

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Perfection”

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48 (NKJV)

At first glance of our devotional passage, it would appear on the surface that Jesus is asking us to accomplish something that is literally impossible. How can we be perfect? Better yet, why would Jesus ask us to do something that He knows from the start that we cannot do? Look a little closer. The proof is not in the pudding, but it is found in the passage and usage of the word “perfect.” From the platform of the human condition, “perfect” is a word that we use from a two-fold perspective. First it reminds us of what we are not. Secondly, it becomes our excuse for all of our issues, dysfunctions, problems, short-comings, failings, and all that rest that we fall short in. We easily resolve it within ourselves by simply saying, “Well, I’m not perfect.”

Absolute perfection is found in God and God alone. His attributes, character, and personality can easily be designated as His “perfections.” Because God is perfect, and He is perfect in all that He says and does. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” James 1:17 (NKJV) There is no argument, debate, or searching of opinions with regard to the “perfectness” of God. He is perfect in His word. He is perfect in His son. He is perfect in His Spirit. And He is perfect in His residence in the heart of every blood bought and twice born believer. God through Jesus Christ our Lord is the personification of perfection.

But Jesus is not saying to us, as it may appear from our devotional passage to be perfect like God. Since the days of Genesis 3:6, mankind has not experienced the absolute perfection that they had come to know prior to the fall. So therefore, Jesus is commanding that we not be perfect, as in sinless. But rather the idea of perfection is to be whole, mature, and complete. That is what He wants us to be, and He gives us not only the exhortation of the passage but He also gives us the power of the person of the Holy Spirit to assist us in meeting that goal. Every believer should desire to be whole, complete, and mature in every area of our life and most importantly in our relationship with God.

So perfection for the believer is practical and not absolute. It is not something that we run from, or use as an excuse not to become better. It becomes something that we should aspire to. With passion and unbridled desire to become all that God would have us to be. It is an integral part of His plan for our life. Yet many become complacent and satisfied just being where they are. Never accepting a challenge; never answering the call; never finding the will of God for their lives because they have determined that they are not perfect. While we may not be perfect as in sinless, we should be in the process of being perfected. The God-news is that God will not leave us alone in the process. So go forth, and be perfect. It is the prerequisite to greatness. “The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy oh Lord endures forever. Do not forsake the works of your hands.” Psalm 138:8 (NKJV)