

# ONE SUFFERING ONE



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Valerie was a little girl with red hair and freckles. She always seemed to be smiling and full of courage and innocent appeal.

She was about ten or twelve years old. It was hard to be sure of her age from her appearance, as her stunted, malformed frame made her look younger than she was. But her small face wore an expression more appropriate to a grown woman.

Her eyes were her dominant feature. Large, dark, and luminous, fringed by long thick lashes, they were her one beauty. She had the habit of gazing steadily for a long moment at a newcomer to the children's ward. If she liked what she saw, her face would light up and she would shuffle over and introduce herself.

She had a smile, the nurses said, that could light up a room – and could make you forget her misshapen body and painful, awkward movements.

She smiled often. I never saw her cry, although she had experienced a great deal of pain, rejection and disappointment. Valerie, I gathered, had already shed all her tears several years and countless operations ago.

Valerie would come to the children's surgical ward for prolonged periods. Then she would disappear, only to return within a few months for further corrective surgery – surgery that could only, at best, make life manageable for her. She had MBD – multiple birth defects.

Valerie had a well-developed and slightly cynical sense of humour. When some unthinking visitor would ask her what was wrong with her, she would smile sweetly and suggest that he return later when he had a day off work and time to spare, "But", she would add innocently, "if you're in a hurry, I can tell you what's right with me."

Whenever she was recovering from one of her operations, Valerie would "fall" out of bed – which was the only way she could manage to get out of bed without help (and she scorned help). She would shuffle around the ward, helping to care for the other children.

The small patients liked Valerie in spite of her appearance and curious method of maneuvering. She could get them to do things even when the nurses failed.

# Canadian Field Conference

JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2009

Friday July 31, 2009

## "A REVOLTED AND LOST WORLD"

Br. John Bescec opened our annual Canadian Field Conference with Psalm 36:7-9

"Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."

The motto of the conference, "God's City in a Revolted World," comes from Acts of Apostles, by Ellen White.

We can see clearly in the signs that are happening all around us, people are no longer fazed by the sin in the world, they are used to it. Mankind has revolted against our Heavenly Father. Satan revolted in heaven and he wants the whole world to be in revolt with him.

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Rev. 12:12.

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they

have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." Isa. 24:4-6.

Today there are websites that track crimes in different countries in the world and they can be sorted by topic. But how many crimes are committed daily against God? Think about that! For every deed that is done and every sin that is committed there will be a consequence.

It is not man's standard that we are to measure ourselves against but against God's standard. Yes we live in a revolted world but there will be consequences to this revolt against God and signs show us that these consequences are happening at an accelerated rate.

## "JOURNEY OF GOD'S CITY"

Br. Giner said that God invites us to come to His throne. He has invited every one of us. We need the Lord, our schools need the Lord, our families need the Lord, and our churches need the Lord.

We cannot buy the peace of the Lord; it is a gift that only comes from Him. He knows what we need but often in spite of this we go away from our Lord and we do not have this peace.

Our bodies have been designed to function in a very specific way. Yet despite this many put things into their bodies that were never meant to be there. The result is a destruction of their bodies, minds



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and wellbeing. God did not design this for man but He designed all to have peace and health. But this revolted world likes to have revolted bodies, revolted minds and a revolted spirit. We are designed to function in a very specific way, and we were designed in a wonderful way.

Human beings have tried to plan and build perfect societies but each one has failed and will fail because they plan it without God. People do not want to listen to God.

We need to stop and to listen to God's word. Where are we going? What does God want for our lives? When you stop to listen to what God has to say, it doesn't matter where you are, what situation you are in, or whom you are with. When you stop and listen to God you are humbled and moved by what He says.

We need to listen to God's voice and close our ears to the enemy. We need to get busy with God's work and He will be with us, in His city of refuge. The Lord says to us, in Exodus 15:26, "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

The Egyptians had many illnesses but those who listened to God's voice in Israel for 40 years were protected from every disease and never went short of anything. Listening to God's voice is the secret, in His city of refuge.

### **Sabbath, August 1, 2009**

On a bright sunny day, we began the Sabbath morning with the Sabbath School led out by Br. Pedersen, with a scripture reading from Acts 4:8-13, "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the

people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

### **Divine Service:**

### **"GOD'S CITY OF REFUGE - MAN'S ONLY HOPE"**

Br. Giner said that since 9/11 the world has changed, people are looking for stability. We are scared for our future, scared for every aspect of our life. We want to enjoy peace but people fear more and more every day.

Only God can give us peace, He is the only one that can fill that void in our heart. Only God's love can fill that void, only He can bring us stability and peace.

The love of God is what must capture and change our life. We like to be loved but many cannot even understand the love of God because they are not able to love like God. We need to learn this love.

David's life was not easy; he was often fleeing for his life. But David had a friend in Jonathan, the son of his enemy.

"And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it is not so." 1 Sam. 8:1, 3; 20:2.

Here is true greatness and humility. Jonathan realized that David would be a great king and not himself; he accepted this.

## **REVENGE!**

"Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for Him. But, they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when his disciples, James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them; even as Elias did?" (Luke 9:51-54)

You see, John and James resented the slight to Jesus, and wanted revenge but Jesus rebuked them saying, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." (Luke 9:55, 56). In fact, again, these disciples were looking back while the Lord was looking ahead to the cross! They were in a state of regression, not growth and development; surviving but not thriving, not prospering in the Spirit of the Lord! Earthliness still prevailed in their hearts!

