

What is the Biblical Process to Become Perfect? (Part I - The Church)

Isaiah 11:9: *They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*



God has an amazing plan that includes every human being who has ever lived. Rather than torturing billions for eternity in a fiery hell, this plan will give all of humanity a legitimate opportunity to be taught how to live in a godly and righteous way. We are saying God's plan gives EVERYONE an opportunity to become perfect in His sight. Now, if you look around at the condition of our world, it's really easy to roll your eyes and think, with all that's happening, this plan of God's is pretty lame! Well, it does look that way, but the reality is this plan works in specific stages. There is a perfecting work happening right now, but it's NOT focused on everyone.

Our three-part series walks through how and when Christians, non-Christians and ALL who have ever lived will have an opportunity for perfection.

Before we break down the way perfection is established throughout ALL of God's creation, let's take a look at just one breathtaking scene in heaven as prophesied in Revelation.

This scene shows the results of God's plan for the perfecting of every level of His creation:

Revelation 5:11-13: *11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.*

This is talking about 100 percent perfection in heaven and earth and pronouncing glory to both God and Jesus. All of God's creation reflects perfection. How do we get to this end result? We certainly need it in this world!

The drama of this scene is beyond our human ability to comprehend. To even begin appreciating it, we need to be reminded of the history God allowed His creation to experience.

First, Lucifer, one of the high and lofty "morning stars," sinned and usurped God's authority and became Satan, the father of lies:

Isaiah 14:12: *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!*

Second, Adam sinned, was sentenced to death and all of his posterity would follow:

Genesis 2:16-17: (YLT) 16 And Jehovah God layeth a charge on the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; 17 and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it - dying thou dost die.



Dying thou dost die - Adam began to die “in that day,” and his life ended within that day. 2 **Peter 3:8** tells us a day with the Lord one day is like a thousand years. Adam lived 930 years, within God’s “day.”

These two examples show us a **spiritual fall** from perfection (Lucifer) and an **earthly fall** from perfection (Adam). Sin and its results happened on all levels in God’s creation.

God’s plan for the perfecting of all is squarely built upon the foundation of Jesus. For Jesus to be this foundation, he had to do some amazing things.

First, Jesus had to be willing:



Isaiah 6:8-10: (KJV) 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. 9 And He said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

We know this applied to Jesus because when he spoke to the people, he quoted this Isaiah scripture in **Matthew 13:13-15**. This fulfilled prophecy. The main point is, Jesus in heaven said to his Father, *Send me, I will go for you. I know what you want done. This people will see, but not perceive. They will hear but not understand lest they be converted.* This seems like a paradox. God needed Jesus to save things, but in such a way the people would not understand. Why? It is all part of the “perfection” of God’s plan, as we will see.

Jesus in his prehuman existence was called the Logos.
John 1:1: In the beginning was the **word**, and the **word** was with God...
Logos (in Greek) (🌐) **WORD** (in English)

So, first Jesus, the *Logos*, had to be willing.

Second, Jesus had to completely give up what he was to become the man Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:5-7: 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Jesus walked away from his high position in heaven as God's *only begotten son*. He was the first recorded creation in the Bible as found in **Proverbs 8:22-30**.

Jesus' human life began like any other human life, except he was God's own son and born as a human for the mission to save humanity:



Luke 2:8-11: (KJV) *8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. Here is the proclamation from God through His angelic messenger: 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*

The whole world has been waiting for a solution from sin and death. God made that solution clear through the offering of His son, Jesus. We know this from **Revelation 13:8** where it says Jesus is the *Lamb slain from the foundation (or creation in some translations) of the world*.

Here am I, send me. All that needed to be in place was put in place from the beginning. God's plan was preset.

In this human state, Jesus now had to learn! Being a perfect human did not exempt him from growing into obedience to God's will over his own perfect human will:

Hebrews 5:7-10: *7 In the days of his flesh, he offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his piety. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. 9 And having been **made perfect** <5048>, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.*



But wasn't Jesus born a perfect child? How can he be perfect and also be made perfect?



Jesus came to earth, and he was perfect. Everything was exactly, precisely the way it was supposed to be. Yet it says, *having been made perfect...* *Made perfect* here means "to be complete, to accomplish, to consummate in character."

Made perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5048 *teleioo*; to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character)

King James Translation translates this as "make perfect" 12 times, "perfect" 4 times, "finish" 4 times, "fulfil" 2 times, "be perfect" 1 time, "consecrate" 1 time

The point was that Jesus, even as a perfect man, needed to grow into a mature character. He had to learn, which reminds us of Adam. Adam was created as a perfect man. He also was a *son of God* (**Luke 3:38**). However, both of them were inexperienced and untried in life.

Jesus had to be perfected; he had to be completed. He had to consummate, finish, the reason for his life.

This learning and humble sacrificing of his will provided the necessary ingredients for offering himself as a ransom for all:

Philippians 2:8: *Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Jesus was laser-focused on his mission. He was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. That obedience was more than just, *Yes, Sir. No, Sir. Right away, Sir.* It was a heartfelt, complete, overwhelming loyalty. And, he had to learn humility and to put his human will aside for the will of God.

