

GOD'S PERFECTION for us (Part 2 of 2)

Matthew 5:48



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Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: Perfect, mature, finished, image of Christ, suffering.

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Summary: Part 2. Please view part 1 first. God has an exciting dream for our lives, better than we can imagine. You and I are being “finished” into the perfect image of his Son, Jesus Christ. But too often we get down on how we’re doing spiritually. But the battle is not ours, “but the Lord’s”. Plus, I sense too many believers either get depressed over their own imperfections – or are jaded and bored. I pray this message will rekindle the “fire” in your heart and open up the JOY of God’s salvation for you. Learn who guarantees to finish the task he started in you – and how and when that happens. What role does suffering play? Can certain sins ever be overcome? Learn the exciting truth.

Hi everybody, and welcome to Light on the Rock. I’m Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website. Glad you can join us.

As I start, I first want to remind you **that I often use the Hebrew name** for Jesus – the name his mama would have called him – **Yeshua – meaning Savior or Salvation.** Yeshua and his family never heard the sound “Jesus”.

Today is part 2 and conclusion of “God’s perfection for us – God’s way”. **If you have not watched or read Part 1, please do that first.**

Though I’ll give a review, you’ll miss much of the VITAL foundation if you don’t hear Part 1.

Why am I speaking on this topic? We need to understand this topic for 3 reasons:

1. **God is preparing a team of spirit-led Believers in Christ to help set up the millennial reign of Yeshua. Those in that first resurrection team will be just like God – by HIS working in us – people who are holy, complete, perfect.** So many scriptures call them blameless, without fault, holy, righteous and like God. Perfect. And God is using our life events to prepare us for that. Imperfect people becoming completed by God.
2. Yeshua taught we must be perfect. And we saw last time what that means. Only one person has been able to live a perfect, sinless life that is an exact copy of our Heavenly Father. That one person: Jesus Christ /Yeshua (**Hebrews 1:1-3**). Paul says he pressed on for that perfection he was called to (Philippians 3:14).

Matthew 5:48

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

3. I'm hoping this topic helps **rekindle a lot of excitement for the things of God** in your life. I sense the church is in the doldrums; not that excited. We have to return to our “first love” we had when God first started calling us (**Revelation 2:4-5**) and become zealous for the things of God, and not be Laodicean.

Many of you know we are to become more and more like God, *but then we see our failures*, the many ways and times we just don't measure up, and we get discouraged. I'll address that also in today's teaching, and how we can experience the **JOY of God's salvation** – yes, even with our stumbles.

QUICK OVERVIEW OF PART 1

Meaning of “Perfect” in scripture: In English, “perfect” means **flawless**. But the Greek word (#5048) used in the Bible that's often translated “perfect” in the KJV and NKJV –*can mean flawless when referring to God*, but when referring to humans, means **“be complete, to have reached the goal; to finish, to be mature, to be finished”**. Many translations say “mature” or other words instead of “perfect” because the Greek CAN mean various things. (For example James 2:22; Eph. 4:13, etc.)

We also read in Isa. 46:9-11, how God says he declares the end from the beginning. He can create the future and end result he wants. He's like a great **architect** knowing exactly what beautiful home or building

will be constructed on what presently is just a ground of dirt, rocks and trees. But God can actually *make* it all happen.

This is how God can say right now that he has already perfected you and me, though we know we still have many flaws. God sees how He's going to get you to the point of perfection with His covering righteousness and perfection and what He allows us to go through in life – the trials and temptations he allows. But remember, in terms of humans, "perfect" from the Greek word does not have to mean FLAWLESS - but complete. This is how He says this:

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one offering **HE HAS perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.”

The ROAD to perfection

The road to perfection in Christ starts with God MOST High hand-choosing you to be part of the first, the better, resurrection (John 6:44). We need to cherish this high calling and feel so blessed to be invited to be part of the wedding supper of the Lamb of God (read **Matthew 22:1-10**). *Too many of us treat it lightly* or even turn down this highest of invitations!

We gratefully accept God's calling. God then hands us to Yeshua to work with us (John 6:37, 45), who then leads us back to come to know our Father (**John 14:6**). God leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4) and so we TURN from our wrong way of life to God's way and have ALL our sins *forever* washed away in the blood of the Lamb (**1 John 1:7-9; John 1:29**).