## **SELF-DENIAL AND SELF-SACRIFICE**

Understandably, "the present truth was founded in self-denial, and self-sacrifice. We need to take heed lest we outgrow the simple, self-sacrificing spirit that marked our work in its early years." (2SM 193, 197). Moreover, "Among our ministers, physicians, teachers, and canvassers, there is need of an entire surrender of the mind, the heart and the soul to God. God calls for minute men, praying men, practical men." (2 SM201, 202)

But, dear friends and brethren, "Do not lose sight of the fact that you can go backward as well as forward." (CSW 49). Therefore, "go forward and not backward when faced by difficulties." (PP 437); "moving steadily forward, upward and, go on and on." (7T 108; 5T 650)

**KEEP THAT FORWARD LOOK!** "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

(Titus 2:13). Moreover, "looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled." (Heb. 12:15)

This is our hope today! That our lives be saturated with the awareness of our Father's glorious love and affection for us, and that our life experiences be not deficient of the minutest of His infinite, daily treasures. **Amen.**

*John Theodorou, USA*



every point, and place his whole confidence in God. True Christian godliness cannot be forced; it is the outflowing of an honest heart..."(2 SM201, 202)

## VICTORY AND VITALITY!

Proverbs 4:25 commands, "Let your eyes be fixed ahead, your gaze be straight before you." Let your eyes look right on!" "Remember Lot's wife," warns Jesus in Luke 17:32. What did she do? Well, she looked back and was judged instantly.

The wilderness Israelites complained, looking back to Egypt, saying "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?" (Num. 11:20). "Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat?" But now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes." (Num. 11:4, 6) The Lord satisfied their desires, "But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague." (Num. 11:33)

Moreover, they refused to enter Canaan, saying, "Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" (Num. 14:3). They summarily rejected Canaan and in essence Jesus!

The Apostle Paul's wise testimony was, "Forgetting those things which are behind," (Phil 3:13). Ah! But he said further, "do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you." (Prov. 3:1) Blessed counseling, especially for the young!

So, this is the "forward look" of faith that leads to victory and yes, vitality in the Christian life... and long life! In fact, this is the way our Saviour lived while here on earth! So, shouldn't it behoove us to live likewise?

The Apostle Paul's aim was evidently to possess such intimate knowledge of his Lord, and his position in Him, that the day of judgment would be one of **approval and victory** instead of **shame and defeat**. Every effort was bent with this forward focus in view! Victory and vitality is to be our cherished goal!

## RACE OF FAITH

Ah! But, can you imagine this? The disciples were looking back while the Lord was looking ahead to the cross! "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1, 2.

The above mentioned "race" (GR - agona – a contest demanding a full expenditure of energy) is set before us. To run with full energy demands that we first lay aside every encumbrance, as a runner would strip all clothing, (in ancient Greece runners ran nude; no women were allowed at the contests); "and the sin which so easily entangles us." Running requires excellent physical condition. One type of runner was called a "hoplitodromos." That is, an "armed runner." Not only did he have to run two "stadia"( GR- stadium-equals 185 meters approximately, so they had to run about 370 meters), but he also had to carry a cumbersome bronze shield, and javelin while doing so! The winner was awarded pots filled with oil from the sacred olive trees of the goddess, Athena.

So you see, it is a "race of faith" for the disciples and us as well, without any encumbrances! Ah! But, the disciples looked back again, as a Samaritan village rejects the Savior. Because of their mixed blood and different religious customs the Jews hated them! Pilgrims to Jerusalem, however, ordinarily did not go through Samaria.

"Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions... I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" 2 Sam. 1:23, 26, 27.

David composed this song about his friendship with Jonathan. David was also compassionate and loving to Saul. He had love for his enemy, the one who wanted to destroy him.

The friendship of Jonathan helped David. Jonathan said, when you become king be good to my family and descendants. David did as he promised because of their friendship.

Br. Giner read of David's entreaty of any relatives that may be left of his dear friend Jonathan's family. When David became aware that Jonathan still had a son that was living he commanded to bring him immediately.

Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, feared David's call but he did not know about David's covenant with his father, Jonathan. David loved Jonathan and he loved Mephibosheth because of this love.

God loves us with a much greater love than this. The love that God has towards us is beyond our understanding.

Come to my city, He is calling us today. The door of grace is still open. Just as David called Mephibosheth, God calls you. Come to His house of grace, His city of refuge. Make a decision for Him today.

## Children's Program

The Lord was truly leading as the children, led by Sis. Christina McTavish continued on with the experience of the true friendship of David and Jonathan through singing Psalms of praise.

## Youth Program

The youth program, titled Lost And Found, explored the experience of a person and the many temptations and experiences that Satan puts in his way. Yet each time we look for fulfillment in the world, each time we see that there aren't any answers but emptiness. What seems good at the time is eventually revealed to be the exact opposite as we spiral further into despair and loneliness. Yet at every turn Jesus is waiting, calling with His loving arms opened wide, never condemning us. He is the only answer that gives us self worth and peace. This is the experience that will be sung by the 144,000, the song of their experience, the song of Moses and the Lamb. Different songs, their writer's and their personal experiences that led them to write the words were also shared.

## "PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES"

Br. Jerry Eaton asked; "Who built the first city?"

"And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch." Gen. 4:17.

This was a city made by man but it is different than the city which God built.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went... But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:8, 16.

In ancient Israel the pathways and roads to God's cities of refuge were to be kept clear and in good repair. It is the same today; the road to His city of refuge, the church, is to be kept clear and in good repair for people to find hope and safety there.



## Baptismal Candidate's Review And Acceptance

Eight candidates were reviewed for their acceptance and baptism into God's city of refuge, His church, as they indicated their desire to join with fellow believers and accept citizenship in His kingdom.

## Testimony And Praise Meeting

Br. Timo Martin led out the testimony meeting with a counsel from Sis. White; "The voice of prayer and the melody of holy song should ascend as sweet incense." CH, p. 278.

It was a joyous occasion as many came forward to share their experiences and praised God for working in their lives. As is always the case, there was not enough time and the meeting was over too soon.

