

## **If You Want to be Perfect**

*(From Mt 19:21 to Phil 3:15)*

We hope that if anyone dies in our midst, that they will go to be with our Master. Paul gained confidence, as he grew older, that if he were to die, he would be absent from the body present with our Master (2 Cor 5:8). He wasn't going to the place of waiting. He came to the point that he knew he had attained to the first resurrection (Phi 3:10). Our Master said that we all have to become "perfect" in order to do that (Mt 5:48). This means we have to come to be like Him in all respects. The meaning of the word *perfect* is to reach full potential. You haven't wasted any moment in your life. You have grown up to full stature as a disciple. The word *perfect* here means "adult, full-grown, developed, being in the image of our Father." You have reached your ultimate potential, completed growth, not lacking anything (Mk 10:21).

*Yahshua said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. (Mt 19:21)*

We must start with the inception of the gospel and end with the inception of His glory (Rom 8:17-18; Col 1:10-14). He was saying something very important there. "You must do everything you need to do to reach the point you must reach in order for Me to entrust My life to you. This is what you must do in order to follow Me: give up everything. NO selfishness can follow Me."

First, we must not be lacking one thing in order to become a disciple, and then not lacking one thing in reaching our fullest development (Eph 4:15). We continue on the path begun at the inception of the gospel in our lives (Mt 19:21) when we "perfectly" obeyed the command to "give up everything" to go on to point where there is nothing lacking in our attitude (Phil 3:15), our wisdom (Jms 1:4), and our love (Col 3:14-15). "All aspects" means not lacking any one (Phil 3:7-15), but perfect, complete (Phil 4:12; Lk 14:28-30; Jms 1:4), until we reach the goal of "complete sanctification" (1 Ths 5:23). Mt 5:48 is the goal we all have to reach. *Perfection* (#5046) is the goal our Father has set

for each and every one of us (Phil 3:10-14). Jms 1:4 — “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

This means you are not morally lacking in anything. It is only possible to have no fear of death (2 Cor 5:8 and 1 Jn 4:18) through our obedience to Messiah.

If it is hard to pray, it could be a sign that you are doing well and being opposed. Sometimes you have to writhe and strain to pray (Col 4:12, NKJV). #75 in Col 4:12 is conflict, to struggle continually with the enemy of our soul. It is fight, labor, striving, etc. It is used of those who compete for a prize. When you pray you have to go and seek for Him and find Him. He hides from us.

There is so much that we could say about that one word, *perfect*. We can't be satisfied with anything else. In 2 Tim 4:6-8 Paul knew he had reached that point in this life. He knew there was a crown waiting for Him, and also for all those who eagerly wait for His appearing. That means not shrinking back, not dreading His appearing because of a bad conscience (Heb 10:37-39; 1 Jn 2:27-28; 4:17).

We had to count the cost because there is a great cost in the building being built. We are that building that has to be built, by personal, total obedience, since we call Him our Master. Our Father has the intention to make us into something that we would not believe even if someone told us (1 Jn 3:1-3). Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, Paul said (1 Cor 2:9-10; 2 Cor 4:17). It is incredible what He wants to make out of each and every one of us. We each have our chance, our once-in-a-lifetime chance to be the best father or mother, the best husband or wife, the best disciple possible.

Potential, or potency, is the quality and ability, or capacity to bring about a particular result. Phil 3:14 means capable of development into actuality, as our Master grew up from a child to a Son (Mt 3:17; Lk 2:40,52). If we are going to reach that, we shouldn't be surprised that we have to go through many hard times, to enter the Kingdom in the next age (Acts 14:22).

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 Jn 3:1, NKJV)*

We are to be “sons of God” and not always just “children.” We must grow into full-orbed sons of God. It is okay that we are “children” now, but sons of God are what we are supposed to become. We now are His children, but we must become sons. Therefore, the world does not know us, as it did not know Him. We are to be the sons of God. Yes, we are now children, but 1 Jn 3:1-3 is all about growing up into all aspects of Messiah, becoming no longer children but fully developed sons, like our Master, when He would say Heb 2:10-11 to us (1 Cor 13:11; Gal 3:26; Isa 53:2; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Ths 1:3).

