

Will we ever be PERFECT, just as God is perfect?

Matthew 5:48



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary: *We're called to be perfect (Matthew 5:48). But who, among people you know, are perfect? Find out what "perfect" means, how we get there, who does it, when it happens, and how it happens. We will all experience way more peace and appreciation for God once we truly understand this. I suggest you print off the notes and follow along with the audio as it moves fast.*

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How many of you are "perfectionists"? I think many of us are. I can be. I cannot be satisfied when I inspect my work if I see something out of line or not perfect – whether it's after pruning, weeding, sweeping a floor, cleaning a window pane, or delivering a sermon. Falling short of the mark, sinning, not improving enough – bother perfectionists, and maybe they should. But frankly, perfectionists can be hard to live with because they can often be tough on others' performances too.

So how about you? Are you a perfectionist – or are you more the kind of person who says, "That'll do" or "that's good enough"?

Be thinking: Does God want us presented to him as "that'll do" or "She's good enough" – **or is our God looking for perfection?**

Story: about my neighbor who spray painted some brown lawn spots with green paint. His friend, who had a perfect lawn, was coming to visit. So my neighbor wanted his own lawn also to look and be perfect.

Now, to a casual onlooker, his lawn looked perfect after he spray-painted it... but **was it perfect? NO.** And that goes back Yeshua's comment about whitewashed sepulchers which looked great on the outside but inside were dead men's bones. We can look perfect outwardly – but have no end of shortcomings. Some get really good at looking good, but who live ungodly. **Matthew 23:27** – whitewashed sepulchers full of dead men's bones.

Look at this verse: **Matthew 5:48**

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

Yeshua says we’re going to have to be perfect, as much as our Father is perfect. Come on, is that even possible? We’ll see what scripture says and I hope we’re all humbled by what we learn. Of course Jesus is an exact replica of his Father. Keep that in mind. This verse, by the way, comes after the section on how we must love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and bless those who curse us – that’s the context – and then then this verse:

The vast majority of Bible versions translate Matt.5:48 exactly like that: “Perfect”. We’re called to perfection, as perfect as our heavenly Father. One version out of so many, says “you shall be complete” – but most say “perfect”.

But is perfection even remotely possible? If so, how!? And can that word “perfect” mean some other things than our typical understanding of the word in English? Because you all know—we’re not flawless!

Frankly, I feel like a total failure all too often as I miss the mark, or don’t measure up to the holiness of my God. And yet we’re called to perfection. I can relate to Jacob’s statement to the Pharaoh when Jacob was asked his age:

Genesis 47:9

And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; **few and evil have been the days of the years of my life...**"

Do you relate to that? Jacob looked at himself and said, “how disappointing”.
Will becoming perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect – take **an act of God?**

Hello everyone, again, my brothers and sisters in Christ...Welcome to Light on the Rock where Yeshua is both the Rock and the Light of the world, to the Father’s glory. Be sure to tell others about our totally free website, with hundreds of sermons, hundreds of blogs, and a lot of Bible information.

How important is this topic? I believe if you will fully understand today’s sermon and internalize it completely – understanding this can change your life going forward, forever. You’ll have a lot more joy, a lot more peace.

Directly tied to this sermon today is the understanding that God does not accept us on our own righteousness, as that falls so far short. God not only washes away all our sins in the blood of His Lamb, who also takes on himself the guilt, penalty, consequences, and God’s anger of our sins – but God also puts into our account HIS OWN perfect righteousness, if we accept it by faith, as we come to be “IN Christ”.

2 Corinthians 5:21

*“For He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might become **the righteousness of GOD in Him.**”*

*Please also read these scriptures carefully: **Phil. 3:9-11; Romans 3:21, 4:5-6, 5:17-20.***

We simply are NOT going into the Kingdom on our own great performance, as it simply falls too far short. It’s terribly presumptuous to otherwise.

Many of you do believe you are seen as already spiritually perfect in God’s eyes. We’ll talk about that too. **If you believe that, WHY do so many of those same people ACT like they don’t have God’s perfect righteousness or perfection? It’s because we all have to admit that we all still fail, we all still fall short in this life and it’s hard to claim perfection in the face of such failure.**

IS this perfection the Bible speaks of – something we progress gradually toward, as we build holy righteous character and resist sin until God finally pronounces you “Good enough”, or even perfect, flawless even -- **or is God’s perfection in us accomplished some other way?**

I have a friend who believes this verse is saying that if WE don’t compile a perfect track record over time, of perfect righteous living, day after day, month after month, without slipup for months and years before Christ returns– he says we won’t be in the Kingdom of God. He claims he’s getting there, but not perfect yet. He claims with the Holy Spirit, we all should be able to be perfect – though Apostle Paul said he still sometimes failed (**Rom. 7:15-20**).