## "COMPELLING SINNERS TO CHRIST"

Br. Morris Lowe opened this meeting with Luke 14:15-24. "And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his Lord these things. Then the Master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house

may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of My supper."

None of these excuses made sense. Any excuse we make to God does not make sense.

Jesus then says to compel other men to come in to the supper. That means that we must compel sinners to Christ! God loves sinners but not sin. We need to turn away from sin in our lives. God says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." But, the Lord has opened a way of escape to us. No matter what we do we cannot save ourselves.

We sometimes say, "tomorrow." But let us not make this fatal mistake. Make your decision to no longer live in sin today. What we do not overcome will overcome us.

As servants of God we need to urgently convince people to come to Christ, to His city of refuge and be saved.

**Sunday, August 2, 2009**

## Baptism at Lake Ontario

On the shores of Lake Ontario, the sun glittering upon the iridescent water amidst a backdrop of Canada geese, we sang praises to our heavenly Father. All of heaven watched as six souls came forth from the watery grave to life anew. Br. Giner and Br. Morris Lowe conducted the baptisms and the deacons and deaconesses assisted. Many smiled, tears of joy flowed and prayers ascended as we all quietly renewed our own vows.

After, we continued with a service upon returning to the church to welcome in our new brothers and sisters. Br. Kanagarajah led out the meeting.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,



"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 9:57; 10:2.

## LOOKING BACK

In a time when the turbulent world is racing to a disastrous end, and the proclamations of the Three Angels (Rev. 14:6-10) urgently needs to be preached, why are the labourers so desperately few? You may say, "there may be many reasons." Ah! But one of the main reasons is given in Luke 9:62. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

You see, looking back is a continued action. A farmer who is plowing must always look forward if he is to plow a straight furrow. So, imagine how difficult it would be to plow while looking back! Plowing is not easy work; a man has to set, or focus his eyes on a fixed point and maintain that straight, steady, line. Looking back is asking for a crooked line and a practically ruined field; a poor or no harvest!

## ME FIRST

Ah! But why then, do so many Christians start zealously serving the Lord and then look back... the past? It's all very simple. Two little words give the answer: "Me first!" Two progressive disciples (John and James), said, "Let me first". If a man is going to work in the fields, he has to put himself last and the Lord of the harvest first. If each labourer tries to have his own way, the fields will never be prepared for the harvest! Solomon says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5).

Bear in mind, "A meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great value. Religion does not make a man coarse and rough. The true believer, realizing his own weakness, will guard himself at





come out of the modern Babylon, the fallen churches, and unite with the church of God. Those who refuse to come will receive the sins of Babylon and their plagues. Also they will not have part of the latter rain that is promised to the people of God.

There is also the city, New Jerusalem which God has prepared for His people. This is the city that Abraham was looking for. This will be our home city for all eternity.

If you are homesick for this New Jerusalem, then make sure you have your passport ready that will allow you to enter in through the gates. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:4.

May we all meet in this city, New Jerusalem. For a while we still continue as strangers and pilgrims in this world, but soon Jesus will come to take us home; meanwhile the spiritual Jerusalem is our home here which has all the blessings that the ancient Jerusalem had before. **AMEN.**

**Timo Martin, Canada**



which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:1, 2.

Each new soul was given a Bible verse in commemoration of their new birth into Jesus:

- Sis. Jennifer was given Isaiah 41:10
- Br. Filipe was given Joshua 1:9
- Br. Alex was given Romans 8:35-39
- Sis. Margaret was given Matthew 10:30-31
- Sis. Esther was given 1 Timothy 6:12
- Sis. Linda was given John 10:27-29

### Ordination Service of Br. Oscar Oviedo

As Jesus served so He calls others to serve. God could have chosen angels but He chose human beings. Human beings have a helper that God sends to help them to share His gospel to others, the Holy Spirit.

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12.

"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." Acts. 14:23.

With these two verses and with the laying on of the hands of the ministers present, Oscar Oviedo was ordained as an elder for the church in Calgary, Alberta.

After this service the conference was closed as Br. Eaton entreated all present to make a commitment to God.

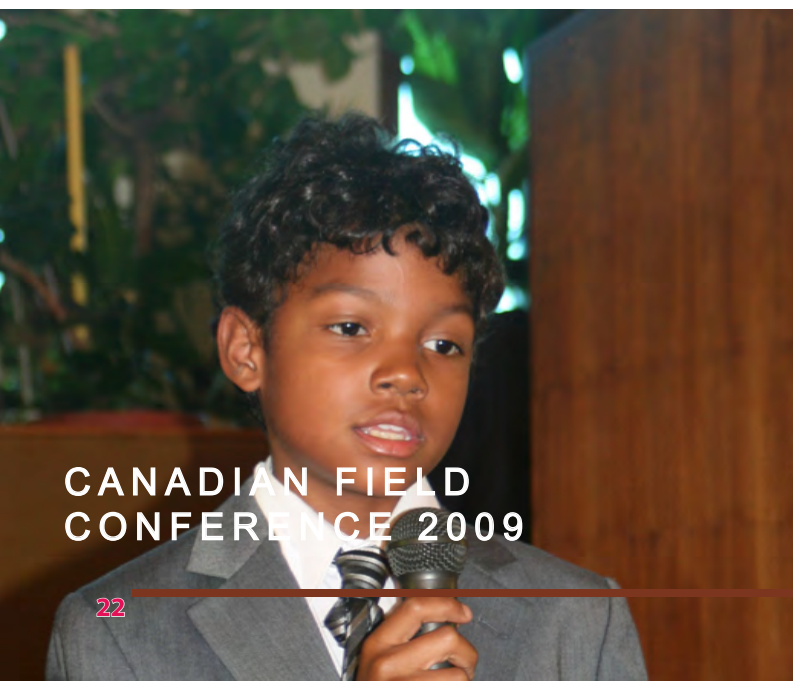
Time is important. I pray that the calls that have been made here

have not fallen on deaf ears because we know not if we have tomorrow.

