

Pursuing Perfection

Perfect, We all love “perfect.”

perfect color, perfect sunset, perfect meal, perfect day, perfect children,

Why? because our Father has a desire for us to be perfect. Jesus taught, in

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

What? Who? Us? Yes, us.

What is perfect? complete, mature, lacking nothing

G5048, teleioō Thayer Definition:

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 fulfillment by event

4a1) of the prophecies of the scriptures

James gives us the How? a process of growth, the end of a journey, a work.

The book of James gives us 5 Perfect steps to grow and travel toward completion, perfection.

1. Perfect Work - James 1:2-4

Perfect work is the end of a process or progression: first the temptation, then the trial of faith, followed by patience, which equals perfect work, completeness

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Temptation is an opportunity to to fail or flourish. The temptation begins the same, but our response (flee or fight) determines our outcome and next step of growth or rework.

Pursuing Perfection

Crown of life or death is the result (see James 1:14-15 for the death path).

2. Perfect Gift - James 1:17

God gives us the tools and talents to carry on the journey. Perfect to completely meet the needs we have. The perfect gift is given to the church by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These gifts are worked and demonstrated through people to mature or perfect the church body of believers.

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

Good comes from above, God is full of light, he has no secret plans in the shadows. He has no shadow. Shadows only are created as something comes between us and the source of light.

Gift of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 12), five fold ministry gifts (Ephesians 5), and ministry gifts (Romans 12) are given to the believer for another's benefit. Desire the best gift (which one is needed at that time).

3. Perfect Law of Liberty - James 1:25

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect 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.

Not polices, or procedures or even guidelines, but a perfect law to follow as mile posts on our journey in this life.

“Law of Liberty” is this a oxymoron, a contradiction? Only God's perfect law brings liberty, freedom.

Not to be just quoted and forgotten, but to be perfect, completed as a doer in his works. Hearing must come first, but it is not complete in itself. Actions are the perfected fruit of doers. First we receive (hear) from God, next we do the work, and we are happy and blessed in our deeds.

4. Perfect Faith - James 2:22

Which comes first or is more important? Faith or Works?

Pursuing Perfection

Paul says “through faith, ... not by works,” (Ephesians 2:8-9), but James teaches that by works is faith made perfect. Who is right? It depends... whether you are before or after your salvation. Initial faith does the work of salvation. As a child of God we show our faith by our works. (James 2:18)

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

Faith is necessary to please God. The power to receive salvation and defeat the evil one in our lives. Faith brings us into a right relationship with the Father. As a child desiring to please our Father, we do works of love (to those He loves) and worship (to Him alone).

5. Perfect man - James 3:2

How do you know a perfect man? by his words.

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

Many time the best words are no words, James 1:19. Slow to speak, think before talking, listen to the Spirit of God inside before sending words outside. We must bridle, control the tongue (our words) as we do horses and ships (James 3:3-4). The tongue is like a fire out of control, burning, destroying all in its path.

It is easy to not kill others, but what do we do with thoughts and words? If our tongue (words) are life giving, we have rest of the body and our life in control for God. Our words must be consistent with our life, not blessings and cursings, sweet and bitter from the same mouth (James 3:10-11).

Words are one of the two things that we are able to create (the other being children with God's power and plan). Spoken words cannot be returned to our thoughts. We can only repent and ask for forgiveness from God and or others. Careful, perfect words are the mark of a Perfect (religious) man (James 1:26) full and complete as God will is for us to be.

Taming or perfecting of our words and tongue cannot be done by us alone. Without allowing God to work and guide us, our words are evil and deathly poison (James 3:9) to others and ourselves.