BE SET APART By The Spirit

SECTION 1:

A Story of Being Set Apart

Read Acts 9:1-22

Saul, also known as Paul, was an enemy of the early church. He was a Jew who was convinced that believing in Jesus as Messiah was blasphemy. He set out to do everything in his power to destroy what he considered to be a false religious sect. This included hunting people down, having them arrested and bringing them before Jewish religious authorities.

While on one of his “headhunting” journeys he was confronted by Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus told Saul that it ultimately was Him, not His followers, that he was attacking and resisting, and that Jesus had been “goading” or urging Paul to see his error and embrace his need for putting faith in Jesus as the Christ.

Realizing his sin and deception, Saul repented and believed on Jesus as Messiah, Savior and Lord. He was marvelously converted, born again by the Holy Spirit, surrendered to the plans and purposes of God for his life. He was instructed by the Lord to go to a city called Damascus and wait for further instructions.

In Damascus there was a dedicated disciple of Christ named Ananias. He was instructed by the Lord to seek Saul out and to help him to receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. He was told that Saul had been “chosen,” or set apart by God for a specific life and ministry. He was told that Paul would be divinely led before all kinds of people to give witness to the resurrected Jesus.

Ananias obeyed the Lord and found Saul. When he laid his hands on him he was healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. He was then baptized in water as a sign of his new life in Christ, being set apart from sin, and set apart for God’s righteous, eternal will for his life.

Immediately he began to preach the gospel of Christ and to grow in his calling from God. Saul was no longer his own man. He now belonged to Jesus. The Holy Spirit, who had filled him, also set him apart to fulfill his destiny in Christ. From that day forward Saul always saw himself as a “chosen vessel,” separated for the Master’s use.

“Sanctification is both a matter of position and progression. We are sanctified because Jesus Christ has saved us and yet sanctification continues to work within to transform us unto the likeness of Christ. Sanctification is the responsibility of every believer in Christ. When we choose to pursue sanctification in our life, positive growth occurs. The pursuit of it involves the surrender of the body and the will to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It takes time and is a work in progress that cannot be hurried. Like a newborn baby that gradually matures unto adulthood, so is the work of sanctification in the life of a new believer. The work of sanctification will ultimately be completed in every believer’s life when Jesus Christ returns. This is the hope of every Christian.”

So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy." You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living. Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

2 “A Heart That is Set Apart for God,” Martha Noeble, Staff Writer, 2011 CBN, Inc.
3 AllAboutFollowingJesus.org
4 1 Peter 1:13-19 (The Message)
SECTION 5:

The Marks of Maturing

These are the Marks of Maturing as someone who is set apart by the Spirit. How well do they describe you? Use the journal pages provided to write your response.

- A disciple is someone who has been set apart by God. As a disciple, you let the Holy Spirit convict you of sin, lead you in truth and transform your heart, mind and life.

- A disciple is someone who is called and is well able, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a life set apart, holy and pleasing to our Father and Savior.

- A disciple is someone who is called to offer your life as a living sacrifice, not living by his/her preferences, or desires, but living holy, set apart through faith and obedience.

SECTION 6:

Go Further

Here are some additional readings for you as you are set apart by the Spirit:

- “What a wonderful Sanctifier the Holy Spirit is! How many have found that when they have received the fullness of the Spirit the things of the world and of the flesh have simply dropped off! There is what has been called ‘the expulsive power of a new affection.’ When the Spirit fills the heart there is little relish for that which is displeasing to the Lord. ‘Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.’ (Gal. 5:16).” Guy P. Duffield and N. M. Van Cleave, Foundations of Pentecostal Theology, pages 243-244.

- “To be set apart means that God has His hand on you for a specific purpose. He’ll use other people to get you on track--in addition to dreams, visions, and that “still small voice” of God…. It means to be

1 Leviticus 20:7-8, Exodus 31:13
work in your life should be that of submission and yieldedness. You must live a holy, set apart life by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is holy and calls you to live the same.

Because you are set apart by the Spirit, you can fulfill the Lord’s will for your life right where you are because it’s where He has placed you. When you are set apart from the world’s ways of being, doing and thinking, you bring glory to the Lord. You are set apart because you are a part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people!

**How do we become set apart by the Spirit?**

*Read Romans 12:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:2-4*

You are unable to be set apart without the power of the Holy Spirit. Your part is to believe and obey the revealed will of the Lord by the power of the Spirit. His Spirit does the work in you--convicting, revealing, leading and guiding you into the truth--which transforms you and sets you free.

You are called to offer your life as a living sacrifice, not living by your preferences or desires, but living through faith and obedience. The Bible says this is the only reasonable way to live. You surrender your heart and your mind to the Lord, daily, moment-by-moment. He does the sanctifying work from there.

God has already given you all things you need for life and godliness. He has given it through His Son and through the baptism with the Holy Spirit. His Spirit empowers you, and you are a partaker of the divine nature, His nature. You are called and well able, by the power of His Holy Spirit, to live a life set apart, holy and pleasing to the Father.

Take 10 minutes and examine your life. Do you believe you are set apart? Do you live a holy life by choosing to obey God over what you prefer or over what the culture tells you? Do you submit to the Holy Spirit and do what He leads you to do? Journal your responses as you consider these questions.

**SECTION 4:**

**The Discussion**

Use the journal pages provided to write your response to each of these questions in preparation for a group discussion.

Are you set apart from all common, profane and unholy things, separating yourself from the ways of the world? What areas of your life do you need to bring into alignment with God’s call to live a holy, sanctified life? Share these areas with your discipleship small group.

