

**A Church-Based Curriculum Designed to
Teach Entire Sanctification to New Believers
in Metro Praise International's Discipleship
Program**

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

- **PROBLEM TO SOLVE:** Neglecting to teach new believers entire sanctification at Metro Praise International (MPI) church has resulted in Christians lacking understanding in their new identity in Christ.
- **QUESTION TO ANSWER:** What effect does an effective curriculum being taught on entire sanctification have on the lives of the congregation at MPI church?
- **PROPOSED SOLUTION:** Design and teach a curriculum that would teach new Christians at MPI church the doctrine of entire sanctification in hopes that their understanding of the subject would increase and thereby have positive results in their Christian life.
- **METHOD FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM:** Host a six-week online class where the curriculum is taught by the researcher to a selected number of new believers from MPI (less than 2 years saved). Along side of the class encourage the students to keep a prayer journal and stay accountable to reading their Bible.
- **EVALUATION & RESULTS:** The class had 13 new believers complete the class and follow the researcher's instructions. A mix method approach was used before and after the class to collect data. A ten-question Likert Scale Survey was given, along with a three-question short answer questionnaire. The same Likert Survey and questionnaire was given at the beginning and end of the class. The results were an overall increase of 8% in the Likert scale and significant indications of increased understanding of entire sanctification derived from the data in the post questionnaires. Both of these results helped confirm the thesis for the project, that teaching new believers entire sanctification does have positive results in the Christian experience.

MAJOR LITERATURE CONSULTED

- **CIRICULUM STRUCTURE SOURCE:** *A Well-Furnished Heart: Restoring the Spirit's Place in the Leadership Classroom*, by J. T. Flynn, W. L. Tjong, and R. W. West was used to derive the five core values of renewal-oriented theological training; summarized as biblical revelation, spiritual growth, church interaction, communal fellowship, and Spirit-empowerment. The research applied these main points into the curriculum by basing each of the six lessons on biblical revelation (vast usage of Scripture), aimed at spiritual growth, in cooperation with the student's church involvement, accountability sessions, and personal reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- **NON-PENTECOSTAL SOURCE FOR FORMING THE DOCTRINE OF ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION:** *Plain Account on Christian Perfection* by John Wesley was key to shaping the researcher's perspective on the necessity of Christian perfection (i.e., "entire sanctification"). Though the curriculum differed with Wesley on the timing of entire sanctification in the believer's life, there was much agreement in the materials with Wesley regarding the emphasis of being perfect in Christ and that spiritual perfection is based in the perfect love for God and neighbor that comes from being given a new heart at rebirth.
- **PENTECOSTAL SOURCES FOR FORMING THE DOCTRINE OF ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION:** *Sanctification and The Finished Work of Calvary- It Makes Plain the Great Work of Redemption* by William Durham were the most useful documents for the researcher to frame his own personal doctrine of entire sanctification for the curriculum. In summary, the researcher, along with Durham, believes that sanctification is completed when a sinner is saved. Hence, salvation and sanctification are finished in the believer's life because of Christ's finished work on the cross.
- **NEUROSCIENCE AND IDENTITY-BASED LEARNING SOURCES FOR THE CIRRICULUM :** *You Are Not Your Brain*, by Drs. Jeffrey Schwartz and Rebecca Gladding and *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* by Dr. Daniel Amen were helpful in guiding the author in adding to the material's faith confessions and beginning thoughts to ponder while writing out a prayer journal because they support the revolutionary concept of "neuroplasticity." This confirms with Paul's command to renew the mind in Romans 12:1-2.

