

The Pastor's Study

Entry Number 4 on the subject of biblical perfection and overcoming.

Perfection; The Church Has an Integral Part

Ideally, the Church attains, or will attain, the realm of; *"in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* Ephesians 2:6. That being the case, we would have a spiritual estate present in the Church, being in similitude; the "Holy Place." Godly ministries officiate in this heavenly realm. As ministers of God they are Holy Ghost operatives, having this testimony; *"...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* Revelation 19:10. If worship and the ministering of the word of God is *"in spirit and in truth"* St. John 4:23, 24, then we may rest assured; it is heaven connected, spiritual and prophetic. There will be present; spiritual manna, spiritual enlightenment, and the sweet incense of heaven connected prayer and worship. These qualify the Church as a "Holy Place" operation. It is that estate or place where God's Spirit connects with man's spirit. Receiving the Holy Ghost is the very event of that re-connection. Adam lost it, but "in Christ" we have it gifted to us; all according to his goodness and by his Grace.

God is Father. He is Creator and Originator of the Church, of which Christ is the head. The Church has a mother, and that mother is *"Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."* Galatians 4:26. This is a precious enlightenment. The carnal mind rejects this truth. The Apostle Paul stated, *"...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* I Corinthians 2:14.

In the light of the above scripture; please understand this: Jesus said *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:"* St. John 6:44. The Apostle Paul similarly stated *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ."* I Corinthians 1:9. The point here is that it was God's Grace that opened the avenue for conversion; nothing within us. Thus, I John 4:10 reads, *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

The Church portrays the very plan and intent of God. The "mother" of the whole creation and human chronicle is God's plan, his intent, his will, his "word." Ephesians 3:10,11, states, *"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11. According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"* The Church; To wit: *"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,*

and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” Hebrews 12:22-24. More than just being the righteous line, the Church is of the faith of Abraham and the Sons of God.

The Church is Family; It is where we grow and mature unto perfection. It is God’s family, and Jesus made it possible. As saith the scripture: *“In my Father’s house (household) are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”* St. John 14:2. The Apostle Paul’s writing states the same. *“But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”* Hebrews 3:6.

God’s “Word” was manifest at the advent of Jesus birth and life, *“...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, ...”* St. John 1:14. Likewise, the mystery of the more completed plan will be revealed in heavenly places and manifest on earth. See Revelation 21:10. *“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...”*

It is the Grace of God, his great Love manifest, that we have a unity with Jesus and the vision. All because the Spirit-spirit connection, *“in Christ,”* abides. Thus; our name is written in heaven and our place in the Church is assured. It is His body of believers. The perfecting of the Saints is integral to his plan and that is inclusive in the “word” of God.