The verb tense in 1 John 1:7 is an ongoing washing by His blood that happens; not just one time. The Greek word for “cleanses” is *kathariso* –in the *present active indicative* tense. It means this cleansing from God is ONGOING. *Christ's blood continues to cleanse us of all sin as they happen, once he becomes our savior and we repent of all and any sin.* **The Amplified Version ends verse 7** “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin [by erasing the stain of sin, **keeping us cleansed from sin in all its forms** and manifestations]” Emphasis mine. This is a vital concept to understand and I plan to cover it more in future sermons.

This is a VERY high calling. When **we accept Yeshua as our Lord, Master and Savior** -- he takes the wrath and death penalty caused by our sins so God's wrath on us for our sins is gone forever. *If we don't give up our sins to Christ, then God's wrath on us remains (John 3:35-36)* and we will have to pay our own death penalty.

Then we're called to repent, be baptized and receive God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-39), making us God's child (Romans 8:9, 14).

Being God's child now makes all the difference in what happens hereafter. *We can now refer to the Highest, God – as "Abba", Daddy.*

We can never expect to attain full maturity and perfection without God's Holy Spirit. We absolutely must have God's spirit – his presence in us.

Galatians 3:3

"Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made PERFECT by the flesh?"

(NIV says "attain your goal by human effort?")

With God's spirit, Christ himself comes into our hearts and lives.

In fact, when Christ comes into our hearts (Eph. 3:17) by His spirit, HE intends to live in you and me the way he did as the Son of Man – obediently and perfectly. We have to change by letting Christ in us change us by HIS life being lived in us this time.

That requires us seeking him fervently and using his power and spirit to fight and refuse sin. God should be seeing more and more of HIS SON living in us, and less of our old self (John 3:30). We cannot say we know God if we don't keep his commandments (Please read 1 John 2:3-6).

If we continue to live sinfully according to the old carnal nature we still have, as our way of LIFE, we will die. So don't get me wrong!

Romans 8:11-14 NIV

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are LED BY the Spirit of God are sons of God."

Matthew 7:21-23

"NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

We must not be denying Christ or God by our actions.

Titus 1:16

"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, *disobedient*, and disqualified for every good work."

Frankly, our "hard work" is to be sure we're staying attached to our Savior, like glue! **John 15:4-5** is so clear on this. If we stay attached on the Vine, he will provide much fruit. That means seeking first the Kingdom of God and HIS righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**). FIRST. It's first priority in our daily lives.

John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING."

WHY WE NEED THE Holy Spirit

WHY do we need God's Holy Spirit? God's spirit gives us **his Seed and his Divine nature (1 Peter 1:2-4, 23)**, his power and his Presence. We receive GOD's very own nature – even while we still have our human nature. God himself and Yeshua come to live inside us by the Holy Spirit (**John 14:23**). Those LED by God's Holy Spirit are his children (**Romans 8:14**).

Remember also that scripture actually says GOD is the one who **qualifies** us for his kingdom, and **he has already qualified you (Colossians 1:12-13)**. It's not as clear as that in the KJV.

NIV: "For by one sacrifice **he HAS made perfect forever** those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10:14)

Perfection is GOD'S work, not ours

Without understanding how God credits his righteousness to us, or “imputes” it to us, we will never understand becoming perfect. Too many of you still refuse to accept this wonderful truth. I have many sermons on “God’s righteousness”. Just use our Search bar and come to understand it.

Last time we read **Philippians 3:9-11** where Paul clearly states he did NOT want his own righteousness but God’s righteousness by faith. **Romans 3:21-26 is so clear. Please take time to read these on your own. Also Romans 4, 5 and 9:30-32** also clearly teach God’s GIFT of HIS righteousness by faith (Romans 5:16-19, especially v 17).

In discussing how God credited or imputed HIS righteousness to Abraham, when he believed God, Romans 4 goes on to say this:

Romans 4:21-25 NIV

“being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why **“it was credited to him as righteousness.”** 23 The words “it was credited to him” (Abraham) were written not for him alone, 24 **but ALSO for US, to whom God will CREDIT righteousness** — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”

Then this beautiful verse. We must understand the depth of this next verse.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew NO sin to be sin for us, that WE might become **the righteousness OF GOD in Him.”**

God imputes on to his sinless Son ALL our sin when we accept Yeshua as our Savior. That covers us then and for the rest of our lives! Our sins go on to Yeshua! Then God the Father imputes or transfers HIS very own righteousness and perfection on to us, because we are in his perfect Son Jesus Christ, and He sees NO sin we’re liable for once Jesus takes all our sins. *That includes sins today, tomorrow, and forever, as long as we confess and repent.*

BUT -- We must no longer live a lifestyle of sin, as our way of life

GOD CREDITING His very own righteousness to us does NOT mean we can continue in a life of sin.