MAJOR BIBLICAL POINTS

- **EZEKIEL 36:25-27 (NIV), “25 I WILL SPRINKLE CLEAN WATER ON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE CLEAN; I WILL CLEANSE YOU FROM ALL YOUR IMPURITIES AND FROM ALL YOUR IDOLS. 26 I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT IN YOU; I WILL REMOVE FROM YOU YOUR HEART OF STONE AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH”**: God spoke through Ezekiel that in the New Covenant he was going to remove all their impurities (i.e., “sins) by giving His people a new spirit and heart. The researcher believes this was fulfilled at the new birth according to Jesus’ Words in John 3:3, to be “born again.”
- **MATTHEW 5:48 (NIV), “BE PERFECT, THEREFORE, AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT”**: Jesus gave a direction command for all his followers to be morally perfect like their Heavenly Father. This kind of moral perfection made visible in the act of forgiving one’s enemies is not possible unless Christ’s disciples are first made perfect in their nature. This confirms Peter’s application of God’s command to His people to be Holy, like He is holy (Lev. 19:2 & 1 Pet. 1:16). As a result, only those who first have been made holy and perfect at spiritual rebirth can be holy and perfect like God the Father in all they do.
- **HEBREWS 10:14 (KJV), “FOR BY ONE OFFERING HE HATH PERFECTED FOREVER THEM THAT ARE SANCTIFIED”**: The author of Hebrews notes that it is by the one offering of Jesus that perfection is given to the sanctified. Thus, both perfection and sanctification are forever secured from the moment a person applies the offering of Jesus to their life by faith.
- **1 THESSALONIANS 4:3 (KJV), “FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, EVEN YOUR SANCTIFICATION”**: Paul makes it clear that sanctification is not a thing to be hoped for in the future after death because the sinful body of flesh is removed, but rather it is the will of God for people in this life.
- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:11 (NIV), “AND THAT IS WHAT SOME OF YOU WERE. BUT YOU WERE WASHED, YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, YOU WERE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD”**: Paul taught the believers that when they were justified, they were also washed and sanctified. To the same extent that sin was removed from the Christian’s record before God at salvation (justification) so was their sin removed from their nature (sanctification).

MAJOR THEOLOGICAL POINTS

BEFORE CHRIST



Ephesians 2:1-3, "1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath."



AFTER CHRIST

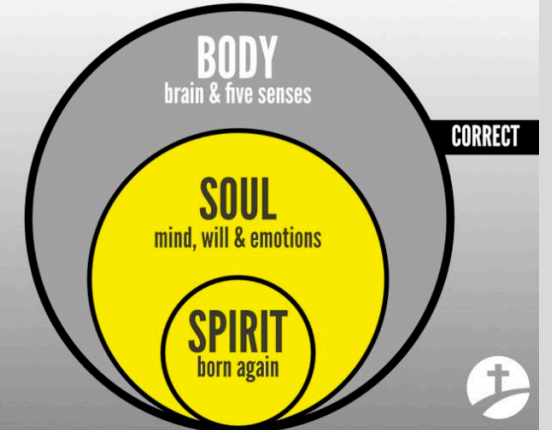
INCORRECT



1 Peter 1:22-23, "22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."

1 Peter 2:11, "Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul."

CORRECT



THE FLESH vs THE SPIRIT

THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-21, "19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

brain & senses

Galatians 5:24-25, "24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

THE SPIRITUAL SOUL

Galatians 5:22-23, "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

mind, will & emotions



THOSE LED BY THE SPIRIT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH!

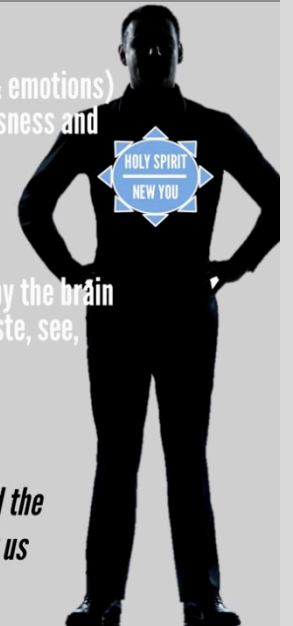


THE SPIRIT

The spiritual soul (mind, will, & emotions) reborn and created in righteousness and holiness by the Holy Spirit.

THE FLESH

The physical body influenced by the brain and the five senses (touch, taste, see, hear, & smell).



