to a healthy vine (John 15:1-12)

1. We abide in Christ (prayer).(18b) Through prayer and worship we open ourselves to God; we are rooted and grounded in love and intimately connected to Christ (John 12:4)
2. Christ’s word abides in us (study).(18c) In study we give our minds to God and grow in the mind of Christ (John 15:7,10; Phil. 2:5—8)
3. We bear much fruit for God’s glory (action).(18d) In Christian action we give our hands to God and participate in the work of Christ (John 15:8). These works include:

a. Works of mercy (providing food, water, and clothing, shelter, visits or healing)

(Matthew 25:35ff)

b. Works of justice (release to captives, freedom to the oppressed) ( Luke 4:18)

B. We open our hearts to receive grace as a gift (18e). Romans 5:5 says, “God’s love has been

poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5) We

do not earn it or deserve God’s love; we simply open our hearts to receive it.

1. We share grace in the body of Christ (community).(19a) Through participation in the gathered community and small accountability groups, we receive strength and nurture—just as a branch does from the vine (John 15:5). We come alive in Christ (Eph. 2:5), learn the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:1-12) and help one another remain rooted and grounded in God’s love. (Eph. 3:14-19).
2. We respond by full participation in the mission of Christ in the world.(19b)

# V. CLOSING (no slides)

A. For three days we have prayed for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us with the fire of love.

We have learned that:

1. God wants a relationship with us even more that we want a relationship with God.
2. God’s role in sanctifying grace is to fill us with the Holy Spirit and fire. Our role is to open our hearts and walk in the Spirit with Christ day by day.
3. Small groups are an important means of sanctifying grace for disciples –from the time Jesus called the first disciples to this very day, small groups are an essential means of grace.
   1. In Emmaus, small accountability groups are called group reunions/Share Groups

When we meet with a small group, we follow the order on the group reunion card, which you will learn about later.

Group reunions are the Emmaus community’s primary means of support on the journey toward spiritual maturity.

(Remind pilgrims of **the importance of participating** in a small accountability group.)

Life is a Journey –Physical and Spiritual. God is always with us; perfecting us through His Sanctifying Grace! **DeColores!** (20)