We would like to thank the many people that worked behind the scenes to make this a truly blessed time and especially all of those who helped out in the food preparation and service.

While we started out the conference momentarily with only a few this ended up being the best attended and spiritually fulfilling conference in many people's memory. May God be praised for His loving kindness! **Amen.**

**Canadian Field Secretary**



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# Harvest Time

Our Canadian Field Conference this year was focused mainly on God's great offer for mankind to find a refuge in the midst of a Revolted world. The Holy Spirit appealed to each one of us to analyze our relationship with Jesus and with sin. Most Christians make a big emphasis upon the need to have a deeper relationship with Jesus, but they omit that there should be a relationship of hostility with sin.

Unfortunately, we see sin as a place of refuge for our frustrations, failures and problems in life. Every time humans look for sin in their troubled times, sin leads them to self-destruction and the destruction of others. We are way better off following God's devices for our needs. To go to Him as our secure place is our first duty and to go to the "City of Refuge" where our wounds will be healed, our emptiness filled with hope, our uncertainty as to why we are here is changed for a clear purpose in life.

My particular service was geared to have us concentrate on the task as citizens of God's city. We are not only in God's church to be protected from the evils of the world but to warn the world and to invite other needy souls to the city of refuge.

In every Canadian Conference we set a motto to present God's word in such a way that will motivate us to do what God wants us to do. Since I have been in Canada, I have been part of 8 conferences. In 2002 the title was: "Be Faithful unto death;" 2003 "That they may be one;" 2004 "Commit thy way unto the Lord;" 2005 "Love One Another;" 2006 "Living Water;" 2007 "Stand up for Jesus;" 2008 "Even at the door;" and 2009 "God's City in a Revolted world." The fact that we may end up running out of mottos in the future should concern us. We might need to start recycling old mottos unless Jesus comes. We call ourselves Adventists, waiting for Jesus to come, but the reality is that it is the other way around, Jesus is waiting for us to be ready: "Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of **Himself in His church**. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." Last Days Events 39.2.

window open toward Jerusalem. Now we see why the captive Hebrews wept at the rivers of Babylon, remembering the city of their God.

The great magnificent city of Babylon did not satisfy them. Even that Jerusalem laid in ruins, it was still the place to where their hearts were longing. There was something that Babylon did not have.

Jerusalem was the city of great King, the King of the whole universe. It was a city of truth, truth that was found nowhere else. Millions are asking, like Pilate, what is truth?

It was a city of living waters, where a thirsty soul could find the water of life, that he will never thirst anymore. It was a place of safety, a city of refuge, where sin sick persons could flee, and escape the avenger of blood. It was a city of comfort, a place of quiet rest, where tormented souls could find peace and relief from the storms of life. It was a place of joy and rejoicing, where happy songs of praise were heard. It was a city of redemption, where one sold under sin and made a captive of Satan can be redeemed and set free. It was a place where one could find the Saviour, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

But then it all changed. When they cast out their great King and crucified Him, and persecuted the faithful remnant, the city lost all the great things it had before.

Jesus said, "Behold your house is left unto you desolate." Matt. 23:38.

Yet our home city Jerusalem is still existing in this world today. And all the blessings it had before are still in it now.

"Be ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God the heavenly Jerusalem, and the 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 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." Heb. 12:22-24.

The church of God is the spiritual Jerusalem existing in the world today. All the blessing that the old city had, do continue in it.

A special work is being done in this city, "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." Ezek. 9:4.

It is not possible to receive the seal of God outside the church of God, because the sealing angel is commanded to go through Jerusalem only.

Therefore, we have a message to the people to come out of Babylon.

"Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed His servant Jacob." Isa. 48:20.

"Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of heaven, saith the Lord. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon." Zech. 2:6, 7.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

"And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain." Zech. 14:17.

Clear is the message the Lord has given us. People are called to



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These captives withdrew from the city to the nature. Beside the rivers of Babylon they gathered in small groups to weep and lament as they remembered Jerusalem. In their sorrow they could not sing the songs of Zion. They were homesick. The cities of Babylon did not satisfy them.

Babylon was a beautiful city. The palace of their king was twice the size of the city of Jerusalem. It covered eight miles, with hanging gardens, built on the arched terraces, each rising above the other, and rich in all the luxuriance of artificial cultivation. Their colossal temple rising eight stories high. The splendor and glory far surpassed the city of Jerusalem. Their feasts and entertainment was most attractive. The best artists in the world had been brought there. It was the center of the world.

But all this splendor and glory did not satisfy the Hebrew captives; therefore they withdrew from these cities to isolated places, shedding bitter tears in their longing for their own country.

But as the time passed, many became used to the life in Babylon. They learned their language. They built their houses and gardens. They had friends and the learned to enjoy the entertainment and luxury of Babylon. Eventually they forgot the city of their fathers and of their God. They were not homesick anymore.

Finally when the time came that they could return to their own city, only a small company was willing to go, others decided to remain in Babylon.

Don't we have the same danger today, that we may forget our God and our homeland and become used to a life here? We may feel comfortable in this world.

But, the little remnant who felt themselves strangers and pilgrims even in this magnificent city, were now rejoicing.

"When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like

them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:1-3.

Now their tears had changed to gladness. What was there in Jerusalem that they could not forget? What made this city so special?

"Nor by the earth: for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King." Matt. 5:35.

"Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth: and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain." Zech. 8:3.

"And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem." Zech. 14:8.

"And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited." Zech. 14:11.

"As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Isa. 66:13.