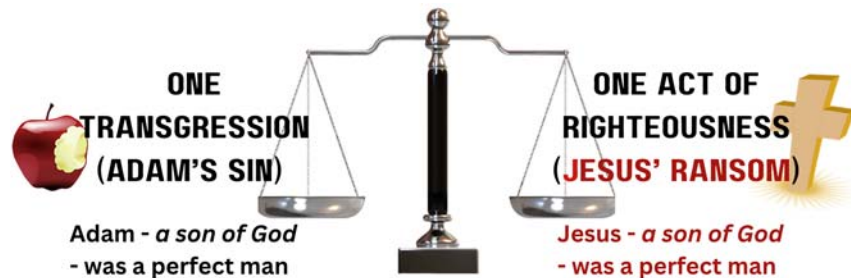
This humility, learning and obedience on ALL levels earned Jesus the right to ransom all of humanity:

1 Corinthians 15:21-22: *21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*



All die in Adam – all are raised in Jesus. That’s fair. A perfect man for a perfect man.

Jesus learned obedience through his experiences. Adam had the opportunity to learn but did not. Perfect man, Adam – perfect man, Jesus. The scale is balanced. Everybody else falls in-between Adam and Jesus. Everyone in between is affected by the actions of both Adam and Jesus.

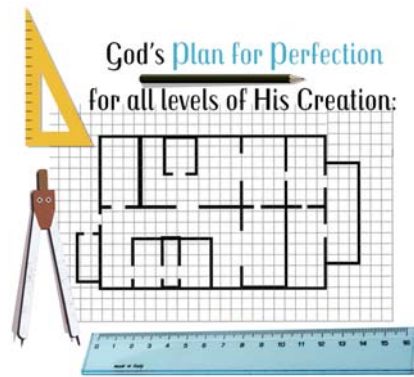


We know that everyone falls in between through this scripture:

Romans 5:18-19: *18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.*

This shows how everyone falls in between Adam and Jesus. Jesus had to be perfected even though he was perfect. He had to be completed because he had to grow into that full manhood.

So, yes, Jesus was perfect, and yes, he needed to be perfected (completed)! Both of those statements work well together when we understand what the words mean.



The magnitude of the mind of God is beyond us. However, God saw fit to give us His Word, the Bible, so we can begin to comprehend it. For His plan to unfold, Jesus is the centerpiece at the beginning, the end and in between. Let us realize and revere what Jesus did, what he learned and what he sacrificed as we strive to be faithful.

We are seeing there is a process of perfection even for those who are perfect. Jesus was being perfected even though he started out perfect because he had to be made complete in experience and in his maturity. This is the way God's plan works - we can take this principle as it applied to Jesus and apply it elsewhere.

Jesus set a firm foundation upon which the magnitude of God's plan can unfold. The opportunities made available by his sacrifice are endless!

The fact that the Bible tells us Jesus had to be made complete can sound surprising. What does it mean for our "completion" as disciples?

The answer here can be pretty simple. If Jesus needed to be completed in his learning and experiences as a sinless man, WE certainly have a ton of work to do! We are called to follow. This means we are called to go where he went, to grow as he grew and to offer our lives as best as we can as he did.

Follow me means to become a learner like Jesus. But in our case, we are all sinners and fall short daily. We need to work at rising above what we are. Jesus did as well. He rose above what he was, even though he was perfect. He had to be not just a perfect man, but a perfect man who was willing to be sacrificial and who would do God's will instead of his own perfect human will. We are following in his footsteps, just on a lower level, because obviously, we cannot be nearly what he was and now is.

Let's again look ahead to what the perfecting of the true disciples of Jesus brings:

Hebrews 2:9-11: *9 But we do see him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to **perfect** <5048> (make complete) the author of their salvation through sufferings.*

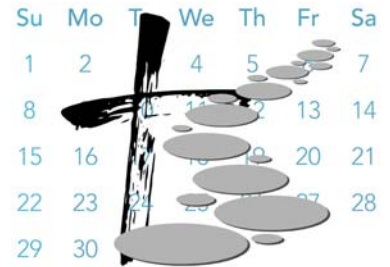
Bringing many sons to glory – bringing those who are true followers of Jesus – to *perfect* or *complete* the author of their salvation. Who is the author? **Hebrews 12:2** tells us *Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith*. So, the true followers of Jesus **complete** him. The King James Version and New American Standard Bible both use the word *perfect* here – they “perfect” him!

11 For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Look at the power of being a “brother” of Jesus! The faithful followers of Jesus are resurrected to the highest level, and it has to do with a “perfecting” work.

Starting with the example of Peter right after he proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah:

Luke 9:21-24: *21 But he (Jesus) warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone, 22 saying, the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day. 23 And he was saying to them all, if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, he is the one who will save it.*



A disciple is a follower. *If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me - this meant following him in death. Jesus walked on a sacrificial path, and his disciples follow.*

This was plainly an invitation to a life of sacrifice. Jesus expanded its description many times during his ministry. Here is one example:

Matthew 7:13-14: *13 Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Christian perfecting comes through sacrifice and walking an uncommon and difficult road. This is why those who are successful are called *saints*. The Greek word for *saints* means pure, sacred, blameless and consecrated.

