

LESSON 10: GOING ON TO PERFECTION

DAY 64

As we come to this final lesson, let us begin by remembering the foundation of elementary practices and principles we have laid. These are the core and very basic practices and beliefs centered around Jesus Christ and His work and ministry in our lives. They are all truly about establishing and maintaining our relationship with Him forever.

The basic practices we have laid and are now practicing are:

- PRAYER
- BIBLE READING AND BIBLE STUDY
- MEDITATION
- FASTING
- FELLOWSHIP
- GOOD WORKS
- GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

The foundation of elementary principles spoken of in Hebrews 6:1-2, which we believe are:

- REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS
- FAITH TOWARD GOD
- BAPTISMS
- LAYING ON OF HANDS
- RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
- ETERNAL JUDGMENT

It is with this understanding of the basic practices and beliefs that we enter God's word in this final lesson.

1. Having laid the foundation of the elementary principles of Christ in your life, where do you go from here? (Hebrews 6:1-2)

{perfection}

THE GREEK WORD FOR PERFECTION MEANS MATURITY. THE SENSE IS COMPLETE IN ALL ITS PARTS OR FULL-GROWN.

P2P: How does this perfection manifest itself in your life? See again Ephesians 4:15-16, 17-24.

4. Read John 17:20-23 to answer the following questions.
 - a. How important was it to Jesus that we be made perfect as He and the Father are perfect?
 - b. How does being perfect bring about unity and make us one with Jesus and our Father in heaven?

PRAY Thank God for His perfect plan, His perfect ways and for calling you to be “*perfect in one*” with Him. Ask God to increase your faith to help you believe that you can become perfect as He is perfect. Ask God to help you grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus that you may become perfect as He is perfect. Praise God for the work He is doing in your life, knowing that He would not command you to do anything He does not supply the resources and power for you to achieve.

DAY 65

5. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Jude 1:24-25 to answer the following questions.
 - a. How is the work of making us perfect accomplished?

- b. Who is the one doing this work in your life?
 - c. What instruction are we given in 1 Peter 5 regarding our work in this process of going on to perfection?
6. Can you count on God to finish His work in you? (Psalms 138:1-8; Philippians 1:2-6)

P2P: In what ways are you humbling yourself before God and casting your cares upon Him, knowing He cares for you and will complete this work?

7. Can you trust that God's work will be enough for you? (Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

P2P: God's work is perfect. What He determines to do, He will complete. Do you have faith in His ability to perfect His work within you personally? Do you truly believe that the Lord will make a perfect work of you?

10. Read Hebrews 2:9-11 and Hebrews 5:5-9 to answer the following questions.

- a. How does the work of perfecting us happen? Do we have an example and pattern to follow?

- b. What was the means by which Jesus *learned* and was perfected?

11. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 to answer the following questions.

- a. Was Jesus' suffering left as an example for us to follow, that we may learn and become perfect according to the same pattern?

- b. What can you learn from Jesus' example? How are you to be following His example?

12. Read Luke 6:27-36 and Matthew 5:43-48 to answer the following questions.

- a. In what other ways are we to be learning obedience through suffering?

- b. Considering Jesus' words as recorded in Luke 6 and Matthew 5, what is the reason for the suffering? When we act in this way, who does it make us like and in what way?

13. Jesus told us and showed us how to respond to trials and suffering that we face. What is the purpose of it? (James 1:2-4)

P2P: Every unkind word and action against you is an opportunity to suffer for the sake of righteousness, an opportunity to strengthen your faith, an opportunity to test the very core things you say you believe. *What kind of approach should you take when someone treats you in an ungodly, hurtful or offensive way?*

14. What is a very specific way we demonstrate the perfection God is working within us? (James 3:2-12)

15. What kept the young man who came to Jesus from becoming perfect? What is the point to us today? (Matthew 19:16-22)

MEDITATE Are there any instructions of Jesus that are causing you to sorrow because you don't want to obey them? Is there anything keeping you from following Jesus right now?

PRAY

Praise God that He is of such perfect character, that He acts godly all the time, no matter how He is being treated. Thank God that He was so kind to you while you were still in your sins, an enemy to Him (Romans 5:6-11). Praise Him that He has given you insight and understanding to know the way your beliefs will be tested, through suffering and trials and, specifically, the hurtful behavior of others. Ask God to increase your understanding of trials, to give you wisdom and patience in the midst of them, so that you are not just reacting to the hurt, but acting according to His perfect ways of love and kindness. Ask Him to really see trials for what they are and to give you a heart that is willing to follow Jesus' instructions, laying down your own pride and your own life.

DAY 67

16. Previous passages have helped us define *perfection* as *becoming mature or complete*, becoming the person God made you to be. How is perfection further defined by 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13?

