

The Pastor's Study

Entry Number 5 on the subject of biblical perfection and overcoming.

Perfection; Ministering to the Church is a Necessary Part

The Church is established primarily by the Apostle. He is in harmony with the Master Builder which is Christ. The Apostle is builder, and if needs be, also Evangelist and Teacher. He carries the burden of unifying the people, as would the later ordained resident Pastor. The Church; the ecclesia, is a body of believers united in purpose and vision. The Apostle causes to be instilled in the operation, a judgment factor. That would be a people giving the light of Love and Righteousness and Service; servant-like, charitable and sacrificial. The Church member's lives are light and judgment by example; more than mere words. The Apostle's office pertains to laying the foundation of Christ' order, truth and vision. His office is impossible by human standards. Only the Holy Ghost "*unction*" will move the perfecting of the Church toward its end. The end being a precious collective of like-minded Saints. "*A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.*" St. Matthew 5:14. A resident Apostle would be desired, but that presence is sometimes registered only as the continuing spiritual effect of his anointed planting and teachings. Ordained local ministers take up the cause in his absence.

If the continuing burden of the Apostle is the unity of the people, even so, the continuing burden of the Prophet is that the people be in unity with the Lord above. The Prophet prioritizes and ministers the third-heaven-connection. More than the apparent order, unity, and teaching, it is the spirit of the church operation. More particularly, the spirit of the vision, even the mother of us all. This imparting and partaking is established and resides as the work of the Prophet. Like the Apostle, his presence is necessary and solicited. But, like the Apostle, he will likely not be a continuing presence, as he travels to other needed places. Necessarily, the "*the testimony of Jesus...the spirit of prophecy*" continues in the Church. Revelation 19:10.

The Apostle Paul told the Church at Ephesus that the gifts of ministry were for the perfecting of the saints. "*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*" Ephesians 4:11-13.

Overcoming and perfecting is a Holy Ghost work. Pertaining to the soul (psyche) or person; that would be the mind, will and emotions. That is where the fire burns. It relates to the baptism of fire and it is facilitated as per the embrace of the "Holy Place" provisions. However, rest assured, it emanates from the "Holiest" and it is Spirit. Consider Pentecost; "*...cloven tongues like as of*

fire, and it sat upon each of them” Acts 2:3. They were initiated into the baptism of fire. That reflection is ongoing. It is God-ordained; it is the Lord’s provision.

It is good that we respond to the soul cleansing ministering of a Holy Ghost kind; the officiating of a gifted fivefold Ministry. It is for our perfecting. As do clean animals, per similitude, we eat, bring up and re-chew our first ingestion; that is, we read or hear a truth and reasonably assimilate the thing in our mind. Then the matter is revisited as *“praying in the Holy Ghost.”* Jude verse 20. Necessarily, the first partaking is spirit inspired, both in the administering and on the part of the partaker. That would be a “Holy Place” experience. The burden of the Teacher-gift would be that the *“hearers”* or readers do partake and assimilate. The burden of the Pastor-gift is that the recipients *“go on;”* that is, being *“doers.”* Hebrews 6:1 and James 1:22. James’ call to obedience is powered by intercessory prayer. Spiritual. Going on, we chew the cud; that is, we assimilate further in the Spirit, as a “Holiest Place” experience. That would be the effectual doing of the thing. It becomes not only introduced into our minds but into our spirits.

The Apostle Paul held to the vision that he received and shared as an ambassador for Christ. *“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”* II Corinthians 5:20. A gifted minister is spirit led; speaking the plan and will of God to the Church. That is, speaking as a Holy Ghost operative and manifesting the Word of God; promoting the message of perfection. How can it be otherwise unless God’s Plan, Will and Operation of Grace is less than perfect? No, God and all that pertains to the Plan, the Word, *“the mother of us all,”* is perfect.

The true ministry knows that the effectual doing of the thing is that their attendees spend time in spiritual communion. So that; their first ingestion is refreshed, in brokenness, and become assimilated in their spirit. With intercessory prayer and meditation, in the Spirit-spirit connection, we gain the Holiest Place experience. There is where the change comes. The perfecting change; growing the *“new creature,”* a personal, spiritual event. That is essentially the pith and marrow of the similitude of chewing the cud. Without the needed step past the Holy Place to the Holiest, we may, in the worst case, be *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* II Timothy 3:5,7.

