

## THE JOURNEY TO PERFECTION

B. Keith Chadwell, 2017/7

We, like Jesus, must learn obedience through the things we suffer. This is the suffering which results from the death of self will. Paul said, "**I die daily...**"

*Hebrews 5:8-9 Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered;*

*And being made perfect He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;*

I can only think of Jesus as He suffered in prayer in the garden, pleading with God the Father to take away the cup that was before Him. The cup He spoke of was the agonizing death on the cross to come the following day, which was the will of God for Him.

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*Luke 22:44 And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

His agony in the garden was His mental and emotional suffering which was so intense; He "sweat as it were" great drops of blood." As agonizing as His death on the cross must have been, I believe there was as much suffering for Jesus in the garden as on the cross, as He brought His flesh and His mind into subjection to his Spirit and to the will of God the Father.

In any event, He surely suffered much in the garden. He laid down his desires, His will, His intellect and emotions, to the will of God. **So shall we suffer likewise** as we seek to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and give our old lives up in submission to the will of God. This is necessary in order to have Him effect the mortification of our flesh through the power of the Spirit and then to resurrect in us the life and nature of Christ.

*2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

*According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature*

*2 Corinthians 10:5 -6 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

*Romans 8:17 -19 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

I, like D.L. Moody, also think it is nearly impossible for us to comprehend the impact that one man or woman would have on mankind who would fully seek and allow Christ in them to mature them and then manifest Himself completely through them. Manifesting to their families, their communities, their nation and finally to the world a fully mature, "Christ in them".

You can, as a Christian, choose to humble your old mind, will and intellect to God's Spirit and journey on towards perfection, to a transformed mind, will and intellect. The Journey is from righteousness by faith, to righteousness in fact, or in deed, from immaturity, to perfection.

Alternatively, as a Christian, you can choose to follow all or some of your old unregenerate thought processes and imaginations to their conclusions or try to work the changes needed yourself. Either of these alternatives will cause you to weep and gnash your teeth this side of physical death and impede the degree of your success.

Have Christians given up on the idea that it is even possible to actually reach the high calling of God in Christ Jesus in this life? To attain perfection, maturity, to become Sons of God without rebuke?

Is perfection what God had in mind for his Church?

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

*Ephesians 4:11 -13 And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*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;*

*Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;*

*That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

As a Christian we have the earnest or down payment of our inheritance which is the Spirit. This is our eternal life. No man can know God the Father and Jesus Christ without the Spirit of God in him. No man can have the Spirit of God birthed in him unless he believes in Jesus Christ.

*John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

*John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

*1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*

So the Spirit of a born again Christian is eternally secure, "**incorruptible**". The Spirit is also the **down payment** on what God has purposed to become the fully manifest Christ in us, perfect, mature, Sons of God without rebuke. This is the goal or High calling of God in Christ Jesus!

Paul said of this Goal;

*Philippians 3:13-14 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.*

Paul knew that God has purposed to have a Church, perfect and without blemish. That those Old Testament Saints of faith (before Christ) who had gone before, all having a good report through faith, did not receive **the promise**. (Heb 11:38-40)

*Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that **they without us should not be made perfect.***

*Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, **not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

**So the promise is perfection in Christ**, which the Old Testament Saints have not yet received without us. However, they, the Spirits of those Saints, have been justified by their faith as Christians today are justified by faith.

*Hebrews 12:22-23 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an 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 men made perfect,***

For us Christians who live, however, our Spirits are also perfected. It's our bodies and souls that need to be saved, day by day. Because the salvation of our bodies and souls, "**in fact**", is a process the fully manifest completed work must be received by faith until it becomes **fact**, whenever and however that might happen.