My friend said Jesus proved that a physical human being can be perfect. He says his dad was such a perfect person before he died. I knew his dad, indeed a very nice person – but I suggested that his dad would be appalled to hear him saying that.

So what’s the answer? Let’s dive in. You’ll see that we do in fact, become perfect by the Bible explanation at some point in time. ***But what is perfection? When does it happen? HOW? Who does it?***

ENGLISH word “Perfect” – and the Greek original

We’ll look more intently into the Greek word in a few moments, but first -- **In ENGLISH, Merriam-Webster Dictionary** says “perfect” primarily means “**being entirely without fault or defect. Flawless, as in “a perfect diamond”**”.

Other definitions from Webster says “perfect” can also mean –and these give us hints of where I may be going today – “**Faithfully reproducing the original**” – as in “letter-perfect”. Another definition: “Lacking in no essential detail, as in complete”. So we’ll come back to those in a minute or two.

So going by the English dictionary definition of perfect = flawless, I think we’re in trouble. No one is going to be 24/7 flawless, all the time. But Matthew 5:48 says “you shall be perfect, just as your father in heaven is perfect.”

But in GREEK, the meaning can include perfection and flawlessness – but it also has the meaning of “**complete, mature, finished, reaching the end goal**”.

Several KEY AGREEMENTS FIRST

- 1. Right now, I’m NOT, and YOU’RE NOT, FLAWLESSLY PERFECT** in our present daily lives, our behavior, our conduct, our Christianity.

I know there are verses that seem to say we have already, right now, been perfected – and we’ll read those soon. But we also know that all mankind, in our past – have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and have earned the wages of sin, which is death (Romans 6:23).

Are we – right now already perfect? Here’s what Paul says in Philippians 3 after Paul speaks of God’s righteousness by faith and coming to know Jesus:

Philippians 3:12 ESV (*audio incorrectly says 3:14*).

“**NOT** that I have already obtained this **or am already perfect**, but **I press on to make it my own**, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”

Paul says – “No, I’m NOT already perfect.”

There’s that Greek word again – Teleioe -#5048, which can mean “perfect, complete, finished at the end goal, or mature”.

Paul – late in his Christian life – admits he’s not there yet. We’re still too frail, and we still let sin ensnare us too easily:

Hebrews 12:1-2 Holman Bible

“Therefore since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us **lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us**, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and **perfecter** of our faith...” (or, “author and **finisher** of our faith...”)

So Point 1 – We’re not fully perfect YET, though in one way God does see us as perfect, but we’ll get to that. Paul says, ‘Not yet’.

2. God our Father and Yeshua our Savior ARE flawlessly perfect.

We’re not perfect, but our God is. King David many times spoke of how perfect our God is and his law is. **Psalm 18:30**, David says “God’s way is perfect”. His law is perfect (**Psalm 19:7**).

Pagan **Pilate**, investigating Yeshua before his crucifixion, came out **THREE TIMES** saying to the Jews who wanted Jesus crucified -- “**I find NO FAULT with this man.**” (**John 18:38; 19:4 and 19:6**). Three times! “NO fault”!

Hebrews 4:14-15 says our Messiah was tempted in all points as we are, YET without sin. That way he can sympathize with us! He understands being tempted and tested. But he never gave in to sin’s temptations. Not once.

And look at the perfect, flawless performance of our Savior as a man:

Hebrews 4:14-15

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 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.**”

But now hop a couple chapters – and explain this one. We know Jesus is and was perfect... but there are verses that speak of him having to be perfected.

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 (how?) -- through sufferings.**"

Here it's the same word #5048 that Paul used to say he wasn't perfect yet. But Christ was perfected through sufferings. Wasn't Yeshua already perfect? Why does it say sufferings he went through perfected him?

Here is where the other meanings of "perfect" come in. Again, The GREEK word for "perfect" can also mean "completed; Finished; to reach maturity or the end goal". #5048 – teleioe.