Do you view yourself as a temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you completely submitted and yielded to the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit? If not, in what areas do you need to be fully submitted to the leading of the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be part of a royal priesthood and bring glory to God in and through your life?

Are you presently believing and obeying the revealed will of the Lord by the power of the Spirit? Are you surrendering your heart and your mind to the Lord daily and moment-by-moment? Take time to pray over each member of your discipleship small group, believing that the Holy Spirit will transform you and set you free in Him. Remember, it is the power of His Holy Spirit that helps you to live a life set apart, holy and pleasing to the Father.
SECTION 3:

The Memorizing of Scripture

Follow these guidelines as you commit 2 Timothy 2:20-21 to memory.

1. Set aside the time you need each day to memorize scripture.
2. Pray and ask the Lord to help you commit scripture to memory.
3. In addition to the help you’ll receive from the Holy Spirit (John 14:26), the key to memorization is repetition, repetition, repetition!
4. After locating the scripture in your Bible, read out loud through the chapter and, if helpful, the book where the scripture is found so that you understand the context of the scripture.
5. Speak the scripture aloud several times, saying the scripture reference before and after.
6. You may find it helpful to break up the scripture into smaller portions, repeating those portions by themselves, and then putting them together. Or you might utilize the help of 3x5 note cards or sticky notes to write out the scriptures so that you can keep them before you each day.
7. Once you have memorized a scripture, dedicate yourself to living what the scripture says, as well as sharing the scripture with those in your sphere of influence.

What have you been set apart to do? If you’re unsure, take time to pray and ask God to show you—through the Holy Spirit—what you are set apart to do for His Kingdom. Using the journal pages provided, write down what the Holy Spirit reveals to you.

As you are filled with the Spirit on a daily basis, make a conscious choice to live as a person who has been set apart. Ask God to show you any areas in your life that may be blocking the advance of the Kingdom of God through you. As He reveals things to you, repent for partnering with those blockages and renew your commitment to do what you have been set apart to do, living the holy life He has called you to.
SECTION 2:

The Study

This inductive Bible study will help you respond in obedience to the truth of God’s Word. Use the Inductive Bible Study Guidelines for Examine, Express and Exercise at the beginning of your handbook and the worksheets provided on the next pages to help you. As you look at each passage of scripture below, examine what it says, express what it means, and consider how you will exercise it in your life.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-19, write it down using the journal pages provided, and specifically follow the instructions at the beginning of your handbook entitled “Inductive Bible Study Guidelines: EXAMINE.”

Now read these scriptures aloud and declare your commitment to their truth in your life. Use the worksheets provided to rewrite these scriptures in your own words.

Write down 2-3 action steps that you will take based on the truth of 1 Peter 1:13-19 using the journal pages provided.
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Here are some additional readings for you as you are set apart by the Spirit:

“The Spirit knows who you are meant to be and what you are meant to do in Christ’s Kingdom. Your response to the Spirit’s

The Definition

What does it mean to be set apart by the Spirit?


When the Holy Spirit comes into your life, He sets you apart from the world. This is also known as being sanctified. The word in Hebrew that describes being set apart is “qados” [ka-dose]; and in Greek, the words are “hagios” [ha-gee-ose] and “eklektos” [eh-klek-tose]. The beauty of these different words is that they all mean the same thing: holy, sanctified, set apart, chosen, a separation of a holy person or thing from that which is profane. God is holy, which means He is set apart from all common, profane and unholy things. His Spirit coming to dwell in us makes us holy.

To be set apart means you live a holy life. To live a holy life is to do the will of God as revealed in His Word and by His Spirit, because they are always in agreement. Being set apart is separating yourself from the ways of the world--the way it thinks, works and acts. You choose to believe and obey God over what you prefer and what the culture tells you. You let His Holy Spirit convict you of sin, lead you in truth and transform your heart and mind, and therefore, your life.

You are set apart to live a holy life and to advance the Kingdom through the baptizing, daily filling and power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do I need to be set apart by the Spirit?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:11-20, 1 Peter 1:15-16 and 1 Peter 2:9-10

In the Old Testament, the Lord is described as Yahweh M’kaddesh, the One who exhorts and commands you to be holy and set apart. He is the One who sanctifies you. You are set apart for Him and by Him.

You are also the temple of the Holy Spirit. God dwells within you! You are called to a holy work—the work of the King and His Kingdom. The Spirit knows who you are meant to be and what you are meant to do in Christ’s Kingdom. Your response to the Spirit’s

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LESSON 3

BE SET APART By The Spirit

SECTION 1:

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marked by God for a particular purpose. He guides our lives differently than it might have been had we not submitted to His call. And even though it may appear that we are not in ministry, we are marked by God to minister in the day-to-day living. Because He has set us apart, we are already walking into our destinies... Even though we may feel as if we are put on a shelf and forgotten, we have been set apart for the call of God on our lives. It is during these times that we will find ourselves spending quality time with God as He molds and makes us into His image. He will build character in us so that when it is time to go on the frontlines, He knows we will be ready. He will be able to trust us with what has been appointed for us to do.”

“So Sanctification is both a matter of position and progression. We are sanctified because Jesus Christ has saved us and yet sanctification continues to work within to transform us unto the likeness of Christ. Sanctification is the responsibility of every believer in Christ. When we choose to pursue sanctification in our life, positive growth occurs. The pursuit of it involves the surrender of the body and the will to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It takes time and is a work in progress that cannot be hurried. Like a newborn baby that gradually matures unto adulthood, so is the work of sanctification in the life of a new believer. The work of sanctification will ultimately be completed in every believer’s life when Jesus Christ returns. This is the hope of every Christian.”

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