Saints: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #40 *hagios*; sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated): - (most) holy (one, thing), saint

The Apostle Paul uses this word often in the New Testament to refer to the followers of Jesus. Yet, we are imperfect. How can we fit this description?

Let’s go a little further. Before his crucifixion, Jesus proclaimed to his Father that he had finished his challenging and self-sacrificing work:

John 17:4-5: *4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished <5048> (completed) the work which You have given me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

Jesus gives us the sense that he has finished, he has perfected or completed his mission. In other words, *This is what I have done.*

Further on, he then prayed for his followers to do what a disciple is supposed to do - follow their Master:

John 17:22-23: 22 *The glory which You have given me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one;* 23 *I in them and You in me, that they may be **perfected** <5048> (completed) in unity, so that the world may know that You sent me, and loved them, even as You have loved me.*

 **Does this mean Jesus' true disciples are perfected now?**



It does sound like that, doesn't it? From what Jesus is saying, it seems like **YES**. But we are going to add **NO!**



How do we reconcile this? Let's look at the "yes" part first, even though it seems impossible to be perfect now in this lifetime.

 **YES**

YES! As part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us to love our enemies and concluded:

Matthew 5:48: *Therefore you are to be **perfect** <5046>, as your heavenly Father is **perfect** <5046>.*

Perfect, like God? This is hard to get our heads around this! What does this "perfect" mean? This is a different form of the word for perfect than we've been using. The first form was a verb, an action. This word is a noun, a state of being.

Perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5046 *teleios*; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun) completeness

King James Translation translates this word as "perfect" 17 times, "man" 1 time, "of full age" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) brought to its end, finished 2) wanting nothing necessary to completeness 3) perfect

Be perfect (complete) as your heavenly Father is perfect (complete). How are we to understand this? Let's put it in context and paraphrase:

Jesus is saying, you know God causes the sun to rise on the good and on the evil. He allows the rain to fall on both the good and evil. In other words, God is balanced. He loves all. You are to be of a complete character like God is in relation to everyone else. Don't pick and choose who you will love. This is not what God does.

The "perfection" here is in how we view the world around us. *Be perfect*. Be complete. Love others as our Father has shown us how He loves others.

 **YES**

James 1:2-4: 2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.* 4 *And let endurance have its **perfect** <5046> result, so that you may be **perfect** <5046> and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Does this mean we can be perfect now? This is the same noun. *Be perfect (complete). Testing produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect (complete) result, so that you may be perfect (complete), and complete, lacking in nothing.*

In other words, feel that sense of well-roundedness, of nothing lacking in your character. We are suggesting *perfect* does not mean our entire life is pristine. But there are specific parts of our lives we need to be working on in order to be complete and mature Christians. In these ways, we are supposed to be “perfect.”

Interestingly, James chapter 1 says we *may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* But in chapter 3, he tells us it is impossible for us to be perfect.



NO:

James 3:1-2: *1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect <5046> man, able to bridle the whole body as well.*



Which is it? Have we known anyone who hasn't stumbled in what they said? Everyone has! James is saying we are all that way, so we are not perfect. But wait, we just read we are supposed to be perfect, and now James says we are not? Yes. Both are true because James is talking about different aspects of our Christian life. Here his point is, it is difficult to be “complete” in our speech. James provides this entire chapter about *the power of the tongue* and how difficult it is to master. We should strive for completeness.

It's both YES and NO! We are complete in the sense of having ALL THAT WE NEED to grow in Christ:

Romans 5:1-5: *1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

Justified by faith - being made right, through Christ, before God; holy and clean.

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the holy spirit which was given to us.

Justification, through Christ, brings God's spirit. These two things make us complete in the eyes of God. We have everything we need.


JUSTIFIED + THE SPIRIT = ACCOUNTABILITY

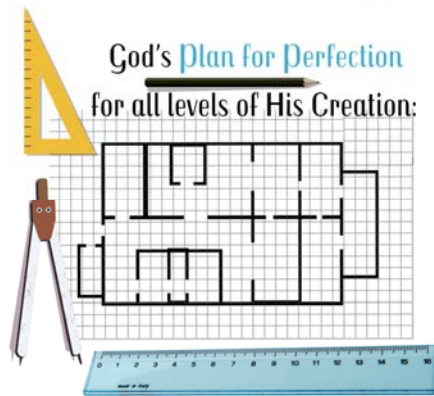
Now we need to do the work! We are given these two complete things. Justification is a complete forgiveness for the past, complete in Christ. It is wiped out. God's spirit is His powerful, perfect and complete influence working in our lives.

