



He Chose the Nails Viewer Guide

Session 4: He Chose to Love Us Forever

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?

Receiving the Gift of Sanctification

2. We all come to God in unique ways – some as children, others as adults; some through the intensity of a crisis, others through the quiet routines of life; some at a specific point in time, others during a broader season of life. Overall, how would you describe the journey that brought you to the cross?
 - a. How would you characterize the role your conversion experience plays in your life with God in this season of your life? For example, if you’ve been a Christian for many years, it may be that you don’t think of it or perhaps it takes it for granted. If you’re a new believer, it may be a daily source of joy, gratitude, and strength.
3. Max described two kinds of sanctification: *positional sanctification*, which is God’s work for us; and *progressive sanctification*, which is God’s work in us.

Positional Sanctification (Justification)	Progressive Sanctification (Transformation)
A legal standing	An internal condition
Once for all time	Continuous throughout life
Entirely God’s work	We cooperate
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

- a. Of the five contrasts on the chart, which do you find most helpful or clarifying? Share the reasons for your response.

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- b. In what ways, if any, would you say we sometimes confuse the two?
 - c. How would you describe the potential outcome of neglecting either one?
4. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT “And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image” The root of the Greek word Paul uses for *changed* is *metamorphoo*, which is also the source of the English word *metamorphosis*. A metamorphosis is a complete and profound change that happens through growth. In the natural world, metamorphosis is what occurs when a tadpole becomes a frog or a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.
- a. The kind of life-changing metamorphosis implies is radical – from one form into another – but it is also gradual. What makes this kind of radical-gradual spiritual growth uniquely challenging?
 - b. What desires or hopes does the promise of metamorphosis stir in you? For example, in what ways do you long for your life to be brighter, more beautiful?
 - c. The process of change can be discouraging because we can’t always see it when we’re in the midst of it. As you reflect on your life with God, what is one gradual but significant change you’ve experienced over time, and what insights might this experience provide as an encouragement for any gradual changes you’re working through now?
5. Wilard describes some of the characteristics of children of light:

Whenever they are found to be in the wrong, they will never defend it – neither to themselves nor to others, much less to God. They are thankful to be found out. They do not feel they are missing out on something good by sinning. They are not disappointed and do not feel deprived. [They are] mainly governed by the pull of the

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good. Their energy is not invested in not doing what is wrong, but in doing what is good. Life in the path of rightness becomes easy and joyous.

- a. Take a moment to think of anyone you know in whom you have observed one or more of the four characteristics Willard describes. What specifically did you observe about that person? How did his or her life demonstrate the fruit of light – all that is good and right and true?
- b. Recall a recent time when you were found to be in the wrong. In what ways, if any, did you defend yourself – to yourself, to others, or to God? Or, how did you respond with gratitude at being found out?
- c. Which of the four characteristics Willard describes do you feel most intrigued by or drawn to? Share your reasons for your response.