

Faith and Deeds Part 12. Be Perfect

We will continue in this message to study the faith and the deeds of Abram as God was leading him and observe how he obeyed God and walked with deeds to fulfill the call of God in his life.

“1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.” (Genesis 17:1 KJV) Here Abram was at the age of ninety and nine years old, and God appeared to him thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael. The Lord declared Himself for Abram in this way, ***“I am the Almighty God”***, the God who is omnipotent and above all power, ***and that to Abram and to us means the God who can do and achieve what He wants and whatever He had promised, as well as He is above any power and He can protect us from any enemy and He can provide for us in any circumstance, and who can secure to us the future and the eternity that He promised to us as we believe in Christ Jesus His son and obey Him and follow Him.***

At that time the Lord requested Abram, ***“walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*** As God was willing to fulfill His promises to Abram and be the real God to Abram with all the good things that Abram would expect from God Almighty, the Lord requested Abram the following: ***“walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*** Even for us today the same request of God to each and every one of us as we are expecting all the good things from the Lord God Almighty. The Lord requested that from Abram at the age of ninety nine years old. ***Therefore, even if you are old in age and have experience in life it is still required to heed the call of God and check yourself if you are perfect and to find out what the areas in your life that needed to be perfected in you.***

“walk before me, and be thou perfect.” The Lord with this statement put two important requirements for Abram and even for us today. ***“Walk before me”***, is to fulfill the followings: To walk with God is to go and move where God is leading and wanting us to move. To walk with God is not to go ahead of God and not to lag behind and not to swerve to the right or to the left. To walk with God is to go exactly in the direction that God wants you to move. To walk with God is to do and fulfill the will of God. To walk with God is to be herald for God, to let people know about Him and who is He.

“and be thou perfect”; in addition of walking with God also you need to be perfect. What is the meaning of that? Perfect is to live without sin. How this to be accomplished? **** Perfection is a continuous process and it will be accomplished in such a way that daily you will be discovering, as God is showing you, wrong things in your life that you are doing and you start to respond to God by repenting from them. As well as God will show you right things that you are not doing, and you start to do them for God. * The Lord wants us to go into perfection and move closer toward Him day by day as we read here, “18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV)*** The sanctification process that lead to perfection will continue on until the Lord would take us either on our death or in His second coming. **** The most important that you need to put in your mind is that to repent of the sin that God would reveal to you and not to do it again, and to do what God is asking you to do without putting aside and without disobeying His instructions to you. * In perfection there must be progress and neither stagnation nor regression.***

God was preparing Abram for further blessing and promotion that is why here was speaking to him to be perfect. God also would speak that when He was seeing that Abram was willing also to walk blamelessly before God. ***When God is seeing you willing to walk without sin and in the fear of the Lord, He will reveal to you more things that you need to repent off and more things that you need to do for Him.***

Perfection is a theme in the Scriptures in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Therefore let us go now through the Scriptures, read, meditate and study which will be a way for you to realize what God is saying to you to do and to perform for Him:

“9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9 KJV) Noah was a perfect man for he did not do the wrong that others were doing and he accomplished the task that God had asked of him to do. ***Go along with God and be perfect. “Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.” (Deuteronomy 18:13 KJV)***

“15 But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Deuteronomy 25:15 KJV) Here God is asking you to have perfect measures so you will not cheat and that you will give the people their rights.

“4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” (Deuteronomy 32:4 KJV) Our God is perfect, and He is doing just and right things, and He wants us to be like Him, ***“31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.” (2 Samuel 22:31 KJV)*** ***“33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.” (2 Samuel 22:33 KJV)*** ***When God is seeing that we are willing to go into perfection, then He will help us to make our ways perfect before Him.***

“61 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 KJV) ***“9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” (1 Chronicles 28:9 KJV)*** Here the advice of King David to his son Solomon was to walk with a perfect heart before the Lord, by walking according to His statutes and by keeping His commandments. David also prayed for his son to God to give him a perfect heart, ***“19 And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.” (1 Chronicles 29:19 KJV)*** In the same way we need to teach and instruct our children of what they need to do in order to have a perfect heart and be perfect toward God, as well as we need to pray for them that God shall give them a perfect heart so that they continue to obey His Word and His commandment, and to continue to do the work of God and what we left for them to do from ministry and service unto God. God answered the prayers of David and helped Solomon to finish all the works that he was assigned to do in building the temple of God, ***“Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD***

was perfected.” (2 Chronicles 8:16 KJV) In the same way, God sure will answer our prayers for our children and will help them to finish all the works and tasks that we are instructing them to do for the Lord.