Even with these tools complete within us, we still have to develop and grow up in Christ:


Hebrews 5:13-14: *13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the **mature <5046>**, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*


Solid food is for the mature - the same word translated as perfect in the earlier James scripture. Perfection is the completeness of growing up, of changing, being transformed by the renewing of your mind. This is the completeness that we are being drawn to in Christ. We are given those perfect things as a basis. We have to grow up and create those other perfect things within us by God's grace, by maturing, by becoming complete.

Are we perfect or not?  **YES**



The calling to follow Jesus is a calling to trial, challenge, growth, sacrifice and loyalty to God. All of this comes with the tools necessary for success. Christian perfection, Christian maturity is a combination of what God has given us by way of justification and His spirit and what we give to God by way of our reverence and our will. *Let us stand with God's tools in hand and with our hearts and minds focused on using them!*

 **As followers of Christ, have we been given a perfect beginning like Jesus and Adam, with the tools of justification and the holy spirit?**

 Yes, we have been given an absolutely complete beginning. It is a “no-fail” beginning, but we have to do the work so the “no-fail” can stay in place.

- Adam was given a “no-fail” beginning. He just didn't do the work.
- Jesus was given a “no-fail” beginning, and he did the work.

We are given that same basis to work from. It is thrilling to realize how all this fits together and fits into the responsibility of being a Christian. God's expectations are high for those called to follow Jesus. Seeing Christian growth in this way can be a scary proposition!

What happens to our maturity when we are overwhelmed by trials and difficulties? Do these challenges mean we are losing ground?

This is a good question, as it can be easy for us to lose heart when facing hard or prolonged experiences. It is always appropriate to remember that **if we are disciples of Jesus, God sees us as a complete individual from the standpoint of having all we need to overcome.**

God sees us through different eyes than we see ourselves. When we sin and mess up, we get so down on ourselves. Maybe we lose our job or make a bad mistake and feel like such a failure. God does not see us that way if we have His spirit and are really working at developing our Christian character; He sees us as that perfected *new creature* referred to in 1 and 2 Corinthians. He sees us as that individual who is going to grow into good things because He gave us the perfect tools in order to grow into a completed character.

Trials can come in many different ways. No matter where they come from, we are being taught to see them as a part of the grand perfecting that God is working in our lives.

In this segment, we will focus on our trials.

Let's go back to James 1, this time adding a few more verses:

James 1:2-6: *2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect <5046> result, so that you may be perfect <5046> and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.*

God's perfecting work in us is stimulated by adversity. We want the end result to be powerful and overcoming endurance. When struggling, we need to seek God's wisdom to help us see the REAL reasons for our hardships so we can grow through and be perfected by the experience. How does God see our trial?

When we go through hardship, is God just punishing us for something? No, He is preparing us for something. Do we look at it as punishment or preparation? We can be excited to look at it as a preparation because it is part of the perfecting work that makes us ready for God's use.

Some trials can creep up on us and progress from being simple distractions to spiritual disasters:

2 Corinthians 6:14-15,17-18: *14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.*

2 Corinthians 7:1: *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting <2005> holiness in the fear of God.*

Perfecting: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2005 *epiteleo*; (verb) to fulfill further (or completely), i.e. execute; by implication, to terminate, undergo

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: to bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, execute, complete

Cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit - completing what we started. This is the holiness of God. This word translated as *perfecting* (completing) means **the act of finishing what we started** because we are working on a godly objective.



The work of being perfected as a disciple of Christ requires a repetitive awareness of what would hinder our spiritual focus, and an appropriate cleansing back to a holy state of being.

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul is talking to the Corinthian church. They had a lot of basic problems, and he tells them they need to be about the work of finishing what they started in relation to their holiness to God.

The value or privilege of the forgiveness in Christ can keep us moving forward. It should, if we let it and are about the work of perfecting/completing what God has started in us.

Paul’s experience with his “thorn in the flesh” teaches us a valuable perfecting lesson:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10: *7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And he has said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected <5048> in weakness...*

Paul was vulnerable in sharing this because of his potential pride. The Lord refused to remove the weakness in order to keep him humble.

Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

For when I am weak, then I am strong - how is that possible? Because of what Jesus said to him, My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected, it is completed, in weakness. Paul is telling us that the work of perfecting within him works best because he is weak. It will perfect him if he allows that power to go to work and be transformative in his life.

What is the Apostle Paul’s message? Our weakness is the tool of God’s strength, His completeness, His *perfecting* of our lives. He is saying, *Thank God we are weak because that is how God’s glory is shown.*

The key is for us to get out of God’s way when this is happening. We must let God’s spirit be the guide instead of us trying to think it through and doing it our way. We have to rely on scriptural principles and that which is higher than us in order to be perfected.



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We must let God's spirit be the guide instead of us trying to think it through and doing it our way.

The perfecting work of discipleship cannot function without a proper awareness of Jesus and an effective prayer life because of it:

Hebrews 4:14-16: *14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

This is leading up to a powerful prayer verse. Jesus, the son of God, is our *high priest*. We must focus on him because he gives us the strength. He just told the Apostle Paul, *my strength is perfected in your weakness*. Focus on him first.

