THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about sanctification?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 46 early Christian passages and 268 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-sanctification

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers taught that sanctification is God making us holy through Christ and the Holy Spirit. It begins in baptism and grows day by day through prayer and the Church's holy mysteries. Believers freely take part by keeping Christ's commandments, keeping body and soul pure, and growing in love, which makes the elect perfect.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	God Himself is our sanctification	2	6	Holiness includes the body, not just the soul	4
2	The Holy Spirit is the fountain of holiness	2	7	Free obedience is part of being made holy	5
3	The Spirit restores God's likeness in us	3	8	Love is what makes the elect perfect	5
4	Begun in baptism, kept by daily prayer	3		What these passages don't tell us	5
5	The holy mysteries feed our holiness	4		The Sources: 46 early Christian passages and 268 Bible verses, with links	6

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POINT 1 OF 8

God Himself is our sanctification

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen says Jesus was made our sanctification, so each believer is made holy by sharing in Him. An early liturgy prays to God as our sanctification and gives glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit together.

1 “For Jesus Himself was made sanctification to us and redemption.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on John* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 31, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “For You are our sanctification, and we give glory to You, the Father, and the Son, and the All-holy Spirit, now, from now on, and forevermore.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 23, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

The Holy Spirit is the fountain of holiness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen teaches that creatures are not holy by nature but become holy by sharing in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Gregory calls the Spirit the fountain of sanctification and warns that denying His power to make holy undoes baptism and the Trinity.

3 “On this account, the grace of the Holy Spirit is present, so that those beings which are not holy in their essence may be made holy by participating in it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 29, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 “For He who has sanctified one sanctifies all things. Therefore, that man speaks falsely against the fountain of sanctification, the Holy Spirit, when he strips Him of the power to sanctify.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 32, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 8

The Spirit restores God's likeness in us

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says a person becomes spiritual and complete when the Spirit is joined to the soul and body. Without the Spirit a person keeps God's image but lacks His likeness. Holiness, for him, is the whole person filled with the Spirit.

5

"When the spirit, united with the soul, joins with God's workmanship, the person becomes spiritual and complete due to the Spirit's outpouring, making them in God's image and likeness."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 8

Begun in baptism, kept by daily prayer

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian explains the prayer Hallowed be Your name. Believers were made holy in baptism, but they still stumble each day, so they ask God every day to keep that holiness safe and wash away new sins.

6

"Because He says, "Be holy, even as I am holy," Leviticus 20:7, we ask and plead that we who were sanctified in baptism may continue in what we have begun to be."

later in the same passage

"And we pray for this every day, for we need daily sanctification, so that we who fall away daily may wash away our sins by continual sanctification."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 37, page 8 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 5 OF 8

The holy mysteries feed our holiness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Liturgy of St. James thanks God for giving sanctification through sharing in Christ's body and blood. It also asks God to make soul, body and spirit holy so that worshippers may receive these mysteries worthily.

7 "O Lord, You have given us sanctification through sharing in the all-holy body and precious blood of Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 22, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 "Sanctify our souls, bodies, and spirits, so that we may become worthy to receive and share in Your holy mysteries, for the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Holiness includes the body, not just the soul

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says John's call to walk as the Lord walked includes keeping the flesh pure, as Christ's flesh was holy. Elsewhere he explains that the old man is crucified by a changed life: we die to sin, not to the body.

9 "But the flesh is taught sanctity, and in Christ it also was holy."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Monogamy* 3 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 "He means not a bodily structure, but moral behavior."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 47 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 8

Free obedience is part of being made holy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus points out that the apostle reminds believers they were washed and sanctified, then urges them to live as children of light. He says such advice only makes sense because God made people free to choose good. Hermas says the commandments can be kept when one resolves to keep them.

11 "But because humans have free will from the beginning, and God has free will, in whose likeness humans were created, advice is always given to them to hold on to the good, which is achieved through obedience to God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 "If you settle it in your mind that they can be kept, then you will keep them easily, and they will not be hard."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Love is what makes the elect perfect

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome says those who love in Christ keep His commandments. He teaches that love unites us to God and that by love all God's chosen ones have been made perfect.

13 "By love, all the elect of God have been made perfect; without love, nothing is well-pleasing to God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 46, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not settle whether a believer can reach complete holiness in this life.