"But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people for joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." Isa. 65: 18, 19.

"She coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Luke 2:38.

From these Bible verses we understand what was so special in Jerusalem that Daniel prayed to God three time a day with the

In view of the present reality, I would say that the real motto of our last Canadian Field conference was: "Get Serious". God has always had the same problem. It has not been the obstacles placed by Satan that hinders His return. He never had problems with the heathen nations, because He could take care of them in seconds. God's problem has been to have His people do what we need to be doing.

He is waiting for us to have our mind set on the purpose of the church. Christ's character is a missionary character, is a self-sacrificing character; that is what He is waiting to see in you and me.

If we look at the last events we have been witnessing in a chronological order, we will see the intensity of the time we are living in. In Sept 11th, 2001, we witnessed the fall of the World Trade Center. Laws have changed rapidly since then. Oct 7th, 2001 Afghanistan War starts. March 20th, 2003 Iraq war starts. Dec 26th, 2004 A 9.0 magnitude earthquake creates a Tsunami causing devastation in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Maldives and many other areas around the rim of the Indian Ocean, killing 230,000 people. Aug. 23rd, 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit the south part of the US. Sept 2008 Global financial Crisis. A Crisis that has posed a question to all of us, are we investing into the heavenly bank? Dec 31st, 2008 The beast wound is totally healed. The Vatican broke with Italian law. "In a surprise December 31 announcement, the Holy See has said that it will end a policy that dates back to the 1929 Lateran Treaty..." Jan 20th, 2009 The world saw the first African-American become the 44th president of the United States. Jul 7th 2009. The Pope issues an encyclical calling for "world political Authority" to control the world affairs. Three days later US president Barack Obama visits the Pope in Rome for the first time.

We have had the privilege to see the signs of the times clearer and clearer. We have seen the fulfillment of Bible prophesy. How are we reacting?

Brethren, it is harvest time; that is all I can say. Let's get ready; let's not make our dear Saviour wait any longer.

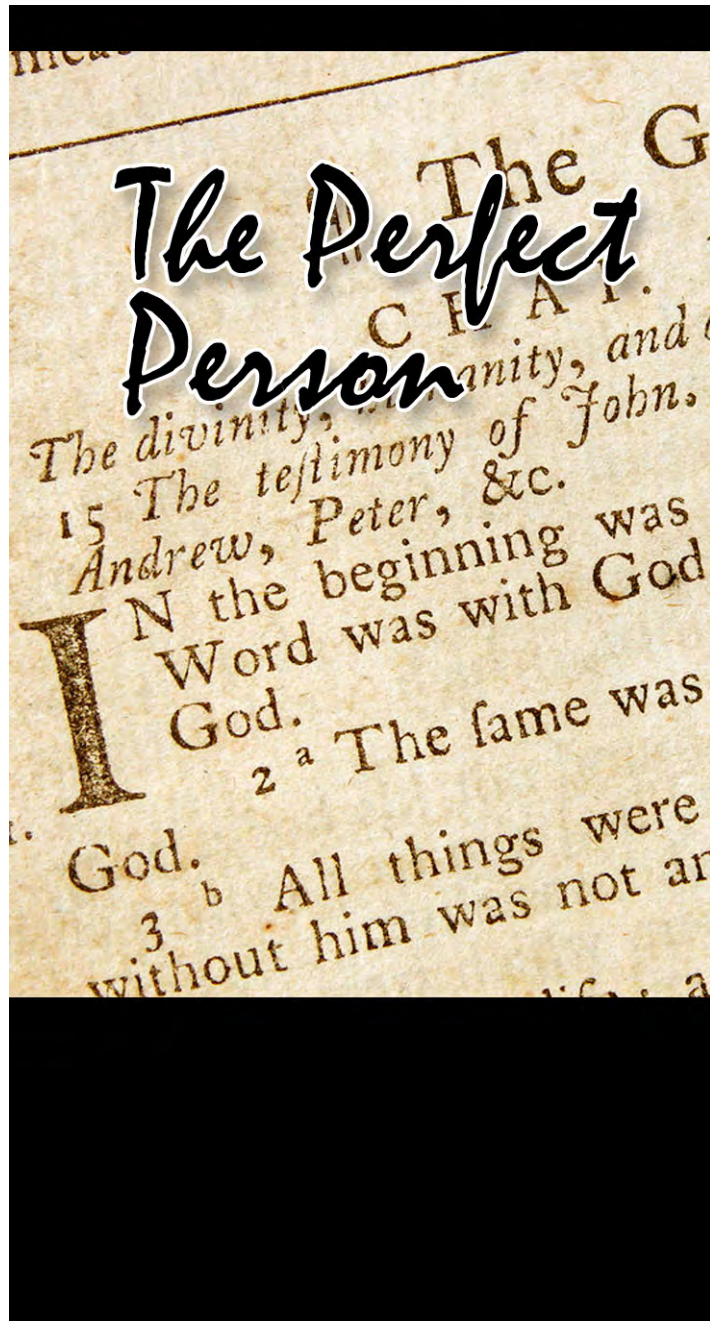
Martin Luther King, JR. is famous for his "I have a dream" speech. There is a higher King who has a dream: "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt 18: 18

Jesus' dream has been to have a people of His own who will finish the work of the Gospel. Are you fulfilling that dream? Are you willing to rescue all for Jesus' cause? May the Lord wake up our mind and spirit to His will. **Amen.**

### Oscar Oviedo

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we will not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only question will be, "What is God's command? And what His promise?" Knowing these, we will obey the one, and trust the other.





"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." MATTHEW 5:48

This word "perfect" has caused many discussions in the religious world. Does it entail sinlessness or does it not? Many who say it is NOT sinlessness use it as an excuse for continuing in sin.