Jesus/Yeshua as the Word of God for eternity before he came, had never ever lived as a fully human person, flesh and blood, until he was born as a baby, fully dependent on his mom and dad at birth. Prior to that, had he ever experienced hunger, or been tempted to be overly angry, or lust after a woman? Had he ever experienced torture, scourging, crucifixion – and total abandonment?

So everything he went thru completed him as a better, more understanding, high priest. That suffering PERFECTED him in the Greek sense of making him more complete, more finished... suffering was like his finishing school.

Hebrews 5:7-9

"who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been PERFECTED, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **10 called by God to be High Priest** "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

So this "perfect" in the Greek clearly points to Christ adding some elements he didn't have before – in terms of being able to understand US, and the pains, sufferings, trials, temptations we go through.

Hebrews 7:28

"For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints **the Son who has been perfected forever.**"

You and I are ALSO being prepared to be more complete priests under our High Priest by the things we go thru as well. We all have had sins, habits, orientations, weaknesses that we’ve had to face and defeat. Why?

So WE ALSO will be able to understand someone whose husband committed adultery, or someone who is a thief, or a drunkard, or liar, or womanizer or unfaithful. Yeah, some of us were some of those things, so we ‘GET IT”. And we’ll be better able to help bring people to God because we understand them, because we went through similar things.

You better understand someone who’s lost a son or had his beloved wife die – when it’s happened to you. It will make you a better priest in the kingdom.

And by the way, God uses pain and trials and sufferings to also bring US to maturity/perfection. Suffering and pain and tests and needing help – are all SUPPOSED to happen in our lives. Think of Job. Think of what Paul went through. Think of what even God’s Son went through.

James tells us that trials and sufferings are part of the PROGRAM leading to completeness as a future priest. Completeness? It’s the same word in the Greek as “perfection”.

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**, lacking nothing”.*

Other translations have it “so you may be complete and whole” – or “mature and complete” (Holman).



Please be patient --
God isn't finished
with me yet!

Nothing pictures suffering quite as much as a CROSS to carry. Remember we are in fact to take up our OWN cross --daily – and follow him and be crucified with him! (Gal. 2:20).

Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up HIS cross DAILY, and follow Me."

Now what I'm about to read may be NEW for some of you... The Greek word I'll read is **Teleios -- #5455 -- NT:5055 (very related to the other Greek words for "perfect") – "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." Very similar to the previous word I gave -- word Teleios... Guess where we find this word:**

John 19:30

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is **finished!**' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Almost all translations have it as "finished". It's the same word translated "perfect" or "perfected" – or "finished". Christ on the cross had brought his assigned task to perfect completion. Finished! Perfect! Same word.

A couple translations say "completed". No one translates it "PERFECT" – **but it's from the Greek "TELEO". It's the same word Paul uses in the verse "I've finished my course..." 2 Timothy 4:7**

So when Jesus was about to die on the cross, he shouted out "FINISHED!" = meaning "PERFECTLY completed. Done. And done perfectly."

So get this: He had PERFECTLY FINISHED his course—and set the stage for OUR OWN perfection being possible by HIS perfect work to the very end.

So # 1, no human in our fleshly life is spiritually perfect – and yet, we'll see that in some ways, God- who sees the end from the beginning – sees us covered by Jesus' perfection.

AND 2 – Jesus – AND GOD – ARE perfect, without flaw. Complete. Finished. Mature, Flawless.

We’ll see that when it comes to a description of God himself – yes, it does mean “flawless, perfect”, everything there. But in terms of human beings, there are other meanings of this Greek word. It’s sometimes translated “mature, complete, finished”.

Be aware that when you see the word “perfect” in the KJV – other translations say “mature, complete”. For example, **Philippians 3:15** KJV – ‘let all of us who **are perfect** have this mind’. Other translations say “let those of us who are **mature ...**”

Here’s another:

Ephesians 4:12-13 NKJV

“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, ***to a PERFECT man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ***”

MOST translations say, “mature” or “full grown” or “complete”.

Ephesians 4:13 -- Berean Study Bible

“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, AS WE **MATURE** to the full measure of the stature of Christ.”

Or “as we become **COMPLETE** to the *full measure* of the stature of Christ”.

Here’s the Greek again, from Complete Word Study of New Testament Words:

NT:5046 τέλειος; fem. Teleía. (5056), “goal, purpose. Finished, that which has reached its end, term, limit; hence, **complete**, full, wanting in nothing.”