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- They do not give a step-by-step order for growing in holiness.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 46 early Christian passages and 268 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–46, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 47–124, in Bible order), then 190 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *46 passages from 16 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 7) "shalt hate doing what is unpleasing to God: thou shalt hate all hypocrisy… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* "about the Sabbath in the Decalogue, which the Lord spoke directly to Moses on Mount Sinai, "And sanctify the Sabbath of the Lord with clean hands and a pure heart… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–6*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 7) "all will live to God who keep these commandments and walk in them… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (on point 7) them all to you, and I will show you whatever I mention in the course of our conversations. Keep the commandments of the Lord, and you will be approved and… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (on point 7) world that wears you out. And by putting on all the virtues of a holy life, you will be able to keep these commandments, and you will no longer add… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* **Quote 12, page 5** are great, good, and glorious, and they are able to make glad the heart of the person who can keep them. But I do not know whether a human being… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 7–11*

7 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 5, page 3** and a spiritual one, saying in the first Epistle to the Thessalonians, "Now the God of peace sanctify you completely, and may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved whole… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 7) the one who asked Him what he should do to inherit eternal life: "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." When asked, "Which ones?" the Lord again… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "honestly as children of the light, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in anger and jealousy… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 3) "now let us, receiving the Spirit, walk in newness of life, obeying God… [continues online] **read ›**

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11 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 6) The apostle, anticipating the wicked speeches of unbelievers, has specified the works he calls carnal. He clarifies this to leave no room for doubt for those who might twist his… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 12–15*

12 *Stromata* 2.22 (on point 7) “walk in my ordinances, and keep my commandments, so as to do the truth… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 4.12 (on point 6) for ours. To this point the divine apostle says: “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you should… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Stromata* 3 (on point 7) them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people," if we order our life by the commandments, whether each one of us… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Stromata* 7.14 (1885 English) “you are sanctified. For he who has come to this state is in a condition to be holy, falling into none of the passions in any way, but as it… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 16–19*

16 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 47 **Quote 10, page 4** He suffered. These must be the bodies that he urges the Romans to present as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. Romans 12:1. But how can it be… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *On Baptism* 4 (1885 English; on point 4) “being thus sanctified, they imbibe at the same time the power of sanctifying… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Against Praxeas* 12 (1885 English; on point 2) “the Spirit on the other, who was to sanctify man… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *On Monogamy* 3 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “elsewhere, again, (we read): Be holy, just as He withal was holy — in the flesh, namely… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 20–27*

20 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (on point 5) Your holy, pure, immortal, and heavenly mysteries, which You have given for our good and for the sanctification and salvation of our souls and bodies. We pray and beg You… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (on point 5) of Your wings, and count us worthy until our last breath to take part in Your holy rites for the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and for the inheritance… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 **Quote 7, page 4** Lord, You have given us sanctification through sharing in the all-holy body and precious blood of Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us also the grace… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** Lord, You have given us sanctification by letting us partake of the all-holy body and precious blood of Your only begotten Son. Give us the grace and gift of… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “sanctify our souls, bodies, and spirits, that we may become worthy communicants and partakers of Your holy mysteries, to the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Liturgy of Adaeus and Maris* 1 “He Himself, our Lord and God, came and taught us all purity and holiness… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “holy, highest, awe-inspiring God, who dwellest among the saints, sanctify us by the word of Your grace and by the inspiration of Your all-holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “holy Lord, who abides in holy places, sanctify us by the word of Your grace, and by the visitation of Your all-holy Spirit: for You, O Lord, have said… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 28*

28 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 “the soul, by her embrace being made one with wisdom, is filled with holiness and purity… [continues online] **read ›**

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Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 29–31*

29 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 **Quote 3, page 2** "and ignorance are cleansed and taken away, he may make so great an advance in holiness and purity that the nature he received from God may become worthy of Him… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (on point 2) by His word and reason, and by the Spirit of His mouth sanctifies all things that are worthy of sanctification, as it is written in the Psalm: "By the word… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Commentary on John* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "same is to be thought about sanctification and redemption… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 32–35*

