

You Therefore Shall be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect

Series:
The Gospel
According to
Matthew

But I say to you, Love your
enemies, and pray for those
who persecute you,

Matthew 5:44

Perfect In His Love

We need to be the regenerated children of the Father, having His life.

- **Matthew 5:44-45** But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, **45** So that you may become sons of your Father who is in the heavens, because He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.
- **Matthew 5:46-47** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what better thing are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
- **Matthew 5:48** You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The habitation of God Himself is in our spirit

- **Ephesians 2:22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- In the original Greek, "Dwelling place" in Ephesians 2:22 is **katoikētērion** which means habitation.

We are not just God's creatures, trying to imitate Him.

- **Romans 8:4** That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- We are not trying to imitate God. Rather we are the Father's children growing in the Father's life.



- How can we be perfect?
- What does it mean to walk according to the spirit?

By Partaking of His Divine Nature

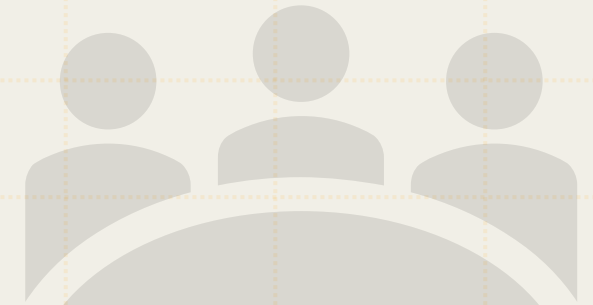
Receiving His life was by believing. Now we partake of His divine nature through the continual enjoyment of God by the grace of God.

- **2 Peter 1:3-4** Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue, 4 through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature.
- **1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

On our side we are partaking, on God's side He is dispensing. He dispenses what He is in His nature: Spirit, love, and light. Therefore, we not only become filled with Him in life, but become what He is in His nature. We can see that we become God in His love.

Here are a few awesome statements from the book: The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 64, 67, 69-70

- [We] have become partakers of His divine nature in an organic union with Him. We have entered into this union through faith and baptism (John 3:15; Gal. 3:27; Matt. 28:19).
- We receive the divine life simply by believing, and the divine nature is the substance of the divine life. Although we received the divine life at the time we believed, the divine nature must be continually enjoyed by us. This enjoyment requires the grace of God
- Only one kind of love is genuine, and that is the love that comes out of God's dispensing. When we are under God's dispensing, we react with genuine love, which is God Himself.



- What is the grace of God?
- Read and discuss the first footnote in the Recovery Version of the Bible for 1 Corinthians 15:10

To Have The All-Sufficient Mighty One Added to Us

- **Genesis 17:1**...When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; walk before Me, and be perfect.
- **2 Corinthians 12:9**...My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

Short excerpt from Life Study of Genesis, p. 630

We need to learn the meaning of the title of God in Genesis 17:1, the All-sufficient God. In Hebrew this title is El Shaddai. El means "the Strong One, the Mighty One," and Shaddai, implying the meaning of breast, udder, means "all-sufficient"...An udder produces milk, and milk is the all-sufficient supply, having water, minerals, and many vitamins in it and containing all that we need for our daily living. So El Shaddai means the "all-sufficient Mighty One."

When Abraham did things by his natural self, he forgot the source of his supply. In other words, he forgot God as his all-sufficient source of supply. Therefore, God came to Abraham and seemed to say, "...Come to this udder. The source of your supply is not your natural self, but I, the Mighty One with an udder. I am the all-sufficient One who can supply everything you need for your living and everything you need for the fulfillment of My eternal purpose. I am the source. You are not the source. You should not live on your own or by yourself. You have to live by Me as the source of your supply."

- If you have time, read the attached longer excerpt from Life Study of Genesis and discuss it with your group.