But we CAN do all things through and with Christ (Phil 4:13). This includes sins that seem to hang on in our lives. We can surrender each one to

Christ. **Admit you're having a tough time giving up this or that sin** – lust, alcoholism, vanity, selfishness, being unkind – whatever – and then in prayer ask Yeshua to take those too, and to defeat those sins in you.

Philippians 4:13

“I CAN do ALL things through CHRIST who strengthens me.”

You can do all things through him. **Admit in prayer**, “Lord, I can't seem to defeat these certain wrong areas of my life, *but I know you can!* I ask you to fight these for me and in me and give me the victory to your glory!”

So this repentance and turning to God must be complete, nothing held back. ***But the transformation is Christ living in us, not me working so hard to become perfect.*** *We open the door to Christ. We seek him. We ask him to live again in us as he lived the first time. HE is the one transforming and PERFECTING us. WE died spiritually – and now the life we live is by faith in Christ, who is now our life (Col 3:3-4).*

Yeshua perfected by suffering

We ended the sermon last time talking about how Yeshua was made perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:10

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, ***to make the captain of their salvation PERFECT through SUFFERINGS.***”

Yeshua, the Son of God, was already flawless, so this is an example of where a different word in the English translation – like “completed, finished” – helps us understand better. He was already “perfect” as we understand the word, but not yet complete in that he had never lived decades as a human being.

To be the High Priest with deep empathy, He had to know more about what it's like TO BE human flesh and blood being by LIVING as one. He experienced pain, suffering, rejection, separation – and now he can relate better as our High Priest.

We also saw how He had to face – and defeat – **every possible temptation** Satan would be throwing at him.

Hebrews 4:15-16

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but **was in ALL points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Understand what we just read and what it means. **It means Yeshua was tempted to hate, to lust**, to give up, to strike out – because he was tempted, tried, and tested in every conceivable way. Yet without sin. So he understands!

Remember as I said last time: temptation is not sin. Giving IN to temptation is the sin. Christ was tempted in ALL points. So he understands what it's like to be tempted to get drunk, or to commit fornication, or to break the sabbath (by God's definition), to steal food when he was hungry – but never gave in! But even our Lord was tempted to sin.

So now when we come before God, we have an Advocate who truly understands how tough temptations can be (**1 John 2:1-2**). HE defends us!

Going through suffering and temptations – without sin – *completed and finished him*, thus perfecting him as Hebrews 2:10 says.

Do you remember what Jesus cried out on the cross?

John 19:30

“So when **JESUS** had received the sour wine, He said, ***‘finished!’*** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

In the original Greek, it's just “Finished!” Almost all translations have it as “finished”. In the **GREEK – TELEO -- NT:5055** – “To make an end or to accomplish, to complete something, not merely to end it, **but to bring it to PERFECTION or its destined goal, to carry it through.**”

What Jesus said is the same word translated “perfect” or “perfected” – or “finished”. Christ on the cross had brought his assigned task to perfect completion. Finished! Perfect! DONE! He finished his assignment – PERFECTLY! Same word. Yeshua could just as easily have said, “Perfect!”

Our king and Savior Yeshua the Son of God has been perfected, totally finished, and **so now our great God focuses on Savior Yeshua finishing YOU and me; making us complete, mature and perfect.** When we are “in Christ” and he is in us, HE is the one fighting for us, and helping us overcome.

So now WE ALSO are being perfected/completed by suffering

(The video has much more info here; these notes are close, but not word for word.)

In the same way that Yeshua was completed by suffering (**Hebrews 2:10**) for his future tasks as High Priest for the Kingdom of God, **WE are also being groomed to be a royal priesthood—to be better priests under Christ**, to better able to help and understand everyone in the times to come, *because of the things WE suffer – both physically and emotionally.*

So don't think God is not answering your prayers when your pain continues. Suffering usually leads people to pray more than when everything's going well. *He's allowing you to suffer to draw you to your knees in seeking Him* and to help you be able to comfort others by the same comfort you received from God (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**).

AND we grow and prepare to be priests under Christ, ALSO by resisting temptations we face, just as our Master did. So now Christ IN US is resisting and overcoming temptations again! It's by HIS power, HIS righteousness that we can better resist old temptations we used to give in to.