32 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 **Quote 4, page 2** "He who has sanctified one sanctifies all things… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Declaration of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) "the Supplier, or Leader, of Sanctification; in whom is manifested God the Father, who is above all and in all, and God the Son, who is through all… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) "there is also the perfect Holy Spirit supplied of God through the Son to the sons of adoption, living and life-giving, holy and imparting holiness to those who partake… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (on point 4) "concerned, as the Gospel narrative records. He was baptized in the Jordan, not as receiving any sanctification for Himself, but as giving others a share in sanctification. He was tempted… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 36*

36 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 29 (on point 2) is the One who effects with water the second birth, as a certain seed of divine generation, and a consecration of a heavenly birth, the pledge of a promised inheritance… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 37–39*

37 *Treatises* **Quote 6, page 3** "Because He says, "Be holy, even as I am holy," Leviticus 20… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatises* (on point 4) grace in the heavenly home. Indeed, all who attain the divine gift and inheritance through the sanctification of baptism put off the old man in it by the grace of… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Epistles* (on point 4) "of the same name not have power in the laying on of hands, if, as they claim, it had power in the sanctifying of baptism? For if someone born outside… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 40–41*

40 *Apostolic Constitutions* separated us from fellowship with the ungodly, unite us with those who are consecrated to You in holiness. Confirm us in the truth by the help of Your Holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 6) "sanctify our body and soul, and grant us the favour to be made pure from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, 2 Corinthians 7:1 and may obtain the good… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 42–43*

42 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 7) "creatures that God made, He made very good. And He gave to each person the sense of free will. In keeping with that standard, He also established the law of… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 7) this fully agrees with the truth we have now learned: if a person succeeds in keeping the two commandments, he fulfills the whole law and the prophets. Moreover, Paul, the… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 44*

44 *Divine Institutes* 23 (on point 6) in it is every offense. For even if the body is stained with no defilement, the principle of purity still does not remain if the mind is impure. Nor can… [continues online] **read ›**

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Anonymous · *source 45*

45 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 4) of belief in the truth, and the putting away of every stain from one's former way of life, if it is rightly carried out with the mystery of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 46*

46 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 5** "him who has love in Christ keep the commandments of Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *78 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

47 **Exodus 20:8** Remember the day of the Sabbath, to keep it holy. **read ›**

48 **Exodus 29:36** You shall offer the calf of the sin offering on the day of cleansing, and you shall cleanse the altar when you perform the sanctification upon it, and you shall anoint it so as to sanctify it. **read ›**

49 **Exodus 29:37** For seven days you shall cleanse the altar and sanctify it, and the altar shall be most holy. Whoever touches the altar shall be sanctified. **read ›**

50 **Exodus 30:29** You shall sanctify them, and they shall be most holy; whoever touches them shall be sanctified. **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 8:11** and sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times. He anointed the altar and sanctified it and everything on it, and the washbasin and its base, and sanctified them. And he anointed the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and sanctified it. **read ›**

52 **Leviticus 10:10** to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 11:44** for I am the Lord your God. You shall be sanctified, and you shall be holy, because I the Lord your God am holy. And you shall not defile your souls with any of the creeping things that move on the earth, **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 19:2** "Speak to the congregation of the children of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. **read ›**

55 **Leviticus 19:37** So you shall keep all my law and all my statutes, and do them. I am the Lord your God." **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 20:7** You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 20:8** You shall keep my statutes and do them: I am the Lord who sanctifies you. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 20:26** You shall be holy to me, for I, the Lord your God, am holy, who separated you from all the nations to be mine. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 21:6** They shall be holy to their God and shall not profane the name of their God, for they offer the sacrifices of the Lord, the gifts of their God; and they shall be holy. **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 21:8** You shall sanctify him; he offers the gifts of the Lord your God. He shall be holy, for I, the Lord who sanctifies them, am holy. **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 21:22** He may eat the gifts of God, the most holy things, and of the holy things; **read ›**

62 **Leviticus 22:9** They shall keep my charges, so that they do not incur sin because of them and die because of them, if they profane them: I am the Lord God who sanctifies them. **read ›**

63 **Leviticus 22:31** You shall keep my commandments and do them. **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 22:32** You shall not profane the name of the Holy One, and I will be sanctified in the midst of the children of Israel. I am the Lord who sanctifies you, **read ›**

65 **Leviticus 26:2** You shall keep my Sabbaths and fear my holy places. I am the Lord. **read ›**

66 **Numbers 15:40** so that you may remember and do all my commandments, and you shall be holy to your God. **read ›**