*1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;  
and I pray God - your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved  
blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Ephesians 1:9-10 Having made known unto us the mystery of His will,  
according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:  
That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He  
might gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in  
heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:*

So in Paul's day, the church or Body of Christ, which God has purposed will be manifest perfect, had not yet attained that goal. Yet, Paul said; even though he himself had not yet attained this goal, he would forget those things behind him and press on toward that goal of perfection, which is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

*Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so  
great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin  
which doth so easily beset us and **let us run with patience the race that is  
set before us**, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*

Jesus started this project in us, and He will finish it.

*Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were  
**already perfect**: but I follow after, **if that I may apprehend that for**  
which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 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.***

To be the faithful servant of God, in life, glorifying the Father in all that we do, only doing His will, from the heart, is to have Christ fully manifest in us. It is not about us. It is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet  
appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall  
be like him; for we shall see him as he is*

To manifest the nature of Christ from our hearts is impossible without the work of the Spirit in us. However, we have the Spirit which is the down payment on the fully manifest Christ in us. Like Paul; we can forget those things behind us and press toward the mark, the goal, which is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We, who are now alive, are somewhere between the new birth in the Spirit and mature Son ship. Paul insisted that he had not attained to perfection but he also said he would forget everything behind him and press toward the goal of perfection, which he states is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Can we do anything less? Unless we have a goal, a vision, we will never attain it.

*Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

In the meanwhile, rough as we still appear we must see the possibility, the mark, the goal, the vision of perfection. We must do more than see ourselves, by faith, as mature Sons of God with Christ fully manifest in us, waiting for a physical death or a "rapture" to steal us away.

We must walk after the spirit, and trust in Christ to make the true vision come to pass; **in fact**. Without a vision of the true will of God in this regard, we, like generations of Christians and Old Testament Saints before us, will perish in death and must wait among that great cloud of witnesses for another generation to catch the vision before we can all attain the promise of perfection, in fact.

*Hebrews|4:5-6 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.*

**"Some must enter in"**. Some must enter into His rest and allow Christ in them to do His full work of perfection. Not working out their own righteousness, not speaking their own words, not seeking their own pleasures.

**"Some must enter in"** to the rest of God and allow Christ in them to fully manifest his life and nature to the world, it is His plan that the Church follow the pattern of His Son.

Christ first came unexpectedly, unassumingly, hidden, as it were, in the earth. Jesus, having been born of flesh and of the Spirit, then grew in grace, stature and in favor with God and man; until "that day" of his appearing to Israel. So is the Church in the earth to manifest the glory of God in the earth again as Jesus did before.

This Church in the earth, will be; without spot, wrinkle or any such thing. The Church of Jesus Christ that is fully mature, even unto the stature and measure of Christ. Sons of God without need of further correction, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, ready to revenge all disobedience when their obedience is fulfilled.

*2 Corinthians 10:5-6 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

*Psalms 2:6-9 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

*Revelation 2:26-27 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the END, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

However, **"THE END"** IS NOT ALWAYS TERMINAL !!!

The word **"end"** in Revelations 2:26 (and in other scriptures) is translated from the New Testament Greek word; **"telos"**, which means; **"to set out for a definite point or goal; properly; "the point aimed at, as a limit"**.

**"The end" is the goal, or point aimed at. That Goal is; "the perfection of the Saints" and the Kingdom of God fully manifest and operational in the earth.**

*Matthew 24:14 And **this gospel** of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the **end** come.*

*Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be **finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*

*Colossians 1:26-27 Even **the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**;*

*Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ**; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

*Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for **the manifestation of the sons of God**.*

*Romans 8:22-23 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, **the redemption of our body**.*

Creation is groaning, waiting in expectation for the full manifestation of the Sons of God in **the earth**. Creation is waiting for His church to manifest the glory of God through a fully functioning government of God operating in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation. Creation is waiting for the will of God to move outwardly from the hearts of God's people, in order to manifest His love and His works to families, to communities and to Nations. Creation is waiting for the earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

*John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

What are we waiting for? **“The Kingdom of Heaven's at hand”!**

~ ~ ~

B. Keith Chadwell

[www.Highcountryministry.com](http://www.Highcountryministry.com)