Our own suffering is also completing US for our role as empathetic priests and kings in the millennium and beyond.

Look what Apostle **PAUL** had to go through! Three shipwrecks, flogged five times by Jews with 39 lashes each time (195 lashes total!!), 3x beaten by rods, assassination attempts, fighting beasts in Ephesus, stoned and left for dead – and I could keep going (**2 Cor. 11:22-28; Ephesians 5:32**).

God could have spared him all that trouble and suffering, but Paul eventually understood God was preparing him for his very high role in the Kingdom.

Paul calls these types of things as “light afflictions” not to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us (**2 Cor. 4:16-18; Romans 8:18**). So he encourages us to *not focus on what we're seeing, but what's being built inside of us*, in our character. Look at eternal results.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our LIGHT affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

If you're going through a lot – especially things not your fault -- God is preparing you for remarkable things in His Kingdom. (I discuss my friend **Paul G**, with severe MS, can't move anything below his neck. I think he's being prepared for prominent position and rewards in God's kingdom.)

James 1:2-4

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into **various trials**, knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces patience.

4 But **LET patience have its PERFECT work, THAT YOU may be PERFECT and complete (KJV: entire), lacking nothing**".

The saints' lives are depicted as lives that will have trouble and suffering. Yeshua said we must deny ourselves and take up our cross **DAILY** and follow him (**Luke 9:23**). The cross pictures suffering and death of the self. God is using everything that's happening to us – for his purpose.

So understand this DEEPLY: having trouble in this life, having pain and suffering in this life, is PART OF God's PROGRAM to complete or perfect us. Expect it. It's perfecting you.

Here's Paul's other conclusion, in context to a "thorn in the flesh" – some kind of malady or problem he continually was facing. **WE** are going to face some serious persecution and troubles in the years ahead. Here's how Paul tells us to handle it.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

"Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, "MY GRACE is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made PERFECT in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take PLEASURE in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am STRONG.

Verse 9 'perfect' is that same Greek word #5048 again – Teleioo – “made complete, finished, perfect, mature, PERFECT.”

Peter says trials are to be preferred to gold! (1 Peter 1:6-7) And so I hope you're seeing WE have to have suffering to perfect us too, just as our Master Yeshua did.

WHO ENSURES WE END UP PERFECT AND COMPLETE?

Remember I pointed out in the beginning that God sees the end result, the goal – what HE's preparing you for. He knows from the beginning where you'll end up. (Isaiah 46:9-10). V. 10 -- **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done...**

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one offering **HE HAS perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.”

WHO perfects us? This verse says “HE”, GOD, Christ are working to perfect us. Seek God more than ever.

God is very, very good at completing what He started. And what he works on comes out perfect. Just look at His creation. Scripture calls us His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). He is working in us. Don't ever doubt that whatever God works on in us will be anything but perfect when He's all done. That includes you! And me. Yes, even I!

So why do we struggle with Hebrews 10:14? Because we KNOW our own imperfections and areas in which we fall so terribly short of the glory of God.

*It doesn't change the fact that God sees what HE has promised to you – that you are, in his mind, **already perfected, forever!***

God understands we are now IN Christ – who WAS perfect. If we are now in Christ, And Christ is now in us – GOD sees Yeshua, NOT you and me.

WHY WE FAIL AND FALL SHORT SO MUCH

So then, WHY do we still FAIL so much to live perfectly now?

Because we now have 2 NATURES warring against themselves. We have the old carnal heart, called a heart of stone, which hates God and his way, and this heart in each of us is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). This is the heart of human nature, carnal nature. It cannot love God and cannot obey God (Romans 8:5-8)

But then God gives us A NEW HEART, which loves God and has His laws and way inscribed on our heart of flesh. This heart is what David asked for – “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psa. 51:10). This heart is opposite the old nature's heart.

These 2 natures fight each other. We don't do what we want to do – when we listen to the old nature and follow it. This is why we still sin: because we still have the sinful nature alongside God's nature. We sin when we listen to and obey the sinful nature instead of God's nature.

Galatians 5:16-17 NIV

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

We have to have FAITH in this heart from God, this righteousness from God – even though we don't SEE perfection yet. It's called the “righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7; Romans 9:30). Remember, faith is the proof/evidence of things NOT YET seen(Hebrews 11:1)! So do we see ourselves living a perfectly righteous life each day? NO. But in faith, looking ahead we do!