67 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

68 **Deuteronomy 5:12** Observe the day of the Sabbath, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. **read ›**

69 **Deuteronomy 6:17** You shall surely keep the commandments of the Lord your God, the testimonies and the ordinances that he commanded you. **read ›**

70 **Deuteronomy 7:11** So you shall keep the commandments and the ordinances and these judgments that I command you today, to do them. **read ›**

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71 **Deuteronomy 8:6** And you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in his ways and to fear him. **read ›**

72 **Deuteronomy 10:13** to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his ordinances that I command you today, that it may be well with you? **read ›**

73 **Deuteronomy 28:9** May the Lord raise you up for himself as a holy people, as he swore to your fathers, if you listen to the voice of the Lord your God and walk in all his ways; **read ›**

74 **Joshua 7:13** Arise, sanctify the people, and tell them to sanctify themselves for tomorrow. Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The devoted thing is among you; you will not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove the devoted thing from among you.’ **read ›**

75 **1 Samuel 10:6** Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. **read ›**

76 **2 Samuel 22:26** With the holy you will be holy, and with the perfect man you will be perfect; **read ›**

77 **1 Kings 2:3** and keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his commandments and ordinances and judgments that are written in the law of Moses, so that you may understand what you do in all that I command you, **read ›**

78 **2 Chronicles 30:17** For a great part of the assembly had not purified themselves, and the Levites were to slaughter the Passover for every one who could not be purified for the Lord. **read ›**

79 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

80 **Ezra 7:11** And this is the account of the decree which Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the book of the words of the commandments of the Lord and of his statutes for Israel: **read ›**

81 **Ecclesiastes 2:16** For there is no remembrance of the wise man together with the fool forever, since already in the days that are coming all things are forgotten. And how will the wise man die together with the fool? **read ›**

82 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

83 **Jeremiah 17:26** And they will come from the cities of Judah and from around Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the land of the plain, and from the hill country, and from the south, bringing whole burnt offerings and sacrifices and incense and grain offerings and frankincense, bringing praise to the house of the Lord. **read ›**

84 **Jeremiah 50:12** your mother has been greatly ashamed; she who bore you for good things has been put to shame; she is the last of the nations, a desolate place, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:12 (Jeremiah 50:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

85 **Ezekiel 43:26** and they shall make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and they shall fill their hands. **read ›**

86 **Amos 1:5** And I will break the bars of Damascus, and utterly destroy the inhabitants from the plain of On, and cut off a tribe from the men of Haran; and the select people of Syria shall be taken captive, says the Lord. **read ›**

87 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

88 **Amos 5:19** It is as if a man should flee from the face of a lion, and a bear meet him; and he should rush into his house and lean his hands on the wall, and a serpent bite him. **read ›**

89 **Amos 6:10** and the rest shall be left behind; and their relatives shall take them, and shall press hard to carry their bones out of the house; and one shall say to those in charge of the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” And he shall say, “No one else.” And he shall say, “Be silent, so as not to name the name of the Lord.” **read ›**

90 **1 Esdras 7:11** and all the sons of the captivity together, for they were purified; for the Levites were all purified together. **read ›**

91 **Tobit 14:9** But you, keep the law and the statutes, and be merciful and just, that it may go well with you. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:5** For the holy Spirit of discipline will flee from deceit, and will withdraw from foolish thoughts, and will be rebuked when unrighteousness comes in. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:19** he will take holiness as an invincible shield, **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:10** For those who keep holy things in holiness will be made holy, and those who have been taught them will find a defense. **read ›**

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96 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:19** and incorruption brings one near to God; **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:15** If you are willing, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is of your own good will. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 33:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:4** In his faithfulness and meekness he sanctified him; he chose him out of all flesh. **read ›**

100 **1 Maccabees 1:46** and to defile the sanctuary and the holy ones; **read ›**

101 **2 Maccabees 2:16** Since, then, we are about to celebrate the purification, we have written to you; you will do well, therefore, to keep the days. **read ›**

102 **2 Maccabees 12:45** And then, looking to the most splendid reward laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness—a holy and godly thought—he therefore made atonement for the dead, that they might be released from their sin. **read ›**