*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 Jn 3:2-3)*

He is a Son and so will we also be when we are like Him. Our Father is spirit and you can't see spirit, but the day will come when we will be just like Him and we shall see Him just as He is. We who have that hope continually in us purify ourselves, “just as He is pure.” It is a great and awesome thing – “what we shall become.” *Become* is a transition or metamorphosis, as a worm changes into a butterfly. It has not been revealed yet, but we shall be like Him when He comes (Rev 19:7-8).

This proving ground of our community life is the place and time to become like Him (2 Ths 1:4-5). We have to make every effort in the Spirit (Phil 3:13 – straining forward) that we would do it – be perfect – reach our fullest potential (Phil 3:10-16). Everyone has a certain amount of potential they have to reach, and we have to reach it in order to be complete, not lacking anything (Jms 1:4).

Certain people have died who weren't purified (1 Cor 3:16-17; 11:27-31), for they didn't have the hope of 1 Jn 3:3. That hope causes you to purify yourself (Mal 3:3). If anyone failed to purify himself – or give himself to the purifying process in the Body –

he will be purified in death. Can you imagine someone dying whom you love dearly, and you are not sure what he or she attained to? Or worse, that we didn't do our utmost to help him attain to it? There is a lot to this life. And there is a lot to death. Can you imagine dying without that assurance in your heart?

### **Wasted Time**

That word *perfect* means nothing less than the ultimate and complete growth in the Body each one of us is to reach according to what our Father has set for us. We're not to be morally lacking in anything, meaning we are to be worthy of Messiah (Rev 3:4).

Just think about how much time we waste. If we could just taste death, as Jn 8:51 says, and come back we would have more urgency about attaining to the resurrection (Phil 3:10-11). We would be the greatest evangelist, the most loving disciple, the best wife or husband, mother or father. We would be extolling the glory of our Master night and day.

Remember, we are either wise or foolish virgins (Dan 12:2,10; Rev 3:4-5). Dan 12:1 and Mal 3:16 are speaking of the book of life of the kingdom. When we die we will have built either with gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw (1 Cor 3:10-13); we will either receive a reward or suffer loss (verses 14-15); we will keep His temple holy or be "destroyed" (verses 16-17).

Jms 1:21 – Even though we have eternal life, we have to be prepared to enter that eternal life. Our soul has to be pure. Jms 5:19-20 is about keeping a soul from going to death. Each one of us is obligated to love if we see things going on in a person's life. Just think about the glory due the person who keeps your soul from going to death. He should be your hero. He wasn't a coward. He loved you enough to talk to you.

*Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (Jms 1:21, NAS)*

Jms 1:4 — In order to reach what the word *perfect* means, you have to get rid of those things, as the NAS Bible says (we read the verse in several translations). Whoever

has this hope purifies himself, just as He is pure. I know that in many ways we lack, and were we to die now we may not have purified ourselves of the remaining things to be worthy of entering the Kingdom of God. There are still things there in our attitudes. We may not be absent from the body and present with our Master right now. We may not be walking worthy of our Master (Col 1:10). We may not be worthy of Him, walking with Him in white (Rev 3:4).

If you go into the breaking of bread in an unworthy manner, you will be guilty (1 Cor 11:27). If we don't judge ourselves properly, we will be judged (1 Cor 11:31). And if we go on sinning this way, then Heb 10:26-30 awaits us.

We had to count the cost, as Lk 14:28 says. If we didn't, we couldn't be His disciples. But counting the great cost now means you have to give up what remains in us now. For the rich young ruler the cost was too great. We have to count the cost of entering the Kingdom. Our Master said in Jn 8:51 that we have to obey His every word or we would taste death. To taste death is to experience death, even for a thousand years. The positive aspect of death is that we are by it purified. Many times we don't believe what we hear and we think we can get away with it, but it catches up with us: "Be sure your sin will find you out."

It is so wonderful just to be able to think of those women and men we love who purified themselves of all things that remained and are present with our Master. If they did, they didn't have a second of time lapse before they saw Him. They didn't even see death. They didn't even taste it – when their body breathed its last breath, their soul, spirit, consciousness, and intellect (our greater brain than the physical), went right to be with our Master. The ones in the First Church and among us now who kept their garment pure saw our Master when they died, but those who did not overcome are seeing or tasting death (2 Cor 5:15; Jn 8:51).