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Why do we focus on Jesus? Because he did the work exactly the way he was supposed to and never faltered or wavered as he moved forward. He is our inspiration and example.

16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We can then go to God because of our Lord Jesus and all he did in the perfecting of his own life, learning obedience through the things he suffered, being perfected by his experiences. **Jesus is our example, and this is the basis for our prayer life to flourish.** We strive to be “perfected” in this life, not squeaky clean, but meaning as complete in each area of our lives as best as we can.

Proceed with God’s perfecting work; there is nothing more important in our lives:

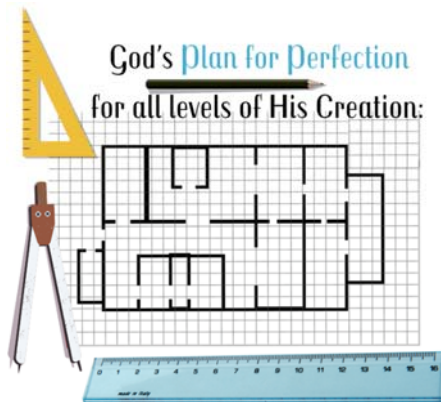
Philippians 1:3-6: *3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will **perfect <2005>** (complete what He started) it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

He will continue to fulfill that *good work* to completion right now and in the future. *He who began a good work* will finish what He started in you - the perfecting, the completion of your character so it can be honoring to Him.

Two chapters later, Paul picks up on this perfecting work again:

Philippians 3:13-16: *13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are **perfect <5046>** (complete), have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*

As many of us as are perfected - as are complete. Again, can we be perfect in this life? Paul is saying yes, but what does he mean? Being completed in character in each area of our lives, bringing it to a level that is acceptable unto God by God's grace - not just by our own efforts.



We have trials. They are specifically given to those who are complete, who are justified and have God's spirit as an exercise for our completeness. We are complete by God's grace and yet we need to be completed through our development. Let the trials come and the perfecting work continue!

Knowing we are being perfected through our life experiences can make our trials, challenges, distractions and disasters look like providential stepping stones!

**Having all of this perfecting work going on within ourselves is one thing.
How does it work in relation to the brotherhood?**

Understanding completeness in our discipleship is not possible without fully considering how we are integrated into the body of Christ. By definition, what I work on in my own individual growth experiences can positively relate to the other body members with whom I associate. The simple fact is: we are in this together and need to support one another!

As we go through this and look at the relationship of Christian-to-Christian, we are going to introduce one more "perfect" word in a few different forms.

1 Corinthians 1:10: (KJV) *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together <2675> in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Perfectly joined together: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2675 *katartizo*; (verb) to complete thoroughly, i.e., repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to render, i.e., to fit, sound, complete
1a) to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair

The three English words *perfectly joined together* are all from one Greek word meaning *to mend what has been broken, to complete thoroughly*. Wherever we come from, we have to find this mending, this being *perfectly joined together*. Even though we may see things through differing eyes and perspectives (and we often do), we are to be firmly and completely united in our direction.

This doesn't mean we put aside how we see certain things; rather, we work together and support one another. Ideally, we are perfectly joined together with no divisions among us. This doesn't mean we are copies of one another, but it means we are walking in the same unified direction.

The work of discipleship has a built-in system of perfecting that provokes maturity:

Ephesians 4:11-14: (KJV) *11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting <2677> of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Perfecting: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2677 *katartismos*; (noun) complete furnishing

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: complete furnishing, equipping

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect <5046> man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

For the perfecting (equipping) of the saints - the early church (and through them, us) was given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the specific purpose of equipping or perfecting us to do the work of the ministry and for the edifying (building up) of the saints.

But what are we perfecting? *Till we all come in the unity of the faith... unto a perfect (complete) man. One man, even though there are many of us – together we are the body of Christ. The work we do has to be drawing us together like a magnet to fit where we belong. This makes up a perfect, complete body of Christ as disciples of Christ. We are to be completely united in faith as part of that complete body.*

This work of perfection is not easy. If we can't work with the body of Christ now, how can we possibly work with them throughout eternity? This is a wake up call! We have to be alert to doing our part. *How do I support, encourage, and either lead or follow in terms of the whole body working together?*



This perfect or complete unity strives to acknowledge ALL members as equally vital:

1 Corinthians 12:12-16: *12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body, it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body, it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

One body, one spirit is the perfection of Christianity as it is supposed to be. How do we fit into all of this? We sometimes fall into the trial of comparing ourselves to others, thinking we can't be faithful because we can't be like so-and-so. Instead, we should realize that we supplement each other.

Jonathan and Rick are very different in a lot of ways, but very similar in a lot of other ways. Their differences help them to work together by God's grace, and by daily and humbly accepting the strengths of the other to build each other up so they can do the work God has put before them. Neither one could do it totally on their own. This is attempting to work as a body - as a unit together - for the glory of God.

