

## **AIMING FOR PERFECTION**

Based on the command of Christ #11 – “Be perfect”.

Matt. 5:43-48

43. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,  
45. that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

47. And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

48. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1Cor. 13:11 - Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Sin = (Hamartia) to miss the mark because of being led by self instead of God.

Perfect = (telios) - complete in all its parts, full grown, of full age, specially of the completeness of Christian character, mature from going through the necessary stages to reach the end-goal, developed into completion by fulfilling the necessary process

Phil. 3:12 - Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Heb. 10:11-14

11. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

13. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool,

14. because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

## **I. AIM TO KEEP GOD ON THE THRONE OF YOUR LIFE!**

Gal. 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

## **II. AIM TO BE COMPLETELY CLEANSED AND PURIFIED!**

Rom. 5:12-13: "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-for before the law was given, sin was in the world."

I John 1:7-9

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Heb. 13:12 - And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Repentance = a changing of the mind to agree with God's thinking followed by action!

## **III. AIM TO BE FILLED WITH PERFECT LOVE!**

1Jn.4:16-21

16. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

17. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

18. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19. We love because he first loved us.

20. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

### *1. More intense love for the Word.*

Ps. 119:96-97, "Nothing is perfect except your words. Oh, how I love them, I think about them all day long."

### *2. More intense love for others.*

1John 4:12, "No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

### *3. More intense desire to grow.*

### *4. More discernible influence on the imperfections of our physical existence.*

Gal. 5:22-25, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." It has been suggested that there is only one fruit of the Spirit, love. And out of love comes joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. A perfect heart equals perfect love.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

"Aim at the sun, and you may not reach it; but your arrow will fly far higher than if aimed at an object on a level with yourself." - J. Hawes