3rd Point: GOD DOES THE PERFECTING – THROUGH Christ.

When God covers us with HIS righteousness and grace, He sees each of US – believe it or not – as he sees Jesus Christ; beings who will be in the end, and even now are as good as SPIRITUALLY PERFECT in his eyes. For he sees the end from the beginning.

Remember I asked if we are to ever be perfect, will it have to be an “act of God”? Keep listening and watching....

Matthew 5:48 – “you SHALL BE perfect, even as your father in heaven is perfect.”

You SHALL BE – in future – perfectly perfect, as perfect as Abba in heaven. **This perfection is something GOD does.** It’s GOD’s finishing touches. God – in the end, covers us with HIS perfection, HIS perfect completeness. Praise our God Most High and our Savior.

This is NOT DIY perfection!

But, as I’ve said so many times, we are a nation of DIY – do it yourselfers. We like to paint our own rooms, work on our own car if we can, dig and plant our own gardens and keep up our own lawns. *AND – we like to create our own new creation, our own pure, new clean heart and build up a good resume of righteousness by ourselves. But WE keep failing! We are not the creators of our “new creation” in Christ! There’s only one creator – and that’s God.*

But HOW do we become completed, perfected? Who does it? WHO perfects us – you, or Someone else?

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.**”

Messiah was and is perfect and complete. He gives us HIS life, his righteousness, and his perfect life to cover and perfect us as well.

Important concept: GOD DECLARES THE END FROM THE BGN.

God sees and declares the end from the beginning. This concept explains how and when you and I, flawed and failed as we often are – are seen as we WILL BE, in the end result: perfect. That’s God’s focus. How we will end up – and not the way we are now.

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'

Now. As we look at this next verse, bow your head in worship and praise....

Hebrews 10:14

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

I looked up about 24 translations. ALL but 2 of them say “made perfect, or perfected”. So many Church of God brethren struggle with this verse. Struggle no longer – for God sees how He knows you will end up, from the beginning. HE... HE has perfected you – IN Christ, BY Christ. He’s not done with you yet.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may *your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved BLAMELESS at the coming of our Lord* Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”.

ESV says the same, v 24 ESV: ‘He who calls you is faithful; HE will surely do it.’”

Christ WILL COMPLETE in us what HE started in us. He won’t leave you incomplete, imperfect, unfinished. He’s not done with you yet and won’t give up on you or ever leave you. NEVER.

In Philippians 1, after telling them how he loved them and was so pleased with them, Paul says this in verse 6;

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;**”

WHO began the good work in us? GOD did. HE called you. “The goodness of God led you to repentance” (Romans 2:4), He handed you over to Christ to work with and Christ wants us to be in a close relationship with our Father.

God, through Christ, began a work in us. GOD, through Christ, will definitely also complete his work in you. He’s the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). *God won’t give up on you or me.*

You all know John 10:10 – that Jesus came that we **might have LIFE** and have it abundantly. We focus on “abundant life” that Christ offers – and miss the fact that he said, “I came that you might have LIFE” – as we didn’t have life before we accepted him.

Too many times we think it’s about choosing between good and evil. But that’s a false choice. *Even evil people can do good sometimes.* The forbidden fruit was from “the tree of the knowledge of GOOD and evil.” Our actual choice is between LIFE and DEATH. Yeshua came so we might have life – as a FREE GIFT when we accept God’s call and come to Christ.

You and I -- spiritually – were DEAD when God began to work in us. We were DEAD in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His **great love with which He loved us, 5 even when WE WERE DEAD in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you *have been saved*), 6 and raised us up together, and *made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7* that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”.**

WHO brings you to perfection? YOU? ME? NO....

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one offering **HE** has perfected ***forever*** those who are BEING sanctified.”

HE is the one who clothes us with his righteousness, pictured by the father bringing out his best robe for his repentant prodigal son:

Isaiah 61:10

“I will greatly rejoice in YHVH,

My soul shall be joyful in my God;

For HE has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

HE has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,

And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

We receive HIS PERFECT righteousness by FAITH in him. Even Noah understood the righteousness which is by faith (**Hebrews 11:7**). So there’s a balancing of accounts. We give God and Christ ALL our sins, everything about us – and he accepts them. He clears our account of them –That’s all in Romans 3 and 4 and more and 2 Cor. 5:21 and Philippians 3:9.

Now we do have to take this offer from God SERIOUSLY.

