

southcitychurch

The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification (**Gal 5:17**) and seeks to produce his fruit in us (**Gal 5:22-23**) as our minds are renewed and we are conformed (**Rom 12:1-2**) to the image of Christ (**Rom 8:29-30**). Though indwelling sin remains a reality (**Rom 7:22-24**, 8:13; **1 Jn 1:8-9**) as we are led by the Spirit (**Rom 8:14**; **Gal 5:18**) we grow in the knowledge of the Lord (**Eph 1:17**, 4:13; **Col 1:10**, 2:2; **2 Pet 1:3,6**), freely keeping his commandments (**Ps 40:8**; **Jn 14:15**, 21; **Phil 4:8** **1 Jn 5:3**) and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven (**Matt 5:16**). All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith, knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word, and deed (**Matt 12:36-37**; **Rom 14:12**; **Heb 4:13**; **1 Pet 4:4-5**). The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard (**Acts 2:41-42**, 13:2; Jam 5:16). Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve his people until the end, which is most certain (**1 Pet 1:3-7**).

IMPLICATIONS:

The Holy Spirit is active in the lives of believers conforming us to be like Jesus. Because the Holy Spirit is at work, we also work. We respond to the work of the Spirit, by exerting ourselves through the spiritual disciplines, that by any means possible we may become more and more like Christ. While there is no perfection this side of the second coming, we make step by step progress, and look forward to the day God himself will transform our lowly bodies and make us like Christ.