“4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.” (1 Kings 11:4 KJV) Solomon late in his life, after he did good things for God, his heart was not perfect before God because he was enticed by the women who pulled him to follow their own gods. **So be careful of temptation and forces like women, pleasure, money or powers that may entice you to go after other gods. So if you are doing well, then be careful that you will not deteriorate and go into wrong direction and loss what you had achieved in the past.**

“14 But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.” (1 Kings 15:14 KJV) King Asa has a perfect heart toward God as we can read here, but the high places were not removed. The high places were the places of worship that people would go and worship and offers, but in the high places there are no priests from the temples, but just ordinary men as priests, and these priests usually go along the wishes of the people and approve to them their wishes and desires even if it is against God's Word and God's will, that is why the people would not like to go to the temple because the priests there are followers of God's Word and they will not allow the people and give them permission to do what they like. **Even now, in the church when you tell don't do such thing because it is wrong, what the people usually do, they will leave the church and will go to another church that will condone to them their wrong doing.** King Asa did not remove the high places, possibly because the people would not listen and possibly he was not able to do it, but he himself had a perfect heart before God. **In the same way we need to do all what we can to remove the high places from the life of people, but if we are not able to do that, then we ourselves should be perfect and continue to do the right thing and refuse to do the wrongs or approve the wrongs or allow the wrongs that others are doing.**

“3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.” (2 Kings 20:3 KJV) This is the prayer of King Hezekiah when he got sick and Isaiah was sent to him and gave him the news that he need to put his house in order because he is going to die. God answered the prayer of Hezekiah and gave him fifteen more years to live. **The point here is that why you need more to walk in a perfect way and have a perfect heart before God is that when you are in trouble and in need of God then you have the face to ask for God's help and mercy as you had done good things to God in your previous days.**

“28 All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.” (1 Chronicles 12:28 KJV) Here the men who came to David to make him king over Israel came with a perfect heart toward God and toward His purpose to make David King over Israel. They came to serve in good faith with their hearts united with the will of God and with the purpose of God in their lives. **Perfect heart is important for the ministry and the service of God. The same with you to serve God you need to have a clean and pure heart to work with God in His church and with the leadership of the church to accomplish the purpose**

of God in the life of God's church and in the life of the new people that God is reaching out and in the life of the people around you.

“9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV) This statement was said by Hanani the seer to King Asa. He said it after King Asa moved out the money in his treasuries and gave to the King of Syria to come and break the siege that Basha had made against Judah as we read in **2 Chronicles 16:1-9**. In that occasion, King Asa his heart was not perfect before God because he trusted money, people and powers of armies to save him and deliver him, but he did not trust in the Lord for the deliverance from the enemies. Previous to this event King Asa his heart was perfect before God as we can read here, *“14 But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.” (1 Kings 15:14 KJV)* **To be a perfect man and to walk before God along the whole span of your life you need to fully trust the Lord that He will save you and deliver you from the troubles that the enemy may put in front of you to hinder you from moving forward.** It might be King Asa in his young age while he was strong in body he trusted fully on the Lord and his heart was perfect. But now, being old he might being weak in body not as when he was young, he might be shaken with the siege that was against him. **So here again a good reminder for you that even if you are old as Asa or old as Abram, God wants you still to walk before Him and to be perfect. With this message God wants you to be strong and to encourage you to continue to stand firm and to trust God and to trust all His promises in His Word.**

“1 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 KJV) Job was a perfect man. God Himself said about Job to Satan that Job is perfect, *“8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? (Job 1:8 KJV)* God described Job being a perfect man based on the following characteristics: A. An upright man, being a righteous man, doing the right things. B. He feared God. C. He rejected evil. D. He held fast his integrity, *“3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.” (Job 2:3 KJV)* Even job was attacked by the devil but Job did not change his stand, and his faith and his deeds toward God. **So to walk before God and to be perfect you need to fear God, do what is right, reject evil and stand firm having integrity that you don't change your faith and trust on God even when you are attacked by the devil. You put also the following in your mind, “20 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers:” (Job 8:20 KJV)** Always put in your mind that **“God will not cast away a perfect man”**. To do what is right, to fear God, to rejects evil and to keep your integrity by your good stand and fully trusting God is the most blessed criteria that the Lord will bless and will reward, *“37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.” (Psalms 37:37 KJV)* **As we fully trusting God in such a manner and be perfect while walking before Him we will be rewarded with eternal life; when the Lord Jesus will come back, then we are ready and we will meet Him and He will take us with Him to Heaven. Our ends will be peaceful being with the Lord and forever.**