So WHO perfects us – you, or Someone else? Getting this into our heads is so important. So let me let scripture speak to us.

Colossians 1:28-29

“Him [Christ] we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect... (HOW?)... IN Christ Jesus.

29 To this end I also labor, striving according to HIS working which works in me mightily.

Notice, AFTER God's own holy righteousness is given to us (2 Cor. 5:21), being IN Christ – and having HIM IN US – is what finishes, perfects, God's plan for us. Our goal is to be able to say with Paul that we're striving to have Yeshua obviously working mightily in each of us.

Philippians 1:6

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you WILL COMPLETE IT until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Christ will complete in us what HE started in us. He won't leave you incomplete, imperfect, unfinished.

People bring up **Philippians 2:12**, to **“work out your own salvation”** – but just **keep reading, verse 13**. Very clearly our salvation is not our work but God's work, who gives us the desire to obey him and the ability to.

We have ONE savior. It's not you. It's not me. MY Savior is Jesus Christ. YOUR Savior is Jesus Christ. I am not my own savior. He creates and gives us our new heart. He gives us his nature and seed. And HE finishes it.

But I need to be clear. We can't continue **a lifestyle of ongoing sin** and expect to be in God's kingdom. **BUT, we will all still stumble.** Sinning as our lifestyle – and sinning by occasional stumbles along the way, are two different things.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Holman Bible

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NASB

“For do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such WERE some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”

Notice the list of sins include some that people consider permanent, and which God puts in the past tense, including alcoholism and others. “Such WERE some of you” (verse 11).

Don't limit God's power or spirit to change anybody of any defect!

Your Savior Yeshua can take even the most imperfect of souls and – PERFECT them! Yes, even people coming to Christ who've done terribly unspeakable things. They can be changed too!

What happens when a Believer sins?

Many of you are missing out on the joy of God's salvation by feeling so discouraged every time you fall short of the high standards of God's way; every time you stumble in sin you feel so unworthy and demolished. Should we be feeling so demolished at those times? Paul explains so openly in Romans 7:18 to the end of the chapter how he himself so often stumbled in sin as well.

Romans 7:18-25

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

Paul goes on. There were no chapter breaks when Paul wrote this: Romans 8:1 NKJV

“There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

We – EVEN WE who stumble still in sin like Paul, but who have the Holy Spirit -- we are no longer condemned when we stumble in sin. You are God's CHILD. God doesn't kick you out of his family when you stumble in sin – even if it's a big sin! God's love is so perfect that he sent Christ to die for us even while we were still sinners.

You KNOW this – but many of you still ACT like every time you sin, you're condemned, cut off from God, separated from Him all over again. You feel separated from his grace or thrown out of his family. **NO!** In the New Covenant we remain his child under his grace. There's more grace by far than what sin can attack. We receive "abundance of grace and the gift of His righteousness" and grace ABOUND (Romans 5:17, 20-21).

When we accepted Christ's death for our penalties, the DEATH PENALTY is forever taken away from us. FOREVER. You've passed from death into LIFE. When we sin after that, we still must confess and repent – but we're no longer coming under the death penalty. But upon confession and repentance, there's no more condemnation and we no longer fear the second death.

SEPARATION? Our sins prior to accepting Christ did separate us from God (Isa. 59:2). But Christ TOOK that separation for us, for forever and ever. Remember? "MY God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46). Now, as a child of God, when we stumble in sin – we have to confess it and repent – but we're never condemned or separated ever again from God.

Some of you are resisting this. Without this, you will never experience the JOY of God's salvation, the JOY of Yeshua in us (his name means Salvation).

Remember Hebrews 10:14 – He HAS perfected, forever, those who are being sanctified. FOREVER.

You are always God's child and will always BE his child from now on – UNLESS YOU deliberately spit in God's face, denouncing him and his ways (Hebrews 10:26-31). NOTHING can separate you now from the love of God – except you, fatally deciding to walk away from God.

Romans 8:38-39

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So CHEER UP... you are a beloved child of God, yes, even when you sin. God doesn't love us just now and then – but for forever and ever, Amen. I hope to have a new sermon soon on "When a Believer Child of God sins, what happens?"

This is key to understand: in context of Romans 7 and 8, once we are true believers who now have God's spirit, HIS every own seed, making us HIS children, God promises to see us to completion, as I've read.