103 **2 Maccabees 14:36** So now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep undefiled forever this house that has so recently been purified." **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 17:18** Because of that endurance they now stand beside the divine throne and live the blessed age. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 17:20** These, then, having been sanctified for God's sake, have been honored, not only with this honor, but also in that through them our nation was not overcome by its enemies, **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 51:2** And he shall choose the righteous and holy from among them; for the day has drawn near that they should be saved. **read ›**

108 **John 17:17** Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. **read ›**

109 **John 17:19** For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. **read ›**

110 **Acts 8:13** Simon himself also believed, and after being baptized he stayed with Philip. Seeing miracles and signs taking place, he was amazed. **read ›**

111 **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and pleasing and perfect. **read ›**

112 **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God. **read ›**

113 **1 Corinthians 7:14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. **read ›**

114 **2 Corinthians 7:1** Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **read ›**

115 **1 Thessalonians 4:7** For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification. **read ›**

116 **1 Thessalonians 5:23** May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**

117 **1 Timothy 4:5** For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer. **read ›**

118 **Hebrews 2:11** For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers, **read ›**

119 **Hebrews 10:10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **read ›**

120 **Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. **read ›**

121 **1 Peter 1:2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. **read ›**

122 **1 Peter 1:15** but just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior, **read ›**

123 **1 Peter 1:16** because it is written: Be holy, for I am holy. **read ›**

124 **1 John 3:3** Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *190 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:3 · 2:1 · 3:23

Exodus 7:7 · 20:7 · 25:11

Deuteronomy 21:13

Psalms 33:6 · 90:4

Proverbs 8:22 · 19:17 · 31:8

Isaiah 1:13 · 53:4

Jeremiah 17:16

Malachi 1:11

Matthew 4:10 · 5:8 · 5:21 · 5:22 · 5:27 · 5:32 · 5:42 · 6:24 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 9:29 · 10:10 · 10:20 · 16:6 · 18:10 · 18:23 · 19:12 · 19:30 · 20:16 · 21:9 · 21:23 · 21:31 · 21:32 · 22:13 · 22:21 · 23:27 · 25:25 · 25:35 · 25:41 · 27:46

Mark 2:19 · 3:28 · 9:23 · 12:41 · 13:32 · 14:27

Luke 1:46 · 2:14 · 3:11 · 6:30 · 6:46 · 7:18 · 10:18 · 10:19 · 10:30 · 14:11 · 14:33 · 15:22 · 17:7

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:9 · 1:14 · 1:18 · 2:6 · 3:3 · 5:30 · 8:44 · 11:33 · 12:27 · 13:21 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 15:15 · 15:20 · 15:26 · 16:13 · 17:22 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 2:17 · 2:30 · 2:37 · 4:12 · 8:9 · 8:17 · 8:26 · 9:20

Romans 2:4 · 2:14 · 2:29 · 3:29 · 5:4 · 5:20 · 5:21 · 6:2 · 6:3 · 6:5 · 6:6 · 6:13 · 6:22 · 7:7 · 7:17 · 7:18 · 7:20 · 8:2 · 8:6 · 8:7 · 8:9 · 8:10 · 8:29 · 12:1 · 12:3 · 12:10 · 12:13 · 13:12

1 Corinthians 1:21 · 2:6 · 2:12 · 2:15 · 3:3 · 5:11 · 6:9 · 7:18 · 7:25 · 7:40 · 9:20 · 10:5 · 11:1 · 11:10 · 12:3 · 12:4 · 12:6 · 12:8 · 12:11 · 13:4 · 14:32 · 15:44 · 15:48 · 15:55

2 Corinthians 4:13 · 6:5 · 6:16 · 10:5 · 11:2 · 11:3 · 11:27 · 12:9 · 13:3

Galatians 2:8 · 2:12 · 2:19 · 5:17 · 5:19

Ephesians 4:5 · 4:6 · 5:6 · 6:9

Philippians 3:20

1 Thessalonians 4:3

2 Thessalonians 1:9

1 Timothy 2:2 · 4:1 · 5:10 · 6:16

2 Timothy 3:2

Hebrews 4:14 · 4:15 · 6:9 · 6:11 · 13:2

James 1:8 · 1:27 · 5:19

1 Peter 2:11 · 2:23 · 3:20 · 4:8

2 Peter 3:16

1 John 2:6 · 5:1 · 5:6

Revelation 5:8

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about sanctification?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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