“2 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.” (Psalms 101:2 KJV) David promised God that He will behave and humble himself and walk with a perfect heart and with a perfect way. He asked God which time He will come to him while he was continually walking in a perfect way. **In the same way while we are waiting for the blessed appearance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we need to walk before God with a perfect heart. Salvation will come with the perfect heart and with perfect walk with God.**

“21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.” (Proverbs 2:21 KJV) To do what is right and to be perfect then you will be rooted and established in the place that God had placed you; as we continue in such perfect walk with God we will be appointed for eternity and we will be living together with the Lord and forever.

“5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.” (Proverbs 11:5 KJV) The righteousness of the perfect person shall direct his way into the right path. **That is one of the great benefit of doing what is right and being perfect is that we will be directed exactly into the right path of life. In addition to that, as we trusted in the Lord and obey Him, the Lord shall bless us with a perfect peace, “3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” (Isaiah 26:3 KJV)**

“48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48 KJV) Jesus affirmed it to us that we need to be perfect and we need to perfect what is not yet perfect especially in loving our enemies, doing good to them, blessing and not cursing those who curse us and praying for those who persecute us. Why? Because our Father in Heaven is perfect and do that and since we are created in the image of God, then we need to be perfect by doing the same.

“21 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.” (Matthew 19:21 KJV) Here Jesus admonished a rich man who came to Jesus; He challenged him to do what he lacked, to go and sell what he had and to give to the poor and to come and follow Him. **In the same way today, the Lord shall challenge each and every one of us to do what we lack in walk and life with God in order to be perfected so that we can follow Jesus and be able to do what He is expecting from us to achieve for Him. So here everyone has assignment that he need to fulfill to be perfect so he will be in perfect peace, walking in a perfect path while waiting for Jesus to come to take us to Heaven.**

“40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.” (Luke 6:40 KJV) Jesus is our master and to be perfect we shall be as Jesus to pass in what He passed through. If he suffered, rejected, persecuted, and afflicted while He was on earth serving God, then we need to endure what God had ordained for us to pass through, and persevere in fulfilling the Scriptures and achieving the will of God in our life and in our ministry unto Him until the end.

“10 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.” (Hebrews 2:10 KJV) Jesus was made perfect with suffering, we too, as we pass and follow the

way of suffering that Jesus passed through then we will be perfected in the same manner that He was perfected.

“10 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 Peter 5:10 KJV) Apostle Peter also recommended that suffering which God allow us to pass through will lead to our perfection. Suffering in life will lead to a perfect life and to eternity.

To abide with such attitude, to live and to be like Jesus in suffering, that will make us perfect in Him; with such the world will come to realize that Jesus was sent by God the Father to the world, and the love of Jesus will be revealed to the world as we out of our love to God will embrace such kind of life that will make the people who see that in us conclude that God the Father love us and love Jesus, and we love God, and they will be able to see that God is love as Jesus said and prayed: ***“23 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 KJV)*** When they will be able to see that God is love they will come to God.

“2 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.” (Romans 12:2 KJV) God’s Word teach you not to follow the pattern of this world, but to follow the Word of God and to renew your mind with what you read in God’s Word and that will enable you to discover the perfect will of God in your life. Once you will discover the perfect will of God in your life, then you will be glad to do it and live it because peace, blessings and assurance of salvation abide in such.

Further, Apostle Paul admonished us in His writings to be perfect, ***“11 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 Corinthians 13:11 KJV)*** To be perfect will further lead us to have a good comfort, to have one mind with God and to live in peace that God’s peace and love shall abound in us.

Paul made it clear that ultimately we need to continue in Jesus’ teachings to reach into a perfect man with our faith, and with the knowledge in Jesus the Son of God unto His full measure, ***“13 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 fulness of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:13 KJV)***

“2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” (James 3:2 KJV) When we speak and the word we speak will take place then that shows we are perfect and that we are led and fully controlled by God’s Word and His Holy Spirit.