We often hear of the need for perfection. How can a man live a perfect life? Is it possible? Is it required? What does God mean when He said perfection? Does He mean that we are to STRIVE for perfection... and so one day we will reach that ultimate goal of perfection, but we have not attained to it yet?

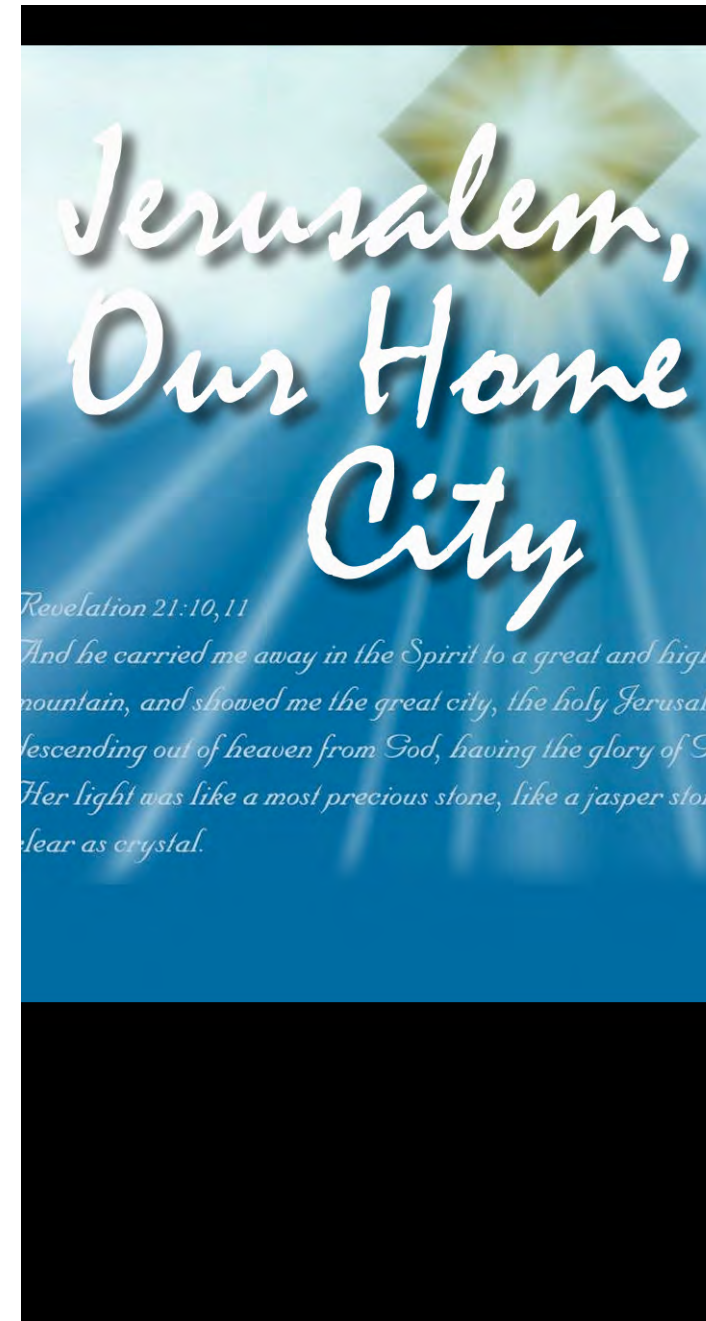
What is perfection? Literally the most common meaning that comes to mind is, "without a flaw." It can also have similar meanings such as, "conforming absolutely," "pure," or "unmixed (as in a colour)". So when Jesus said in Mat. 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect." (Speaking in the present tense), He was indicating that His followers should be "without a flaw." How can this be?

As a noun, the word "perfect" indicates that the person or object has attained that state of flawlessness.

The word "perfect" can also be used as a verb, with a slightly different meaning or understanding. It is a process. If you are going to perfect something, you are in the process of bringing it to completion, or making it flawless. It is not necessarily in the flawless state yet at the present time. Perhaps you are trying to perfect a piece of music, so you practice it over and over again until you attain your goal of playing it without a flaw. Or you are trying to perfect a piece of pottery into a pot. You carefully shape it and mould it until it reaches the desired perfect state.

Is this not what God is trying to do for us? Perfecting our character? Can this be done by sitting back and letting the skilful Masterworker do all the work?

How can the musician perfect a piece of music if the instrument is



We are citizens of different countries and live in cities and towns that are not our real home places. In this world, we are pilgrims and strangers, waiting to enter our permanent home that is different than any city or town here.

There was a man of God who was looking "for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:10.

Abraham was travelling from place to place, and did not find a permanent place for himself and his family.

This may also be our experience. We have lived in different cities and countries and never found a perfect place. All the cities on this world are corrupted and sinful. But even in this world of sin, God has provided a spiritual city where sinners can enter and find redemption. Jerusalem was the city of God.

Daniel was a man in a high position, a prime minister of the world kingdom of Babylon. He lived in a palace, surrounded by servants, luxuries, and riches. But was he satisfied with the glory and honour in Babylon? Three times a day he prayed with a loud voice at the open window toward Jerusalem.

The great magnificent city of Babylon did not attract him, his heart was in the city of his fathers, in the city of his God, which at that time lay in ruins. The temple was burned and the walls broken down. Yet there was something that the great city of Babylon could not offer.

How did the captive people of Israel feel living in Babylon. We read of their experience, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." Ps. 137:1-6.



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character of God. Therefore are **we to be perfect**, even as our 'Father which is in heaven is perfect.'" DA 311

In order to be perfect we must have our hand firmly in the hand of Christ allowing Him to abide in us. Then He will place His robe of righteousness around us hiding our filthy rags.