The perfecting work of discipleship requires humility and focused faith for its completion:

1 Peter 5:6-11: *6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

If we are having a hard time casting our cares upon the Lord, where can we find encouragement? We all go through some of the same trials and are weighed down in some of the same ways from walking the same path. Sharing in the trials of the brotherhood is an encouragement and a completion work in unifying the body.

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect <2675>, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Working together in Christ makes us perfect - *to complete thoroughly, to repair, to mend.* There is an active process of moving forward and drawing us together. Perfecting involves all of these different aspects (completion, repairing, mending...) and is vital in the life of any true Christian.

What is the absolute end result of all of this perfecting we have been talking about?

There is a glorious work ahead that includes the perfecting of the entire human race. This is the “why” of what we do:

Romans 8:18-21: *18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*



The *creation*, meaning the rest of mankind, waits for us (those who are faithful followers of Christ) so that they can have their turn in their perfecting work in God's kingdom.

Those called to follow Jesus now are called to live that life of sacrifice, difficulty, trial, of falling down and having to get up again. It is a life of being potentially persecuted, ridiculed and cast aside because of our faith in Christ. This is following in Jesus' footsteps.

He was perfect in his development. He was complete in his development so he could pay the price for Adam. We cannot pay the price for Adam, but we can work with Jesus in the reconciliation of mankind because he paid this price. Romans 8 tells us the creation is *subjected to futility* as a result of sin, but God has a plan beyond that! We will discuss further in Part II.

When we look at what this perfecting work brings us individually and collectively as the body of Christ, there is a wonderful and unimaginable reward available through God's grace.

The Parable of the Talents gives us a little glimpse of this reward. Each servant was given a different number of talents.

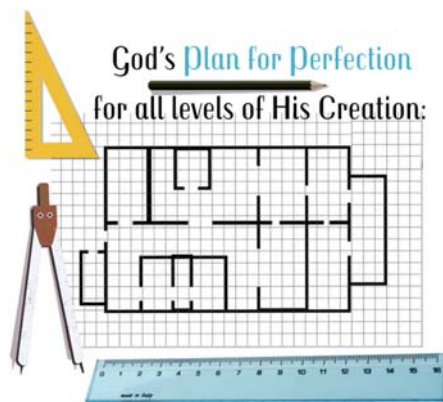
The five-talented individual reports to the master when he returns:

Matthew 25:20-21: (KJV) *20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverdst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*

We have been given a mission. If faithful, we will receive a “well done” and “mission accomplished.” But there is more to be discussed in Part II. The Lord then gives us greater things to do in His service to bless and help mankind in their perfecting work.

When we think of those words, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant*, it melts our hearts to think about just how profound, magnificent and undeserved all of that is.

Yet, that is the reward promised to those who follow Jesus, who are given God's spirit, who are justified. They have been given that perfect beginning to do the perfecting of their lives so they can hear, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant*.



The perfecting of Jesus' disciples is a present-day work that requires time, attention, humility, discipline, change and a whole lot of prayer. The standard to which we strive may seem impossible, yet God has already completely equipped us with everything we need. Our job is to use this complete equipping and develop towards being a contributory part of the complete body of Christ!

We are given what is necessary for our development – those things that are complete already:

- We are given justification - a complete wiping out of our past sins.
- We are given God's spirit - the perfect, powerful influence of God working within us.

Those two things are complete in themselves, meaning we have the ingredients for making our *calling and election sure* (2 Peter 1:10,11) What we do with that is the perfecting work in our lives.

In our next episode, we will pick up with the perfecting of everybody else (the world):

John 5:28-29: *28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

These verses help us understand there is more coming for everybody else. When we look at the perfecting of the followers of Jesus, we realize everybody else will be dependent on those who will already be perfected. Next week, we look at how the two parts work together all for the glory of God through Christ.

All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.

**So, what is the biblical process to become perfect for the church?
For Rick, Jonathan and Christian Questions...
...think about it!**



Next episode

Join us next week on **December 4, 2023**
Episode 1310: What is the Biblical Process
to Become Perfect? (Part II - Mankind)



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- How can we be more like Jesus? Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DAcSHXpmfI&t=1s>

Word Study

The New Testament word for *perfect* and several variations:

Perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5048 *teleioo*; verb from 5046; to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character)

King James Translation translates this word as “make perfect” 12 times, “perfect” 4 times, “finish” 4 times, “fulfil” 2 times, “be perfect” 1 time, “consecrate” 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to make perfect, complete 1a) to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end 2) to complete (perfect) 2a) add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full 2b) to be found perfect 3) to bring to the end (goal) proposed 4) to accomplish 4a) bring to a close or fulfilment by event 4a1) of the prophecies of the scriptures

All uses: (King James Version shown)

Luke 2:43: *And when they had fulfilled <5048> the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.*

Luke 13:32: *And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected <5048>.*

John 4:34: *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish <5048> his work.*

John 5:36: *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish <5048>, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

John 17:4: *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished <5048> the work which thou gavest me to do.*

John 17:23: *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect <5048> in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

John 19:28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled <5048>, saith, I thirst.

