

**The Inscrutable Question: Divine Good & the Three Stages of Spiritual Adulthood: Stage 1: Spiritual Self-Esteem; 2 Peter 1:3-4**

- 3) Self-confidence from doctrine and mental stability from a capacity to deal with outside adversities creates tranquility of soul.
- 4) Personal love for God motivates continued advance. Increased skill in using the problem-solving devices makes for more effective application of doctrine to life.
- 5) This coordinates with grace orientation so that the believer applies grace thinking to life and circumstances rather than legalism and judging.
- 6) Doctrinal orientation to the realities of life helps maintain a mental attitude of humility which is an absolute requirement to remain teachable.
- 7) You have long since stopped competing to be Spiritual King of the Mountain. Instead your focus is on God and His plan rather than you and your plan.
- 8) This level of advance is a part of the process called “experiential sanctification.” When a sinner places his faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life one of the 40 things that are imputed to him is the status of “positional sanctification.”
- 9) Sanctification is an act of God that is associated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It sets the believer apart in Christ for special service to God. This is called “positional sanctification” since our position in Christ is what sets us apart.
- 10) There are two other categories of sanctification in Scripture. There is the sanctification of the life through spiritual growth spoken of in Romans 6:4 as “walking in newness of life.”
- 11) This “newness of life” is classified theologically as “experiential sanctification.” This is not a remaking of the old life but the creation of a new life in Christ whereby we take on His thoughts and in time are led by these thoughts in the production of divine good.
- 12) No person can produce divine good unless he gets control of his own life. Unfortunately, no one is really qualified to get control of his own life. This circumstance is resolved first of all by salvation followed by spiritual growth. Consistent spiritual growth allows the believer to become a partner in a divine endowment:

**2 Peter 1:3 - (ETL) His divine power [ divine omnipotence; filling of the Holy Spirit ] has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness [ logistical grace support ], through the knowledge of Him who called us [ election to privilege and opportunity ] by His own glory and excellence.**

**v. 4 - Through which things [ assets mentioned in verse 3 ] He has given to us His most valuable and fantastic promises in order that through these things we might become partners in the divine endowment [ the heritage of the New Birth ], having escaped from the decadence of *cosmos diabolicus* and the evil desires of the lust pattern.**

- 13) This constitutes a system that leads to spiritual maturity where the believer is able to consistently produce divine good which glorifies God to the maximum.
- 14) The final category of sanctification is “ultimate sanctification” which becomes a reality at physical death and is maximized with the imputation of the resurrection body at the rapture.



- 15) It is the second category of “experiential sanctification” that the hyper-Calvinist hopes to accomplish in order to verify his election and consequently his salvation.