"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which **is perfect** is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." 1 Cor. 13:8-10 This is perfection. It is not a perfect understanding of prophecy, or tongues, or knowledge for they shall vanish away, but it is perfect love. It is only by a love relationship with Christ that will produce this perfection of character that is expected of God's children.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made **perfect in love**." 1 John 4:18

It is my hope that this article will shed a little light on the word "Perfect." It is not something to fear; nor is it not something to boast about. It is a reality that is possible for a person "in Christ" but the person themselves will be unaware of it. They see themselves as sinners. They will say as did Paul, "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Tim. 1:15. Yet to God they have a perfect character because He can only see the robe of Christ's righteousness that is surrounding them. And we can all have it here and now.

Let us determine as did David, "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." Ps. 101:2. **Amen**

**Wendy Eaton, Canada**



out of tune? How can the potter mould the clay if it is hard and dry? The musical instrument must be tuned... the pottery must be made moist... then the artist can work on perfecting His artwork.

### PERFECTION OF PHARISEES

In Mat. 5:48, the word "perfect" is used as a noun indicating that God is asking us to BE perfect NOW. Can we do this on our own? The Pharisees though they had attained perfection. Listen to one Pharisees' prayer. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Luke 18:11,12. Did not the Pharisees keep the Ceremonial Law perfectly? Yes, we could say they did, but were they perfect? No.

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:20 (Marginal reading for the word 'observation' is 'outward show'). The Pharisees did plenty for outward show, but Jesus called them "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matt. 23:27.

The Jews were wearily toiling to become righteous by their own works. They had a very legal religion and they paid careful attention to every minute detail of the letter of the law, losing sight completely of the spirit of the law. They had made the law an end to itself, something to be kept for its own sake and had forgotten its purpose, to lift one's gaze to the high ideals of God and the self-sacrificing love that was expected towards their fellow men. The Jewish leaders taught that righteousness consisted of having an excess of good deeds over evil deeds credited to one's account in heaven. This did not result in perfection.

### PERFECT IN SIN?

If we have sin in our lives are we perfect? No, we are not. Who then is without sin? "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory

of God." Rom. 3:23. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8. "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." Eccl. 7:20

How can we say we are perfect if we have sin? So here is the dilemma, Jesus says "Be perfect." But the Bible also says, that if we say we have no sin we have not the truth.

Mat. 5:48 is the most well-known verse at the centre of this dilemma. While many know it by memory, it says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

### WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN WHEN HE SAYS PERFECT HERE?

The Greek word used in Mat. 5:48 for "perfect" is *telios*. In Greek this literally means, "one who has reached the goal," or "complete." It comes from the root word *telos*, which means "end," "fulfillment" "completion" or "limit".

In Greek literature it is used to denote a flawless sacrifice, of full-grown mature animals. It also is used to mean physically and intellectually mature adult human beings, (fully qualified or trained professionals). Could it imply that we have grown into mature Christians and are no longer babes in Christ?

Paul speaks in 1 Cor. 2:6 of "them that are perfect", indicating that there are people who were considered perfect. He speaks wisdom to them.

In Phil. 3:15 Paul again talks of those that are perfect. "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded:"

Yet, Paul was also aware of the fact that there were new heights to be reached and that he himself had not reached them. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:13, 14. And then he



goes on to say, that as many as are perfect should be thus minded.

### GOD'S IDEAL

"The greatest Teacher the world has ever known is Jesus Christ; and what is the standard He has given for all who believe in Him? [Mat 5:48 quoted] **"As God is perfect in His high sphere of action, so man may be perfect in his human sphere."** CT 365

"God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. [Matt. 5:48 quoted]. This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, **to keep him from sinning.**" DA 311

If we are connected to Jesus and have the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us, will we sin?

"The **tempter's agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act.** Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. **There is no excuse for sinning.** A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God." DA 311

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." 2 Cor. 13:11 Do we say, "be perfect" when we say farewell? Paul did.

### "PERFECT" EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE

The Bible has recorded many instances where men were considered perfect. i.e. **"Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."** Genesis 6:9

**"Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days."** 1 kings 15:14

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was **Job**; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job 1:1

Even the **"men of war**, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron." 1 Chron. 2:38

There are also many verses where God encourages His people to **BE** perfect.

**Abraham** was told, "I [am] the Almighty God; walk before me, and **be** thou perfect." Gen. 17:1

"Thou shalt **be perfect** with the LORD thy God." Deut.18:13

"Let your heart therefore **be perfect** with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day." 1 Kings 8:61

David encouraged his son Solomon to "serve him with **a perfect heart** and with a willing mind." 1 Chron. 28:9.

### PERFECTION NOW?

How can we have perfection now? Please read this following paragraph slowly and carefully. Read it several times if need be so that you will not forget it when you reach the end of the article.

"Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform. He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the ones upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege..." {AG 230.4}

There is something we must do. **"Our work** is to strive to attain

good works." 2 Tim 3:16, 17

3) Perfect through suffering and weakness

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation **perfect through sufferings.**" Heb. 2:10. Although suffering is not something we choose to do, the important point is to not complain during your trials. They are God's means of perfecting your character.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Pet. 5:10

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:9

4) Gifts to church for perfecting of saints

"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." Eph. 4:13. Use your gifts and talents wisely, for the honour and glory of God.

5) One step at a time

"A well-balanced character is formed by single acts well performed. **One defect**, cultivated instead of being overcome, makes the man imperfect, and closes against him the gate of the Holy City... In all the redeemed host **not one defect** will be seen." FLB 44

6) Faith AND works

Yet we know that "faith, if it hath not works, is dead." James 2:17. If a person is "in Christ" the works come automatically. "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" James 2:22. The perfect combination of faith and works is seen in the perfect man.

### RESULTS OF PERFECTION

**Peace:** "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. Psalm 37:37. It is the perfect man that has found peace.

