



"You will know them by their fruits." Mt. 7:16

Hello!

First off, thank you! I started reading your book ("How to Enter His Rest"), was convicted and that night fully consecrated myself and received sanctification. :) I had always believed in full sanctification, but didn't know that the cleaning of the heart can happen in a very short period (I had thought it would take years).

I was saved only a month before this sanctification, and in my justification some of the toughest sins that I was struggling with were instantly removed... So my attitude changed a bit, and thus welcomed this book with a warm embrace. I finished your book and learned tons about faith, and always leaning on Christ. Thank you for compiling all these writings, updating the language, and adding some of your own!

Love in Christ,
Samuel Weber

After receiving this laconic email message I asked Samuel for more info and shortly received this:

----- Original Message -----

From: "Samuel Stephen Weber" <ssweber@gmail.com>

Dearest Tom,

I am 18 years old, just recently graduated from High School. I have been raised in a Christian home by very loving parents. I have 9 siblings :) I went to public school up till 7th grade, when my parents pulled me out and homeschooled me. In 9th grade I started attending a Co-op -type tutoring thing 2 days a week, which had a very strong emphasis on what they call "The Biblical Worldview" which has no real power to change your life, but it got me truly interested in Christianity. I came under the influence of one of my teachers, who held a theology study each Monday morning, and events at his house every other Friday.

This was one of the first people I had met who seemed to really eat and breathe Christianity, so I eagerly accepted what I was hearing. Basically he is a Calvinist+Dispensationalist, but for some reason I only accepted the Calvinism part (it was well argued with many Proof-texts, which could fool my shallow bible understanding, the Dispensationalism never got me because I could remember many verses in the New Testament about the Church being the spiritual Jews.) Anyway, my dad laughed at me when I tried to convince him of Calvinism (He told me I was trying to convince him of an awfully cruel God), and that sort of set me to rejecting the whole thing. I'm glad I did. My dad went to Asbury seminary, but isn't in ministry as a job. (If you ever have a chance, take a look at his study on the Church "Can You Imagine -Discovering a Plan for the Church in the New Testament Scriptures" by R. G. Weber - at www.heartsburning.com)

In 11th grade I did a research paper on the Anabaptists, whose testimony has really stuck with me. This along with a friends' prodding got me to rethink what Jesus was really all about, and to start taking his commands in the gospel at their face value, rather than writing them off. I found testimonies of figures from the Early Church and many other amazing testimonies of Christian movements in my studies, and have learned a lot from them.

For a while I was falling away from Orthodox Christianity, belief wise... delving into strange doctrines promoted by this group or that group, really all in the pursuit of "Who is this Jesus?" and attempting to answer the question "Who are the best followers of Jesus?" I wanted to just leave everything (materially) and just "follow Jesus" and obey all His commands (like a social gospeler)... but I knew that simply obeying his social commands could not fix the remaining problems in my heart: my sin was really the problem, and that fellowship with Jesus was what I desperately wanted. I read about the Early Methodists, the Moravians, etc... all who had taken Jesus seriously, but

also were holy people in their daily lives. I could go for a week or two without sinning, but I couldn't overcome it. I gave up movies, TV, cut back on going out to eat, etc. But still I was in sin.

One night I broke down after willfully sinning one last time, and was humbled, and just admitted to God that I was a slave to sin, that I needed mercy. The next week I found that I WAS free from this sin (sexual lusts and such) and that my other big one (spiritual pride) was gone as well. The website www.christourlife.ca (I listened to basically all the material on there) really helped me in believing that I no longer had to willfully sin since Jesus had taken away my sin.

So I had found what Jesus was: The Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world! And that He was all about walking on the highway of holiness.

But this wasn't enough for me, because there still seemed to be other sin in me, and I wanted it gone -That's when I stumbled upon your site :) And pretty soon received my sanctification.

The following week I did things I shouldn't have done, like doubting the experience, and testing to see what my mind could and couldn't think (amazingly God kept me from the bad -simply out of his abundant grace) Then I finished your book, and was corrected in much of my thinking!

My justification was the 16th of last month (April, 2007), my sanctification was on the 13th of May 2007 :)

I still need to learn, experience, and grow a lot though!

I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. I'm still praying for direction about what to do next year. I haven't applied to any colleges or anything: I just want to serve God in whatever He has for me!

Love in Christ,

Sam

..... So Samuel is the 5th of ten, and is working for the summer in his father's small plant in Ohio which manufactures special footwear for concrete workers. He is eighteen and has just finished high school.

We spoke on the phone today for an hour. I did most of the talking, but it was easy to tell that he is certainly quite a together young man.

He is in His Rest -but is not Spirit-filled yet. His dad (50) seems to be quite a serious seeker also. Sam helped put together his dad's website and helped edit his writing too. He seems to be quite computer-savvy and uses Linux at home.

Note: It has been widely attested that home-schooled kids often excel since they are allowed to think and seek for themselves instead of for the mob. They have the time and independence to search. Ivy League colleges consistently seek them out since they often excel so much that they raise the standards at the college.

Yours in His Service;

Tom Plumb

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