Jude 20, we read this statement, *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost...”* Prayer to what end? We do not always know. Sometime our intercessory prayer, in the Holy Ghost, relates directly to a recently inspired reading or lesson from the ministry, or at other times, not so. The ministry, within the Church scenario, or not, needs to reinforce this understanding with their attendees.

Romans 8:26 -29 speaks volumes on that particular point of understanding. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them*

that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The spiritual progress of God’s people towards perfection will not stop with men’s administration; however necessary and however great in our eyes. The Holy Spirit ministering through a gifted person is effectual toward the Church because of spiritual hearing and obedience to the spiritual vision. It is *“the testimony of Jesus...the Spirit of Prophecy,”* Revelation 19:10, which is the heavenly connection. That is to the glory of God.

Most important and foundational is that God so loved the world, his creation and creatures, that he gave his Son to the end that the plan of redemption will be finished. As disciples, we are to love his creation and creatures. Love is foundational. It is Light.

Following is a postscript to entry number 3; introduced here.

The section “...The Spirit is Where the Change Happens” is refreshed and the postscript follows.

Perfection; The Spirit is Where the Change Happens

Intercessory prayer; the Spirit power connection is the vehicle of change. It is God’s Spirit alive in the reconnected spirit of man that moves us along the course toward perfection. Our embrace, by faith, of Christ’s sacrifice and shed blood; the price of our purchase, is the very entry into God’s plan so that we can travel the course. Jesus is the *“door,”* St John 10:1-9. Jesus is the *“true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”* St John 15:1. This similitude speaks not only to life in the vine, but the growth inherent in the vine; the production of the fruits of the spirit.

The work is of God. Perfection is an ongoing operation of the Spirit. For that reason, there must be a reconnection of man (*“spirit”*) with God (*“Spirit”*). *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”* Romans 8:14-16.

Receiving the Holy Ghost is that reconnection of man’s spirit with God’s Spirit. To be more exact; God is Spirit. It is the sonship which Adam forfeited. On the point of *“led by the Spirit of God,”* we are *“led”* in our spirit by the Spirit connection in matters pertaining to the victories we experience in our trials and testing. With Adam it pertained to dominion over the creation. With us, it matters greatly that we gain dominion relating to the wiles of the flesh, the devil and the world; spiritual dominion.

As saith the scripture; “...yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;” II Corinthians 5:16-18. It is a spiritual work that inherently relates to “a new creature” and not a reformed old man, or “old things.” It is about dying. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” Romans 8:13. The work is of God and it is of the Holy Ghost and spiritual.

Reckoning yourself dead is akin to being spiritually alive; that would be the “new creature.” Overcoming is dying to the old man and eventually giving way to the completed “new creature.” Anything less will fall into the category of a reformed-old-man. God’s plan is restoration; that is a new creature, not refitting and polishing up the old man.

Scripturally understood; perfection is God’s spiritual work ongoing and finally “finished” in the Lord’s Body of Believers, St. John 17:4; all made possible by his shed blood; “finished,” St John 19:30. Always and without fail; perfection happens because Christ gave his life. His righteousness indwells our lives. He is our at-one-ment. We are servant-like and thankful for the at-one-ment of spirits. “...he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.” I Corinthians 6:19.

Postscript: Genesis 1:26, 27. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

That “likeness” was not a physical consideration. God is a Spirit, and any likeness would have to be spiritual. The likeness (sonship) was that man was created alive to God; Adam was the son of God and he was alive to God. That equates to eternal life and sonship. Specifically; Adam had communion with God, Adam was sensitive of conscience, alive, toward God, and Adam had dominion. (The New Testament equivalent of dominion is to be “led by the Spirit of God.” Romans 8:14.) The similitude: Golden pot of manna equates to communion. The tables of stone, being the Law, equates to conscience. Aaron’s rod that budded equates to dominion. These articles found in the “Holiest” portray the Spirit realm, estate, or place of God’s operation. The operation that was operational, alive, in man before the fall. “In Christ” we are reconnected; we have the Holy Ghost power to overcome unto perfection.