

The Pastor's Study:

Entry Number 6 on the subject of biblical perfection and overcoming.

## **Perfection; It's Accomplishment is a Mystery**

The ordained voice of the Church, the Ministry, speaks of Jesus; the Truth. That was an "unknown" to Herod, the Sanhedrin, and any others who were not of his sheepfold. Jesus said "...and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." St. John 10:4. We may not think of this "going on in God" as a mystery, but it is, and we do well to ponder the magnitude of "*Christ in you.*" Colossians 1:27. I Timothy 3:16 states, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*"

Continuing the thought: Truly a mystery; how is a rational, thoughtful truth, after being received into our natural minds, then refreshed in Spirit-spirit meditations and intercessory pray, become a continuing quality of our disposition, or spirit? The result is that our nature is changed toward the fruits of the spirit. The works of the flesh are displaced or die. What we do confess; it is a mystery and however beyond explaining, we are overwhelmingly thankful. We can sing the song "He's Changing Me."

We are born-again of the Spirit. Again we state the fact, as experiential; "*this mystery...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*" Colossians 1:27,28.

While we do not have the innate mental capacity to comprehend the mechanics of some things, the gifts and blessings of the Spirit of God are humbly and gratefully accepted; and, that as a matter of faith believing.

A related thought, to wit: Beyond explanation; Jesus effortlessly translated from Spirit to a physical body, then to Spirit. That was in view of the disciples. There is no science among man that can even imagine the mechanics of that. Nevertheless, how blessed and refreshed we are when we rejoice, in faith believing his glorious victory and divinity. Scripture expresses our end benefit of such faith: "*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*" Ephesians 3:16-19.

## **Perfection; God's Requirement Pertaining to the Bigger Picture**

The perfecting of the Saints involves the Angelic Host. Hebrews 1:14 states, *"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"* The introduction of Angelic involvement may be difficult to integrate into the message, but it is very much an ongoing reality. Commensurate with that thought is that the perfecting of individuals and the Church as a Body of Believers is critical in the end time judgment of the Gentile world. Exemplary individual lives sacrificed, martyrdom, and a Church collective without fault is the required standard that will justify the wrath of God that ends this present age; perfection reflecting the works of our Lord thru the overcomers' example and ministry. Again, even the sacrifice of their lives. It is to the glory of God when a ministry is completed; *"finished."* On that point; the Apostle Paul was no doubt approaching a fulfilled calling when he said, *"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:12. Paul may have been referring to a *"finished"* ministry; not the sin factor and overcoming. Jesus stated the criteria perfectly: *"...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."* St John 14:30. *"finished."* A perfect sacrifice yields to God the perfect judgment. If that is our calling as a second witness in this closing age, then Glory to God.

We may not realize the greatness of our calling. Heaven and Earth will be called to task. Rest assured, it is the Bigger Picture. We may be of that time and generation. Our God only knows that. We do well to rest in his Will and Plan.

## **Summation**

Perfection is God's-will-accomplished, or completed, in a life that is servant-like, humbly submitted and reconciled to His hand on our life. The message of perfection, or overcoming, is paramount and required scripturally. To continue speaking truth on this foundational precept, we need to cease qualifying the doing-of-the-thing as though it is primarily in our hands; rather, place it in God's hands. Our life at his disposal. Simply put: The accomplishing of a perfect Church, individual or Ministry is more his business than it is ours. His determination, not ours. So that: Perfection on our part equates to being completely submitted to God's will. Thus, the flavor, in the matter of perfection, is humility. This is a sweet savor, especially in view of the big picture; even martyrdom as our token offering toward his righteous final judgments.

It is our calling to increase in thankfulness, forgiveness and repentance, and, as the Lord allows, greater understanding and perfected worship. All of this is facilitated by the Holy Ghost

operation that moves us toward the state of a finished sensitivity-of-conscience toward God; “*no guile...without fault.*” Revelation 14:5. That is maturity. That is Perfection. That is Overcoming.

In closing: Some say we are positionally sinless, or perfect in the sense that we are covered by the redemptive blood of Christ. The detail of that may be argued, but in terms of imputed sin, judgment and wrath; we are not sinners. That Grace is confirmed by scripture. Briefly; “*For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.*” St. John 5:22. The essence being: We have a respite, a stay; time given to overcome and be perfected. All in the name of Jesus. Let us redeem the time.

Note: These 6 entries are brief and do not pretend to exhaust the subject, nor are they likely to be without error in writing or exactness of the thoughts expressed.

T. F. Igler, December 1, 2020