“16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV) Using and applying the Scriptures in our lives and in the lives of our disciples and children will lead to raise perfect men of God who are ready to do all good works.

“5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 John 2:5-6 KJV) When we keep His Word and live it then that is the sign that God’s perfection and His love had come to us, that we abide with Jesus, and that ultimately will lead us to walk as Jesus walked.

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:” (Colossians 1:28 KJV) Paul ultimate goal was to present everyone perfect in Christ and he was achieving that through preaching, warning against sin, teaching in the wisdom of God, and through prayer as Epaphras was doing for the Colossians, **“12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” (Colossians 4:12 KJV)** In the same way, we as a church need to endeavor to present every one perfect in Christ through preaching, warning against sins, teaching in the wisdom of God and through the life of prayer.

“2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” (Revelation 3:2 KJV) Jesus warned the church in Sardis to wake up and to strengthen which was about to die for He did not found their works perfect. We too as a church need to warn the brethren who are in sin and those who are defected from their commitment and who had kept aside the ministry of God, warning them that their lack of perfection will lead them to death and that their names if they will not repent will be blotted out from the book of life.

My dear and beloved: “22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” (James 2:22 KJV) God’s works makes faith perfect. Now, let us examine our faith and see if our deeds and works are correct so that our faith would be perfect before God. Let us come now to the Lord and examine ourselves. Check with the Word of God that we had received today, is your life and ways are perfect before God?

Let us come now to the Lord in repentance and let us take heed of the message that we received today, and make notes to apply that in our lives. What are the sins that you need to repent from? What are the things that you need to do for Him? Are you ready to meet the Lord? Are you ready to stand before the judgment seat of God? Repent now of your sins, renounce your wrong doings and mistakes. Come to God and be willing to humble down and accept His Word and His will into your life. Be willing to serve Him and to do His will and to finish your assignments to be perfect. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly that I am called to be perfect and to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, be willing to renew my mind to be perfected and live in your perfect will.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your pride and arrogance, doing your own will, trusting money, people, and your own understanding and not God. Renounce your immoralities, your worldliness, your love of money, and the rest of your idols. Renounce your breaking the sabbath, lack of tithing, not reading your Bible properly and the lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your non willingness to suffer for Christ and walk in His ways.

Renounce your lack of service and ministry unto God and your stubbornness in heeding His voice and instruction to you. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins

Lord I commit myself to work with you and undergo the process to be perfected as you are ordained for me to be. Lord I commit myself to read and study your Word, to serve you and to live a life of prayer and to be away from the life of sin and willing to go along the good plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to trust you in my life and to rely on you and your Word. Lord I commit to you the following problem to solve it to me. Lord continue to speak to me and direct me to be perfected in the aspects of life that you wants me to be perfect.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who responded to the message that we received today and showed their willingness to be perfected. Lord give them a perfect heart. Lord give our children and disciples perfect heart. Lord guide them step by step to be perfected and go along the good plan that you have for each and everyone of them. Lord answer their prayers and deliver them from their troubles so they will continue to serve you. Lord help them to show more fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, patience, long-suffering and self-control, that people will see Jesus and your love in their lives.

Lord lead us as your church with the Holy Spirit to preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus Lord we trust you that you will continue to lead us with your Holy Spirit to do what is right and just to be perfected in you. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faith and Deeds Part 12. Genesis 17:1. 2 Corinthians 3:18. Genesis 6:9. Deuteronomy 18:13. Deuteronomy 25:15. Deuteronomy 32:4. 2 Samuel 22:31. 2 Samuel 22:33. 1 Kings 8:61. 1 Chronicles 28:9. 1 Chronicles 29:19. 2 Chronicles 8:16. 1 Kings 11:4. 1 Kings 15:14. 2 Kings 20:3. 1 Chronicles 12:38. 2 Chronicles 16:9. 2 Chronicles 16:1-9. 1 Kings 15:14. Job 1:1. Job 1:8. Job 2:3. Job 8:20. Psalms 37:37. Psalms 101:2. Proverbs 2:21. Proverbs 11:5. Isaiah 26:3. Matthew 5:48. Matthew 19:21. Luke 6:40. Hebrews 2:10. 1 Peter 5:10. John 17:23. Romans 12:2. 2 Corinthians 13:11. Ephesians 4:13. James 3:2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. 1 John 2:5-6. Colossians 1:28. Colossians 4:12. Revelation 3:2. James 2:22.

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