Galatians 5:24-25, "24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

MAJOR HISTORICAL POINTS

- **JOHN WESLEY & THE METHODIST MOVEMENT:** John Wesley, along with those who followed his teachings of Christian Perfection (Asbury, Clark, etc.) did a great job initially of passing down the love for God understanding of entire sanctification and holiness, along with a strong urge to make disciples who live in accountability as they serve in the church. However, over time, those in the Methodist movement that did not embrace the teachings of the Pentecostal movement in the early 1900's soon became a causality in the war of liberalism. Sadly, many modern Methodists do not carry the same fervor as the early Methodists once did for holiness.
- **THE HOLINESS-PENTECOSTAL TRADITION:** In the early 1900's it is of no surprise that God poured out His blessing of Pentecost on the very ones who were passionate for holiness. These holiness preachers like William Seymour, leader of the Azusa Street Revival, were the perfect fodder for God to bring fresh fire upon. Sadly, like with the many of the Methodists before them, a certain number of the first Pentecostals like Seymour were not willing to adjust their understanding of sanctification as it became clear that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was not given for sanctification but for power (as seen in Acts 1-2).
- **THE FINISHED WORK DOCTRINE OF WILLIAM DURHAM:** Thankfully, God used Brother Durham to more adequately define the doctrine of entire sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He insisted, rightly so from Scripture, that in fact sanctification occurred at the same time of salvation, not at the baptism of the Holy Spirit. One can clearly see that in Acts 1-2 there is not one mention of holiness regarding the Father's Promise, nor is being from sin an evidence that the Holy Spirit had been poured out. Therefore, it is clear to see that instead of a three-step process (salvation, then sanctification, and then the baptism of the Holy Spirit)- God was revealing a two-step process (salvation/sanctification and then the baptism of the Holy Spirit).
- **A REASON OFFERED TO WHY MANY MODERN DAY PENTECOSTALS FALL SHORT IN REGARD TO ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION:** In short, it is the belief of the researcher that because the Pentecostals, like those on the Assembly of God, lost the desire for entire sanctification, they have become more similar in their beliefs to the other Christian traditions that their ancestors fought so hard to break away from.

PROJECT DESIGN

- SIX WEEK CLASS ON MOODLE TAUGHT LIVE VIA ZOOM

The screenshot shows the Moodle course interface for 'In Him Identity Class'. The page is organized into several sections:

- NAVIGATION:** A sidebar menu on the left with options like Home, Dashboard, Site pages, Current course, In Him Class (with sub-items: Participants, Badges, General, Lesson 1-6), and Courses.
- ADMINISTRATION:** A sidebar menu below navigation with options like Course administration (Turn editing on, Edit settings, Users, Filters, Reports, Grades, Badges, Backup, Restore, Import, Publish, Reset, Question bank), Switch role to..., and Site administration.
- News forum:** A list of forum topics including Consent and Release Form, Pre-Class Survey, Pre-Class Questionnaire, Post-Class Survey, and Post-Class Questionnaire.
- Lesson 1-6:** A vertical list of lessons, each containing a 'Lesson X Reading' and a 'Lesson X Checklist Survey'.
- SEARCH FORUMS:** A search box with a 'Go' button and an 'Advanced search' link.
- LATEST NEWS:** A section titled 'Welcome to the In Him Identity Class!' with a date and author, and a link to 'Older topics...'. It also includes an 'Add a new topic...' link.
- UPCOMING EVENTS:** A section stating 'There are no upcoming events' with links to 'Go to calendar...' and 'New event...'. It also includes a 'Turn editing on' button.
- RECENT ACTIVITY:** A section showing 'Activity since Sunday, 14 June 2020, 9:06 AM' and a link to 'Full report of recent activity...'. It also includes a 'Turn editing on' button.

