



BEING PERFECT

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Matthew 5:48 Jesus says, be ye therefore perfect, as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” We hear so many people today make excuses for sinning, saying that “we are only human, we’re not perfect and that there is no way that we can control our fleshly nature and never make a mistake”. If this is how you feel then this study is for you. The first thing that we must do is to define, and get an understanding of, and then investigate the context of how the word perfect is used.

The definitions of perfect in Hebrew are (1) **Tamiym** = entire, also integrity, truth, without blemish, complete, full, sincerely, sound, without spot, undefiled, upright, and whole. (2) **Shalem** = complete, especially friendly, full, just, made ready, peaceable, quiet. (3) **Miklah** = completion, and wholly. (4) **Gamar** = prime root of word = to end (in the sense of completion or failure) – cease, come to an end, fail, and perform. (5) **Tam** = complete, pious, gentle, dear – coupled together, plain, undefiled, upright. (6) **Tamam** = prime root of word = to complete, in a good or bad sense, accomplish, cease, to be clean, passed, consumed, have done (come to an end, make an end), fail, come to the full, be all gone, be all here, be a spent sum, to show self upright, be wasted, whole. (7) **Tom** = completeness, prosperity, usually morally, innocence – full, integrity, simplicity, uprightness. (8) **Takiyth** = completion, extremity –end. (9) **Kuwn** = prime root of word = to be erect (i.e. Stand perpendicular); to set up, establish, fix, prepare, apply, appoint, render sure, proper or prosperous: - certain, confirm, direct, faithfulness, fashion, fasten, firm, stand, to be ready and make ready. (10) **Shalam** = prime root of word = to be safe (in mind, body, or a state), to be complete, to be friendly, to reciprocate – to make amends, finish, full, give again, make good, repay again, make to be at peace, perform, make prosperous, recompense, reader, restore, restitution, and reward. (11) **Kahyl** = complete, the whole, specifically a sacrifice, entirely consumed, flame, whole burnt, offering, sacrifice wholly. (12) **Kalal** = prime root of word = to complete.

The Greek definitions of perfect are: (1) **akrebiair** = exactness perfect manner, (1 John 3:2). (2) **Arteeos** = fresh (by implication), completer (2 Corinthians 7:1). (3) **Epeeteleho** = to fulfill farther or completely, execute, by implication to terminate, undergo = accomplish, do, finish (1 Corinthians 1:8) (4) **katartidzo** = to complete thoroughly, repair, mend, restore, adjust, or to make fit. (1 Peter 5:10). (5) **Holokleria** = integrity, i.e. physical wholeness, (Acts 3:16). (6) **Telios** = complete, growth, mental and moral character, completeness = of full aged man, mature, (Matthew 5:48). (7) **pleroo** = to make replete, to cram, level up, to furnish or imbue, defuse, influence, satisfy, execute in office, finish a period or task, verify or coincide with a prediction, accomplish, alter, be complete, end, expire, fill up, fulfill, fully preach, supply (Revelation 3:2). (8) **Akribos** = exactly circumspectly, diligently, (Acts 24:22).

After going over the definitions, one can see that the word perfect means more than never making a mistake or being flawless, when it concerns man. **1 Kings 8:46** tells us, "There is no one that does not sin". **Romans 8:7-8** tells us that, man in his un-regenerated, unborn again nature, is born into sin and it is impossible for him, while in his depraved state, to ever be perfect in the sight of God. **Romans 6:20** says, "We were slaves to sin, and we were free from being righteous". So why would Jesus command us to do something that is impossible? Is God looking for a way to punish us? One might ask.