P2P: Are the attributes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 a good description of your life? If any attributes are not present, why not? Stop and pray now, casting your cares and faults upon God and asking Him to build these things in you and to perfect you as He promised. Put your hope and faith in God and submit yourself to His Word, asking Him to bless you with His Spirit by which love is shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5). Write any meditations you have below.

17. Read Colossians 3:1-2, 12-17 to answer the following questions.

- a. How do you go from where you are today to being perfect and at one with God?

- b. Who has to be the focus of your whole life?

- c. What is the bond of perfection?

- d. What does God tell us to put on? How can you use His words as a focus and plan for your life?

18. Read 1 John 2:3-7 to answer the following questions.

- a. How important is God's word to becoming perfect?

- b. Why is having God's love perfected in you dependent on keeping His word?

19. Read 1 John 4:12-21 to answer the following questions.

- a. How will you know if His love has been perfected in you? (1 John 4:12-21)

- b. What gives us boldness in the day of judgment? What is the work of God in us that gives us this boldness?

MEDITATE *Love* – translated from the Greek word *agape* – is the ultimate expression of perfection. It is the perfect measure of righteousness, goodness, mercy, patience, joy, forbearance, longsuffering, kindness, faithfulness, truth, compassion, justice, loyalty, humility, meekness, self-control, self-sacrifice, peace and the like. It is one word that sums up exactly who God is in all His splendor and glory, “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16).

PRAY Thank God that He is the sum of all perfection and love. Praise Him that He is so good and that He is truly the best, without peer, without any alongside Him and that He, in His infinite mercy, has purposed to make you like Him, perfect. Pray that God would shed His love so powerfully in your life and in your heart that all that you say and do would be an expression and manifestation of His love back toward Him and toward others. We love because He first loved us. Pray that you would believe in His love and that His love would so powerfully be in your life that you cannot help but love all you meet. Bless God for His mercy and His love.

DAY 68

20. Read Philippians 3:12-16 to answer the following.

- a. Are we now perfect? (Philippians 3:12-16)

- b. What is the approach Paul is telling us to take in life toward being made perfect? (See also Philippians 3:7-11)

P2P: How are you applying this approach in your own life? Are you being intentional to focus on things that Paul wrote about in Philippians 3:7-16?

21. Have any besides Jesus been made perfect? (Hebrews 11:39-40; Hebrews 12:1-11)

22. When shall this perfection come? (1 Corinthians 13:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:42-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2)

23. Read Daniel 7:13-14, 27, Psalm 101:5-8 and Revelation 21:1-8 to answer the following questions.
 - a. How will God cause perfection to come to the whole earth?

b. How will God finally bring about a kingdom of peace, where there is no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying and no more pain?

c. Who will share eternal life with God and who will not?

24. What shall the servants of God do, what will be the end result of all the perfection God is creating? (Revelation 21:22-27; Revelation 22:1-5)

MEDITATE Are you pursuing this perfection with all your heart? Is there anything else worth pursuing? Can you ever be truly at peace when there is such imperfection in the world?

PRAY Praise God that He is not only perfecting you, but that He is bringing many sons and daughters to glory. Praise God that He will bring about a kingdom of peace, where all who live with Him are His children, children who have put on Christ and the bond of perfection, which is love. Praise God for the glorious kingdom in which we get to serve, to love others and to live and reign with Christ in humility, in service and in love for others. Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!

DAY 69

How will you use the foundational practices and principles you have studied in the Bible to go onto perfection? Consider and write out how you can use each of them in your daily life as a spring board to go on to perfection, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- PRAYER

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PRAY

Thank God for the foundation that has been laid and strengthened as you went through this study. Thank God for the understanding and wisdom that He gives for how to incorporate this into your life. *Ask Him to show you how to practice each thing daily and to give you the desire to practice them.* Ask God that all the beliefs and practices would continually lead you to Christ and that each and every part of this foundation would always be used to strengthen the relationship you have with God and with your neighbor, to the glory and honor of God.

DAY 70**MEDITATE**

If truly believed and followed, the principles you have learned in this study will provide a framework to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, to grow in your relationship with God the Father, to grow in your fellowship with the Holy Spirit and to grow in your relationships with others God loves. Everything in this study will keep you on the right path, but always remember that, in all your seeking, seek the face of God, seek to know the love of Christ and seek the leading of His Spirit.

PRAY

Pray that God will guide you in sharing this study with another person. Praise God for this study that can help to establish and strengthen a strong foundation in the life of a believer in Jesus. Pray that God would put someone in your life who needs this study, who is prepared to make the commitment to go through the study and to put into practice the things that are learned through it. Pray that God would give you wisdom to make disciples and that He would give you the heart and the knowledge to deliver the messages that the new disciple needs. Praise Him for the person He will send. Pray that you will see that person and be ready when he or she appears.