**Guidance:** Perfect people will receive guidance from the Lord. "The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness." Prov. 11:5

**Success:** "Perfection, holiness, nothing short of this, would give them success in carrying out the principles He had given them." 2T 445

"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 3:2. This verse portrays the impact a person's words can have. A person who does not offend in words is a perfect person and able to bridle his whole body. How careful we should be in the use of our words.

### CONCLUSION:

"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. **As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life.** Jesus was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of man; yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was God in the flesh. His character is to be ours..."

"Christ is the ladder that Jacob saw, the base resting on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the gate of heaven, to the very threshold of glory. If that ladder had failed by a single step of reaching the earth, we should have been lost. But Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made 'in the likeness of sinful flesh' (Romans 8:3), He lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the



We shall have Christlike sympathy for all souls, both saints and sinners; but with this experience **there will be no vain boasting of our sinlessness.**" ST, May 23, 1895 par. 7

Of Lucifer it was said, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:15 Lucifer was perfect until when? Until iniquity was found in him. This clearly indicates that perfection is a state of the absence of sin. But we still have a sinful human nature that has a daily battle between the flesh and the spirit.

#### HOW TO ATTAIN PERFECTION

Jesus was perfect while on earth, but He had no advantage over us. "Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. **His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.**" AG 230

**Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Col 1:27** "How can we reach the perfection specified by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ--our Great Teacher? **Can we** meet His requirement and attain to so lofty a standard? **We can**, else Christ would not have enjoined us to do so. He is our righteousness. In His humanity He has gone before us and wrought out for us perfection of character. We are to have the faith in Him that works by love and purifies the soul. **Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us.** If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour, and walk in His footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled." TMK 130

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **perfect in Christ Jesus:**" Col.1:28. The key words in this verse is, "In Christ Jesus." We can be perfect "in Christ". Without Christ it is an impossibility. We cannot even repent without Christ.

This is the only way to obtain perfection. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know

that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:23

"God is my strength and power: And he maketh my way perfect." 2 Sam. 22:33.

**If Christ is "in you", then you will be shown how to obtain perfection.**

"When God gave His Son to the world, **He made it possible for men and women to be perfect by the use of every capability of their beings to the glory of God.** In Christ He gave to them the riches of His grace, and a knowledge of His will. As they would empty themselves of self, and learn to walk in humility, leaning on God for guidance, men would be enabled to fulfill God's high purpose for them." AG 230

This last sentence gives us an indication as to how this perfection is possible. 1) Empty themselves of self, 2) learn to walk in humility, 3) leaning on God for guidance. Following these steps will certainly result in perfection of character. Here are a few other directives.

#### 1) Surrender all to Christ

The rich young ruler wanted to be perfect, and this was Jesus answer to his inquiry. "Jesus said unto him, If thou **wilt be perfect**, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." Mat. 19:21. Is this a requirement for us to do likewise? No, not necessarily, but we must not be in so much love with our material possessions that we cannot give them up for Christ if it was required of us. All our material goods are lent to us from God. We are stewards of our means and possessions and they are to be used wisely for the kingdom of God.

#### 2) Made perfect... through Bible reading

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may **be perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all

in our sphere of action the perfection that Christ in His life on the earth attained in every phase of character. He is our example. In all things we are to strive to honour God in character... We are to be wholly dependent on the power that He has promised to give us." AG 230

**"It is our lifework to be reaching forward to the perfection of Christian character, striving continually for conformity to the will of God. The efforts begun upon earth will continue through eternity."** 4T 520

#### SINLESSNESS

Is this perfection sinlessness? Is this the expectation of God? Although we read in the Bible, "there are none righteous" and we are told to "be perfect" what about those who claim to "be perfect" or "sinless"? Have they reached the standard of perfection in their lives?

"Let those who feel inclined to make a high profession of holiness look into the mirror of God's law. As they see its far-reaching claims, and understand its work as a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart, **they will not boast of sinlessness.** 'If we,' says John, not separating himself from his brethren, 'say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.'" AA 562

**"It is evident that where a claim to sinlessness is made, there the law of God has not been written in the heart;** for the commandments of God are exceeding broad, and are discerners of the thoughts and intents of the heart." ST APRIL 30, 1896

**"Only Those Far From Christ Claim Sinlessness.** --Why is it that so many claim to be holy and sinless? It is because they are so far from Christ. I have never dared to claim any such a thing. From the time that I was 14 years old, if I knew what the will of God was, I was willing to do it. You never have heard me say I am sinless. Those that get sight of the loveliness and exalted character of Jesus Christ, who was holy and lifted up and His train fills the

temple, will never say it. Yet we are to meet with those that will say such things more and more." 3SM 354

BUT...

"Everyone who by faith obeys God's commandments **will reach the condition of sinlessness** in which Adam lived before his transgression." HP 146

"Christ has made every provision for the sanctification of His church. He has made abundant provision for every soul to have such grace and strength that he will be more than a conqueror in the warfare against sin. The Saviour is wounded afresh and put to open shame when His people pay no heed to His word. **He came to this world and lived a sinless life, that in His power His people might also lead lives of sinlessness.** He desires them by practicing the principles of truth to show to the world that God's grace has power to sanctify the heart." RH, April 1, 1902

HOWEVER...

"The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in distinct contrast with his perfect character." BEcho, December 1, 1892 par. 5. "And the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves." AA561

Those who ARE sinless, make no such claims. They see only their own sinFULness in comparison to Christ's righteousness. Those who CLAIM sinLESSness, are the furthest away from Christ.

If you feel sinless, you need to come closer to Christ.

"If we are doers of the word of God, we shall be followers of Christ, and our lives will be characterized by holiness in aim, holiness in aspiration, holiness in action, which is progressive sanctification.

**Continued on page 16.**





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