Acts 20:24: But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish <5048> my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Corinthians 12:9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect <5048> in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Philippians 3:12: Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect <5048>: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:10: For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make <5048> the captain of their salvation perfect <5048> through sufferings.

Hebrews 5:9: And being made perfect <5048>, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 7:19: For the law made <5048> nothing perfect <5048>, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Hebrews 7:28: For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the son, who is consecrated <5048> for evermore.

Hebrews 9:9: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make <5048> him that did the service perfect <5048>, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 10:1: For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make <5048> the comers thereunto perfect <5048>.

Hebrews 10:14: For by one offering he hath perfected <5048> for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 11:40: God having provided some better thing for us, that they <5048> without us should <5048> not be made perfect <5048>.

Hebrews 12:23: To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect <5048>,

James 2:22: Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was <5048> faith made perfect <5048>?

1 John 2:5: But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is <5048> the love of God perfected <5048>: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 4:12: No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected <5048> in us.

1 John 4:17: Herein is our love made perfect <5048>, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1 John 4:18: *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is <5048> not made perfect <5048> in love.*

Perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5046 *teleios*; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun) completeness

King James Translation translates this word as "perfect" 17 times, "man" 1 time, "of full age" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) brought to its end, finished 2) wanting nothing necessary to completeness 3) perfect 4) that which is perfect 4a) consummate human integrity and virtue 4b) of men 4b1) full grown, adult, of full age, mature

All uses:

Matthew 5:48: *Be ye therefore perfect <5046>, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect <5046>.*

Matthew 19:21: *Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect <5046>, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*

Romans 12:2: *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect <5046>, will of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:6: *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect <5046>: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:*

1 Corinthians 13:10: *But when that which is perfect <5046> is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

1 Corinthians 14:20: *Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men <5046>.*

Ephesians 4:13: *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect <5046> man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Philippians 3:15: *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect <5046>, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

Colossians 1:28: *Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect <5046> in Christ Jesus:*

Colossians 4:12: *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect <5046> and complete in all the will of God.*

Hebrews 5:14: *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age <5046>, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Hebrews 9:11: *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect <5046> tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;*

James 1:4: *But let patience have her perfect <5046> work, that ye may be perfect <5046> and entire, wanting nothing.*

James 1:17: *Every good gift and every perfect <5046> gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

James 1:25: *But whoso looketh into the perfect <5046> law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

James 3:2: *For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect <5046> man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

1 John 4:18: *There is no fear in love; but perfect <5046> love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

Perfecting: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2005 *epiteleo*; to fulfill further (or completely), i.e. execute; by implication to terminate, undergo

King James Translation translates this word as “perform” 3 times, “perfect” 2 times, “accomplish” 2 times, “finish” 1 time, “performance” 1 time, “make” 1 time, “do” 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, execute, complete 1a) to take upon one's self 1b) to make an end for one's self 1b1) to leave off 2) to appoint to; impose upon

Luke 13:32: *And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do <2005> cures today and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.*

Romans 15:28: *When therefore I have performed <2005> this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.*

2 Corinthians 7:1: *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting <2005> holiness in the fear of God.*

2 Corinthians 8:6: *Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would <2005> also finish <2005> in you the same grace also.*

2 Corinthians 8:11: *Now therefore perform <2005> the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance <2005> also out of that which ye have.*

Galatians 3:3: *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the spirit, are ye <2005> now made perfect <2005> by the flesh?*

Philippians 1:6: *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform <2005> it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Hebrews 8:5: *Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make <2005> the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

Hebrews 9:6: *Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing <2005> the service of God.*

1 Peter 5:9: *Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished <2005> in your brethren that are in the world.*

Perfectly joined together: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2675 *katartizo*; to complete thoroughly, i.e., repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust

King James Version translates this word as “perfect” 2 times, “make perfect” 2 times, “mend” 2 times, “be perfect” 2 times, “fit” 1 time, “frame” 1 time, “prepare” 1 time, “restore” 1 time, “perfectly joined together” 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to render, i.e. to fit, sound, complete 1a) to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair 1a1) to complete 1b) to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust 1b1) to fit or frame for one's self, prepare 1c) ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be

All uses:

Matthew 4:21: *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending <2675> their nets; and he called them.*

Matthew 21:16: *And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected <2675> praise?*

Mark 1:19: *And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending <2675> their nets.*

Luke 6:40: *The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect <2675> shall be as his master.*

Romans 9:22: *What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted <2675> to destruction:*

1 Corinthians 1:10: *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together <2675> in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

2 Corinthians 13:11: *Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect <2675>, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

Galatians 6:1: *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore <2675> such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

1 Thessalonians 3:10: *Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect <2675> that which is lacking in your faith?*

Hebrews 10:5: *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared <2675> me:*

Hebrews 11:3: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed <2675> by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

Hebrews 13:21: *Make <2675> you perfect <2675> in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 5:10: *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make <2675> you perfect <2675>, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

Perfecting: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2677 *katartismos*; complete furnishing

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: complete furnishing, equipping

Ephesians 4:12: *For the perfecting <2677> of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Perfecting: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #739 *artios ar'-tee-os*; from 737; fresh, i.e. (by implication) complete

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) fitted 2) complete, perfect
2a) having reference apparently to "special aptitude for given uses"

2 Timothy 3:17: *That the man of God may be perfect <739>, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #4137 *pleroo* from 4134; to make replete, i.e. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or (figuratively) to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.