To answer the first question, let us read, **Matthew 19:26** "with men this is impossible but with God all things are possible". Jesus spoke these words in response to the disciples cry of despair "who then can be saved?" (**Matthew 19:25**). The disciples just heard a rich man proclaim that he had perfectly observed all of the laws since his youth, yet Jesus told him that with his best efforts of earning righteousness, that all he possibly could do, wasn't good enough for him to make it into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus, who came in the form of a man, to be perfect for man, so that he could redeem man from the state that all men had fallen into. He observed this man claiming to be perfect by keeping the law and by good works apart from him. **Romans 3:19-20** says, "now we know that whatever the Law says it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that (the murmurs and excuses of) every mouth may be hushed, and all the world may be held accountable to God. For no person will be justified-made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable-in His sight by observing the words prescribed by the Law. For (the real function of) the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin (not mere prescription, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character)." Jesus in **John 15:5** says, "For apart from Me you can do nothing". The purpose of the Law, was to let us know what sin was and to show man that there was not any way that man in his fleshly, sinful-nature could be perfectly observing the Laws obtain righteousness. If there was, then Jesus would not had to have come to redeem man. Jesus saw that the man was lacking, he knew that the word in **Psalms 53:2, 3** said that, "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if any does good". After making the search He declared, "every one of them has gone back; they are altogether become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one". When he looked upon the man with his perfect and holy eyes, he discovered what the man had lacked. The man was caught up in who he was and what had in the world's system, instead of seeking first the kingdom of God, **Matthew 6:33**. The word says in **1 John 2:15**, "do not love the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Know you that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will a friend of the world is the enemy of God." **James 4:4**. When Jesus told the man, "If you would be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give to the poor, then you shall have treasures in heaven, and come follow me." **Matthew 19:21**. The same condition remain today for us, we must be willing to detach ourselves from, and give up anything that Christ asks of us to be able to follow Him. Many of us like this man. The bible says, "when the young man heard this, he went away sad (grieved and in such distress) for he had great possessions", **Matthew 19:22**, we feel that we want to follow Christ with all of our hearts but it is actually only with all our "head" (feelings, emotions, and intellect). But God searches the heart and when He asks us to give up things (habits, feelings, friends, hurts, profession and finances etc) we don't obey and try to look for a compromise (a way to obey God, and yet hold on to the things that we have grown accustomed to). Anything that we hold with the same value that we hold God- something that you just cannot give up, not even for God: something that you would rather hang onto rather than having a true fellowship with god- these things are considered idolatry, **Colossians 3:5**. So there is no way we can serve God

and things. No matter how often you go to church, pay your tithes, or how holy you appear before men, if you are not walking in complete obedience, just like the rich man, you too are lacking.

Jesus is perfection, and only way that can be perfect is to abide in Him and His perfection. Just like He told the rich man, you must come and follow Me. Meaning, He is the only one that walked in full perfection while here on earth, and that everyone else had to follow (not lead) the way that He alone paved so that we could be considered perfect. **John 14:6** says, "I am the way, the Truth, and the Life, no one can come to the Father except by Me." "If anyone enters any other way, he is a thief and a robber". **John 10:8**. Jesus is all mankind's justification. Which means to restore man back to God just as if he never had sinned. So that He could give us His righteousness. Which is, a right standing with God. **Ephesians 2:8** says, "For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through (your) faith. And this (salvation) is not of yourselves-of your own doing, it came not through your own striving-but it is a gift of God". This is a gift given to us by the grace of God, it cannot be earned. It must be accepted, **Romans 3:24**. The most that we could do is to have this gift bestowed upon us so that we can be considered perfect in fellowship with Christ. He is the only one that is flawless, blameless, that never makes a mistake. All that we can do is to allow Him to perfect us. **1 Peter 5:10** tells us, His method of perfecting us when it says, "and after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace-who imparts all blessing and favor-who called you to His (own) eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself perfect and make you what you ought to be, and establish and ground you securely and strengthen (and settle) you". The Greek word, **katartidzo**, meaning to complete thoroughly, repair, mend, restore, adjust, or to make fit, is used to describe the word perfect. This is what Paul meant when he wrote to the Philippians saying, "and I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ- right up to the time of His return-developing (that good work) and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you" **Philippians 1:6**. the Greek word **telios**, means to complete, accomplish, consummate in character, consecrate, finish, fulfill, make perfect is the word that is used to describe the ongoing process that Christ is constructing in us. **Ephesians 2:10** says, "For we are God's (own) handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, (born anew) that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us, (taking paths which He prepared ahead of time) that we should walk in them-living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live".

In **Romans 3:5-7** Paul asks the second question for us when he asks, "but if our unrighteousness thus establishes and exhibits the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust and wrong to inflict His wrath upon us?" then Paul goes on, and answers the question by stating, "by no means! Otherwise how could God judge the world? But (you say), if through my falsehood, God's integrity is magnified and advertised and abounds to His glory, why am I still being judged as a sinner?" we know that the word is true when it says "since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives",

