

God's Tools for Making Us Holy

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NASB)

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.**

²⁴ **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”**

Sanctification is the process God uses to conform believers to the image of His Son. The writers of Scripture used word pictures that speak of the Father's shaping work in the life of His saints. Isaiah, for example, compared the Lord to an artist making pottery: **“We are the clay and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand” (Isaiah 64:8)**. These are some of the tools He utilizes to mold and perfect His creations:

The Bible. The psalmist described God's Word as **“a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105)**. The Holy Spirit illuminates what we read so that we can come under conviction and grow in our faith.

The Church. As part of Christ's body, we learn of God's ways from the pastors and teachers who have been called to minister. The Father also calls His children to fellowship together (**Hebrews 10:25**), in part so He can use them in each other's sanctification process.

Hebrews 10:25 (NASB)

²⁵ **“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”**

Not only that, but there are Christians at church who will encourage their brothers and sisters in times of trouble or hold them accountable when they miss the mark.

Suffering. God freely offers us solace and help during times of difficulty, but He also uses our painful circumstances to shape us. When we submit to Him, we emerge from our struggles looking more Christlike than ever before.

From the moment a person places trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's transforming work of sanctification will be ongoing throughout his or her life. As children of the King, we should long to glorify our Father by faithfully reflecting Him. To do that, we must yield to His tools of sanctification.