GOD'S SPIRIT in fact, GUARANTEES our salvation! It was given to us as God's "earnest" down payment guarantee, sealing the deal!

Ephesians 1:13-14 NKJV

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the **gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having believed, **you were SEALED with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

14 the GUARANTEE of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

And Paul – who had admitted in Romans 7 to still sinning from time to time, says NOW, when a Spirit-led child of God still sins, He/she is NOT separated from God; they do NOT lose the covering of Grace. Read Romans 8:1 again – no condemnation now, and that was said in context of someone still stumbling in sin from time to time. We're in the New Covenant now.

If you truly understand this, you won't be getting so depressed anymore as before, when you see yourself failing to measure up.

When we accept Christ, the DEATH PENALTY for our sins is permanently, forever, removed. BELIEVE Yeshua's WORD – we have PASSED from DEATH TO LIFE – and no more condemnation or judgment.

John 5:24 KJV

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH everlasting life, and shall NOT come into condemnation; but has passed from death unto life."

WHEN this Perfection is consummated, complete

So are you perfect NOW? Yes and no. Hebrews 10:14 says Christ "HAS perfected us now" -- but that's *because God sees the end result even from now (Isaiah 46:10)*. But Paul said in Phil 3:12-14 that he had not yet been perfected because we still act imperfectly.

WHO perfects us? Christ does. Hebrews 10:14 – "HE has perfected forever"

So yes, in one sense, we're already perfected as GOD sees his intention to finish in us what he started. But in THIS life, we still stumble and have not yet attained that perfection (Phil 3:12-14).

But ultimately, we're told that the perfection will be final at the resurrection – when ALL the saints, from Abel to the last one – will be perfected *together*. Hebrews 12:22-23 states we come to the church of the firstborn in heaven, to the spirits of just men made perfect.

So they're "MADE perfect". *They were GIFTED perfection, "made perfect" with God's perfect righteousness by faith. ***But when will this perfection of ALL the saints actually happen in its finality?****

Hebrews 11:39-40 NIV

"These were all commended for their faith, yet NONE of them received what had been promised.

God had planned something better for us ***so that only together with us would they be made perfect.***"

ALL of God's children will attain that perfect perfection, flawless completion, the finished product – TOGETHER, at the same time.

Revelation 10:7

"but in the days of **the sounding of the seventh angel**, when he is about to sound, the **mystery of God would be FINISHED**, as He declared to His servants the prophets."

By the way, the word translated "**finished**" is the **same Greek word again** – "**Teleo**" – **PERFECTED**, mature, completed, finished! At the last Trump of God, that's when we'll be fully, truly perfect, complete.

At Christ's coming, the dead in Christ rise first, then we which remain alive are caught up with them in the air (**1 Thess. 4:16-17**) with new immortal, perfect, spirit bodies.

I mean every single one of God's saints -- from ABEL onwards who are God's children. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, Peter, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Rahab, Ruth, James, and Mary Magdalene, and of course Abel, Enoch, Apollos, Timothy and so many more. ALL of them and all of us will be *perfected, in the final sense, at the same time*. It shows God's HEART!

Maybe at the 7th trump we just might all shout together as one, as our Beloved did in his painful but perfect death: “FINISHED!” For US, it's the victory shout of God's plan successfully wrapping up in us. Oh how I look forward to that day!

God has then finished his promise of presenting us PERFECT.

Jude 24

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...”

What A TEAM God is creating. Each one of us will bring something to the table. It's not going to be just the “big names” - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, the prophets, and apostles – but God's perfect team will include you too!

Yes, you have a reserved seat at the Wedding Supper of God! Father wants YOU there, perfect, spotless YOU – and that will be the way it is when it's all said and done. And YES, you will have your part.

And that's when you and I get to meet Father, our loving wonderful Father.

1 John 3:1-2

“Behold what manner of **love the Father has bestowed** on us, that WE should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, **NOW WE are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but **we know that when He is revealed, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM, for we shall SEE Him as He is.**”

We started with **Matthew 5:48** –we shall be perfect, as our heavenly father is perfect. And Yes, this WILL happen. And verse 2 says “we shall be like him.” Perfect. Just like him. And Abba Father, God Most High, will be thrilled to meet you face to face, in person, with great joy. You will at that time be complete, finished, perfect.

I so look forward to this reunion of all God's children – and every single one of us – including you – at that time seen as PERFECT as our heavenly father is perfect. GOD SPEED THAT DAY.

Closing prayer.