

Grow and Discern Resource Sheet

Series: *Formed for the Future, Faithful for Now*

Date: 8/17/25 **Title:** Fully Sanctified, Still Limping

Text: 1 Thess. 5:23-24

Sanctification is not our achievement but God's faithful work in us—reshaping every part of who we are into Christ's likeness. Our role is to wrestle with Him in prayer and obedience, trusting that He who began this work will bring it to completion, even as we limp forward in grace.

Key Sermon Points

1. **It's not dependent on us – God is the one who makes us holy.**

Sanctification is God's vision for our lives, rooted in His power, not our striving. Like Jacob wrestling with God, we cling to Him in prayer and obedience, desiring holiness as our destiny rather than as an optional pursuit.

2. **And when God works, He changes every part of us**

God's sanctifying work reaches every dimension—spirit, soul, and body. Nothing is untouched by His Spirit's transforming power: our emotions, relationships, motivations, and vocational callings are all reshaped into Christlikeness.

3. **And when God works, He changes every part of us**

Sanctification is proof of God's faithfulness. Even as we limp, wounded yet blessed like Jacob, we walk forward in hope, assured that God will finish the work of making us whole in Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you find yourself wrestling with God over holiness, and how does Jacob's story shape how you approach that struggle?
2. Which part of your life—emotional, relational, or vocational—do you most long to see the Spirit's transforming influence, and why?
3. How does the picture of “limping in grace” encourage you to keep trusting God's promises in the midst of weakness or failure?

Meditating on Formation

Dependence on God's Power – Reflect on areas where you've tried to “row harder” in your own strength instead of relying on God's sanctifying power.

Total Transformation – Ask the Spirit to reveal any part of your life not yet surrendered to His transforming work.

Faithful Completion – Meditate on Philippians 1:6: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion,” and consider how this anchors your hope in seasons of weakness.

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In Summary

Sanctification is not a burden we carry but a promise God fulfills. He calls us to wrestle with Him like Jacob—not to earn holiness but to cling to the One who gives it. His Spirit reshapes every part of who we are—our emotions, relationships, motivations, and even our work—into the likeness of Christ. And though we may limp along the way, God’s faithfulness assures us that He will complete what He has started. Our weakness becomes the place where His grace proves strongest, and our story becomes one of hope-filled transformation.

Challenge This Week

- ❖ Do Lectio Divina this week on **Hebrews 12:14**, assessing both the pursuit of peace with everyone and the pursuit of holiness. Why do you think the Holy Spirit put these together in one way exhortation?
- ❖ Consider making this week a time of consecration, as you lean into God’s vision for your sanctification.