King James Version translates this word as "fulfil" 51 times, "fill" 19 times, "be full" 7 times, "complete" 2 times, "end" 2 times, miscellaneous ways 9 times

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to make full, to fill up, i.e., to fill to the full
1a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally 1a1) I abound, I am liberally supplied
2) to render full, i.e. to complete 2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim 2b) to consummate: a number 2b1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect 2b2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out, (some undertaking) 2c) to carry into effect, bring to realization, realize
2c1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute 2c2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish 2c3) to fulfil, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment

Only translated perfect once – several uses for comparison:

James 2:23: *And the scripture was fulfilled <4137> which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

1 John 1:4: *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full <4137>.*

2 John 1:12: *Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full <4137>.*

Revelation 3:2: *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy **works perfect** <4137> before God.*

Revelation 6:11: *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be **fulfilled** <4137>.*

Fulfilled: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #3647 *holokleria* from #3648

King James Version translates this word "soundness" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) of an unimpaired condition of the body, in which all its members are healthy and fit for use 1a) good health

Only use:

Acts 3:16: *And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this **perfect soundness** <3647> in the presence of you all.*

Perfect soundness: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #197 *akribesteron*; adjective neuter of the comparative of the same as 196; (adverbially) more exactly

King James Version translates this as "more perfectly" 3 times, "more perfect" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: more exactly, more perfectly

Acts 18:26: *And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God **more perfectly** <197>.*

Acts 23:15: *Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something **more perfectly** <197> concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.*

Acts 23:20: *And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul tomorrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him **more perfectly** <197>.*

Acts 24:22: *And when Felix heard these things, having **more perfect** <197> knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.*

Perfect: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #195 *akribeia*; (noun) from the same as 196

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: exactness, exactest care:
in accordance with the strictness of the Mosaic law

Only use:

Acts 22:3: *I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the **perfect manner** <195> of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1309: What is the Biblical Process to Become Perfect?

(Part I - The Church) <https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1309-perfection>

See:  CQRewind
SHOW NOTES

Jesus' Path to *Perfection*:

1. What illustrated a spiritual fall and an earthly fall from perfection? How did God plan for reestablishing perfection at all levels of His creation? What requirements did the Logos have to meet to become the Savior of mankind? (Isaiah 6:8-10, 14:1-2, Genesis 2:16-17, Philippians 2:5-7)
2. When did God put all the aspects of His plan in place? Was Jesus born as a perfect human child? How was he then "made perfect"? Explain. How were Adam and Jesus similar? How were they different? (Revelation 13:8, Luke 2:8-11, Hebrews 5:7-10, Luke 3:38, Philippians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

The Christian's Path to *Perfection*:

3. What does Hebrews 2:9-11 tell us about our relationship with Jesus? What is necessary to *perfect* Christians? How can we possibly fit the description of "saints" in this life? (Luke 9:21-24, Matthew 7:13-14)
4. How are Jesus' followers perfected now? How can we be perfect as "our heavenly Father is perfect"? How do trials and challenges work in us? How can we be more "complete"? (John 17:22-23, James 1:2-4)
5. Does James 3:1-2 indicate we are "perfect" now? Explain. What two things has the Lord given us as a basis for growth? What is necessary after that basis? (Romans 5:1-5, Hebrews 5:13-14)

Challenges to Our Maturity (*Perfection*):

6. How does God see us, even when we really mess up? How does God use our trials for us? For what reason was Paul given his "thorn in the flesh"? What do we need to do for God to work in our lives? What are we guaranteed in Hebrews 4:14-16? What are we promised in Philippians 1:3-6, 3:13-16? (James 1:2-6, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1, 12:7-10)
7. What do you do when you feel overwhelmed by your life? How do you know God will complete what He started when He called you to follow Jesus? How can you "hold fast" to the guarantee that you can "draw near (through Jesus) to the throne of grace...with **confidence** (!) to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"?

Working on *Perfecting Our Relationships with Brethren*:

8. How is the perfect brotherhood described in 1 Corinthians 1:10? What does "perfectly joined together" mean? If we are not clones of each other, what does it indicate? (1 Corinthians 1:10)
9. How has God equipped the church? For what purpose? What is **your** responsibility in this? What is necessary for us to do to participate in the perfecting work of our discipleship? If we are struggling, where can we go for encouragement? (Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Corinthians 12:12-16, 1 Peter 5:6-11)
10. How does the promise of our future role with mankind inspire you? When you think of your Christian walk, what brings you joy and gives you peace? (Romans 8:18-21, Matthew 25:20-21)