



Daily Verse and Comment

1 John 2:29

(29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 3:3

(3) And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:9-14

(9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (11) For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (12) Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 3:22

(22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 5:1-4

(1) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

King James Version

In several places, such as [1 John 2:29](#); [3:3](#); [3:9-14](#); and 5:1-4, John expressly states what the responsibilities of a converted person are. In these verses, the work of keeping the commandments is plainly shown.

The application of Paul's statement in [Ephesians 2:10](#) is becoming ever clearer. He writes that we are indeed saved by grace through [faith](#). However, he adds, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which [God](#) prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Sanctification is a process involving a period of intense work: walking in [love](#), keeping the commandments, and overcoming [sin](#) and [the world](#), as John's first epistle clearly stipulates. This process within a relationship with the Father and Son brings us to completion.

Sanctification does not consist only of a lot of talk about religion. Nor does it consist only of spending large amounts of time studying the Bible and commentaries. As helpful as these might be, God also calls for a great deal of action. The apostle John again supplies helpful exhortation: "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" ([1 John 3:18](#)). It could not be stated more clearly that the love of God is an action. Further, Jesus exhorts all His disciples, "If you love Me keep My commandments" ([John 14:15](#)). "Keeping" indicates consistent effort to obey as a means of expressing our love, loyalty, and submission to Him.

Paul writes in [Romans 5:5](#), "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which was given to us." The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is essential to salvation, and God gives it to those who obey Him ([Acts 5:32](#)). Paul says in [Romans 8:9](#), "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." God gives His

Holy Spirit for the very purpose of making one His child. It also allows one to witness on His behalf, to produce the [fruit of the spirit](#) in preparation for His Kingdom, and to glorify Him.

Jesus says in [John 15:8](#), "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." Sanctification is the period of our converted lives when God expects us to provide evidence that we are indeed His converted children. In fact, the fruit produced by our works, themselves enabled by God, are the evidence of our conversion. Some things in life are absolute certainties: Where the fruit of the labors of conversion are, there the Spirit of God will be found. Where those fruits are absent, the people are spiritually dead before God—they lack the life of the Spirit. Put another way, where there is no holy living, there is no Holy Spirit.

The works of sanctification are the only sure sign that one has been called of God and imbued with His Spirit. Notice something Peter writes on this: "[Christians are] elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of [Jesus Christ](#)" ([I Peter 1:2](#)). Paul adds in [II Thessalonians 2:13](#), "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

He also writes in [Ephesians 1:4](#), ". . . just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." When Paul saw the Ephesians' attitudes, their manner of life, and the evidence of their conversion, he knew they were part of the elect of God. He could thus honestly write to them with glowing praise. Many more similar verses could be added to these.

Out of ignorance, weakness, or lack of understanding, a person may break some of God's commands. However, anyone who boasts of being one of God's elect while willfully living in sin is only deceiving himself—and his claim may very well be wicked blasphemy.

Thus, because of the works that are performed during sanctification, it will always be a visible condition. As Jesus says in [Matthew 7:18-20](#): "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that

does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Is the Christian Required To Do Works? \(Part Four\)](#)

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[Elect , The](#)

[Fruit, Bearing](#)

[Holy Spirit, Conditions for Receiving](#)

[Keeping Commandments](#)

[Keeping Commandments as Love](#)

[Sanctification](#)

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[Works as Evidence of Growth](#)