

JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

This treatise on justification and sanctification was written by Ivan Cornia; with the caveat that though it is what he believes, it should not be accepted as doctrine unless and until the Holy Spirit confirms its truthfulness.

Robert Fitt, editor

Christ, because of the atonement, laid up a vast store of grace that is at his disposal to use in any way he wishes. Let's see if we can determine how he uses this grace to justify us:

Let us suppose that you and I are struggling as we try to do something that is impossible without the Lord's help. The Lord looks down and sees that we have done everything in our power to achieve it; and because we have reached the full limit of our potential, and still fall short, Christ empowers the Holy Ghost to reach into his storehouse. A ladder of grace is taken from the storehouse and we are allowed to climb that ladder to reach a righteous—but otherwise impossible—goal. Christ's act of empowerment is called justification. Let's look at an example:

Let's say that a group of young people has gone on an outing in the mountains. The trail is difficult for everyone; but a lone young woman who is in a wheelchair tenaciously climbs—with the others—to the base of a ten-foot cliff. The other young people, in the excitement of the climb, forget that Susan is struggling with her wheelchair somewhere behind. Using the handholds in the stone, they climb the face of the cliff and reach the lush plateau above. While there are handholds enough in the stone for hands and feet to find their way, Susan cannot use them; for her legs, and one arm, are amputated. She is at the mercy of circumstance, and is totally alone, and is unable to progress any further without help.

Jesus Christ, through the atonement, has laid up a vast store of grace that is at His disposal to use in any way He wishes. Let's see if we can determine how he uses this grace to justify us:

Let's say that Jesus Christ is fully aware of Susan's dilemma—and that He is mindful that she had done everything she can possibly do to reach her goal. He then reaches out to the Holy Ghost and says something like this: "Susan is in trouble; get the forklift of grace from my storehouse and help Susan reach the plateau she seeks."

Christ, then, has empowered the Holy Ghost to use pure grace to lift Susan to her goal, despite her inability to do so by herself. This empowerment is called justification. The gift is called grace.

Sanctification occurs when the Holy Ghost enters the body of an individual, in person, to fully cleanse them of their sins and make them pure and holy.