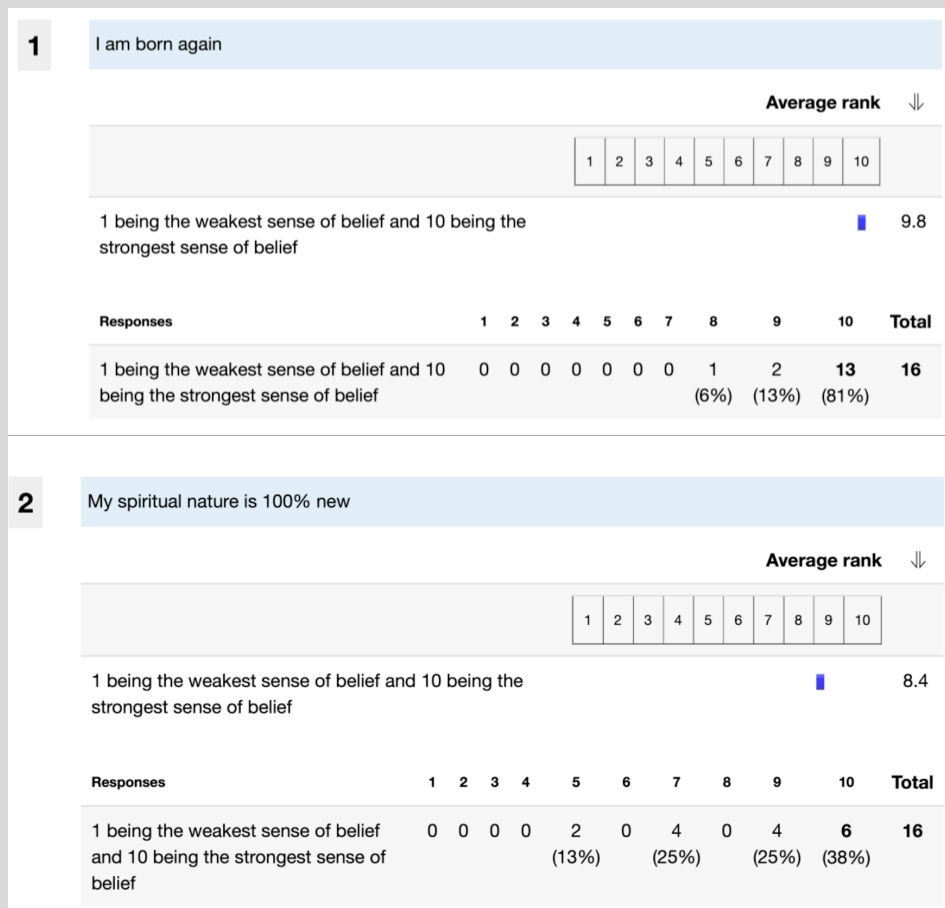
- *IN HIM*, THE BOOK WRITTEN FOR THE CLASS CURRICULLUM

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METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

- EXAMPLE OF THE PRE-CLASS LIKERT SURVEY



- EXAMPLE OF THE PRE-CLASS SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE

1 In 2-4 sentences, share what you think Jesus meant by the phrase, "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

Response

I believe that what Jesus meant by saying "be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect" — is that we can live a life without sin, due to the simple fact that he lives within us. When we receive our "New Spirit" we are sanctified by the Blood Of Christ, so we can walk in confidence that we are made perfect through him and can live a life of obedience.

I think the meaning was for us to live our lives as godly as we can like Jesus did, even though it can never be 100% we should strive to walk in his footsteps.

What I think Jesus meant by the phrase stated above is that I am to live according to God's will. I can not act or do what the world does. I am to live a life that reflects God's moral character. Setting aside my will, and my own understanding so I represent God in me.

He is perfect. To be like him because we are made in his image.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took all of my sins, my sickness and sorrows! My job is to live holy and pure and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in me, I am able to do so.

To strive to be perfect by living according to how the bible tells us to. Also since the Father is perfect and we are to follow what He teaches we should be an example of Him.

God made you in his image, which is perfect. However, the creation of man was both in flesh AND in spirit. You must be one with the spirit, IN spirit, by following the Father's commands and giving your life to Him. This is how you become perfect as Him.

RESULTS

- RESULTS FROM THE PRE- AND POST-CLASS LIKERT SURVEY**

	QUESTION	PRE-CLASS	POST-CLASS	+/- % DIFFERENCE
1.	I am born again	9.8	10	+2%
2.	My spiritual nature is 100% new	8.4	9.8	+16%
3.	I am God's finished handiwork	7.8	9.8	+25%
4.	I am entirely sanctified	9.1	9.8	+7%
5.	I am perfect like my Heavenly Father is perfect	8.1	9.8	+20%
6.	I can live without sinning	8.8	9.7	+10%
7.	I can love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength	10	9.6	-4%
8.	I can love others as myself	9.8	9.9	+1%
9.	I can obey all of God's commands	9.5	9.9	+4%
10.	I can live like Jesus because I am righteous like Jesus	9.2	9.7	+5%
		AVG. 9.05	AVG. 9.8	AVG. +8%

- RESULTS FROM THE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. MPI's new believers are very well versed in key doctrinal and lifestyle expectations for those who hold to entire sanctification.
2. Training people to understand such controversial subjects like Christian perfection are not beneath comprehension of new believers.
3. Though MPI church could count the materials and class as a success from the post-class questionnaire, its success is not able to be assessed on its own merits because the church has a unique culture built upon the doctrine of entire sanctification.