Romans 3:23. But God is greater than our shortcomings. "But God! So rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, even when we were dead (slain) by (our own) shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ. He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him. (For) it is by grace- by His favor and mercy

which you did not deserve-that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers in Christ's salvation). He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in kindness and goodness of heart towards us in Christ Jesus" **Ephesians 2:4, 5, 7**. His provisions was so much greater, when He supplied us with everything that we would ever need to be able to come back to, and walk before Him without being consumed or condemned in union with Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:18, 19, 21**, saying "but all things are from God, who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself (received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself) and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation-that by word indeed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him. It was God (personally present) in Christ reconciling and perfecting the world to favor with Himself not counting up and holding against (men) their trespasses (but canceling them); and committing to us the message of reconciliation-of the restoration in favor. For our sake He made Christ (virtually) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become (endued with, viewed as in and examples of) the righteousness of God- what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right perfect relationship with Him, by His goodness." We see that God perfected us all. But the catch is, only in our spiritual relationship with Christ and His perfect life can we achieve perfection. Paul outlines this spiritual relationship for us in **Galatians 5:16**, when he says, "but I say, walk, listen to and live habitually in the (holy) spirit- responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit-then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh-of human nature without God." Remember what Jesus said back in **Matthew 19:26**, "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" so He is saying today that on our own we cannot be perfect, but if we are in close spiritual fellowship with Christ allowing His Spirit to direct, examine, lead, teach, correct, and construct us He will bring us to perfection. The most common use of the word perfect in the New Testament means, to be sincere, complete, honest, and mature spiritually. Now let us insert this definition back into the text, **Matthew 5:48**, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (that is grow into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity)" amplified version.

In summary, being perfect is a gradual process. When we walk under the direction of the Holy Spirit, through love and obedience, then and only then are we being perfect. Our natural man can never be perfect. So, when we walk in the natural realm we can never be perfect. No matter how good we try to be. But, our spiritual man was created perfect. Because he was created to be like Jesus. So, examine yourself, and the decisions that you are making. Whether they are from the natural man or the spiritual man. When you find yourself listening and obeying the natural man, immediately stop, repent, and listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance to restoration and perfection. God bless you!

Remember Jesus is the perfect one. The following verses explain to us that God expects us to do our part in allowing Him (Jesus) to perfect us.

- **1 Peter 1:15-16** says, "But as the One who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living. For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- **1 Thessalonians 4:7, 8** says, "For God has not called us to impurity, but to consecration (to dictate ourselves to the most thorough purity). Therefore whoever disregards (sets

aside and rejects this) disregards not man but God. Whose (very) Spirit (Whom) He gives to you is holy (chaste, purity)”

- **1 Thessalonians 3:13** says, “So that He may strengthen and confirm and establish your hearts faultlessly pure and unblamable in holiness in the sight of our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) with all His saints (the holy and glorified people of God)! Amen, (so be it).”
- **1 John 3:2, 3** says, “Blessed, we are (even here and) now God’s children, it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be (hereafter), but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall (as God’s children) resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He (readily) is. And everyone who has this hope (resting) on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless).”
- **2 Corinthians 7:1** says, “Therefore, since these (great) promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring (our) consecration to completeness in the (reverential) fear of God.”
- **2 Peter 3:13, 14** says, “but we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promises, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide. So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him (at His coming) without spot, or blemish, and at peace (in serene confidence, free from fears, and agitating passions and moral conflicts).”
- **Psalms 15:2, 5** says, “He who walks and lives blamelessly, who works rightness and justice and speaks and thinks the truth in his heart...shall never be moved. “
- **1 Corinthians 1:8** says, “And He will establish you to the end (keep you steadfast, give you strength, and guarantee your vindication; He will be your warrant against all accusation or indictment so that you will be) guiltless and irreproachable in the day of our lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).”
- **Philippians 2:15** says, “That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guiltless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation (spiritually perverted and perverse), among whom you are seen as bright lights (starts or beacons shining out clearly) in the (dark) world.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24** says, “And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through (separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God); and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete (and found) blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Faithful is He Who is calling you (to Himself) and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it (fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you)”.
- **2 Peter 3:11** says, “Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought (each of) you to be (in the meanwhile) in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities.”

- **2 Corinthians 4:16, 17** says, “therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is (progressively) decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being (progressively) renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory (beyond all measure excessively surpassing all comparisons, and all calculations a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!).
- **Psalms 18:32** says, “The God who girds me with strength and makes my way perfect.”
- **Isaiah 40:31** says, “But those who wait for the Lord (who expect, look for, and hope in Him) shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up (close to God) as eagles (mount up to the sun); they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired”.
- **Colossians 3:10** says, “And have clothed yourselves with the new (spiritual self), which is (ever in the process of being) renewed and remolded into (fuller and more perfect knowledge upon) knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it.”



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