- **Prodigal son** DID TURN AROUND and come back to his father.
- **Romans 8:13** says that Those who live a way of life according to the flesh – will DIE, but if we live by the spirit and put to death the deeds of the flesh, we will live.

- **1 Cor. 6:9-11** lists a bunch of sinful things – and says, "Such WERE some of you, but ... " – read it. We have to turn from evil and walk the narrow path of life. We have to repent. We have to RESPOND to the Holy Spirit's GOADS on us.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, **nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

11 **And such WERE** some of you. But you were **WASHED**, but you were **SANCTIFIED**, but you were **JUSTIFIED (HOW?)** in the name of the Lord Jesus **and by the Spirit of our God.**"

People who believe in DIY salvation like to quote Philipians 2:12 – "work out your own salvation" – but then they stop reading!

Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling;

13 for it is GOD who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

In the physical we still fail from time to time as Paul says in **Romans 7:15-20**. But he also says – "That is no longer the I – the new me --doing the sinning – but sin that dwells in me."

Romans 8:7-8 – those in the flesh, living by their CARNAL mind, cannot please God. So **are YOU "in the Flesh"?** You bleed. You are fleshly. But you are not "in the flesh", as those in the flesh hate God and cannot please God. Are you in the flesh?

Romans 8:9 **"But YOU ARE NOT in the flesh, but in the spirit if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you..."**

Again, **the Jeremiah 17:9** deceitful and hateful heart is our old carnal heart. It's not the NEW HEART you've been given – from GOD! As David prayed in **Psalm 51:9-10**, "God, please create in me a CLEAN HEART O God..."

You still have the old hateful heart – but your new HEART from God loves God. These 2 natures or hearts co-exist inside us until the resurrection.

MOST of you know or should know this... but we all still ACT like we’re in the flesh. We have flesh. We have sins. But those are acts of the old self, not the new self. This is SO HARD for those who believe in obedience to God to accept, as we see ourselves fail over and over.

Differentiate now between being in the flesh – and being in the spirit. You and I, if we are led by God’s holy spirit, are not in the flesh, but “in the spirit.” (Please read Romans 8:7-9).

We now have 2 natures in us. But in our new nature, we are PART of the body of perfect Christ, the son of God. HE is our new life. He is OUR covering. And yes, he is perfect.

I don’t have time to go into THIS – but need to mention it for a minute or two: The problem is, we sabbath keeping obedient brethren **too often MIX UP Salvation by grace – with reward based on our works.** Salvation is eternal life – based on what GOD does; HIS GRACE. NOT of works. Salvation and eternal life are a GIFT, a free GIFT, not based on what we do, but on what God does.

On the other hand, OUR works do determine our *reward*, that’s true – but not our eternal *salvation*. Don’t confuse “reward” with “salvation”. Reward is earned – according to our works. Salvation is a free gift you can’t earn.

Our works – and our reward -- is about what *position* we will have for eternity – but they do *not* determine eternal life. Salvation is God’s GIFT. Not something earned.

So don’t confuse or mix up the two. Salvation by God’s free grace is one thing. God’s free gift is not the same as our reward – which is not salvation or eternal life but is our position and function in eternity – based on our works.

So let’s not be mixing up the clear verses that our reward (how many cities you may be given, for example) is based on our works -- don’t mix that up with God’s free gift of eternal life salvation. The PERFECTION gifted us from God is not based on our works but on his grace.

WHEN this Perfection HAPPENS

So are you perfect NOW? Yes and no.

YES, in that we are in the perfect body of Christ right now, and he is our perfect covering. No body part of Christ can be unclean or imperfect. The Bible

clearly describes our perfection as something is as good as already happened, in God's eyes, who see our end result from the beginning. Isa. 46:10.

Hebrews 10:12-14

"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever SAT DOWN at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 **For by one offering HE has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**"

CJB – "...**HE** has **brought to the goal** those who are being set apart for God and being made holy."

WHO perfects us? Christ does.

But in the physical life we now live, are we living flawless lives? No. Even Apostle Paul says he realizes he is not yet perfect --

Philippians 3:14 English Standard Version

"**NOT** that I have already obtained this ***or am already perfect***, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."

HEB 11 HALL OF FAME: How about all those in Christ, who lived and died before us, who had Yeshua as their savior, and they lived and died in the faith, and especially all those listed in **the Hebrews 11 HALL OF FAME for FAITH?** Have THEY already been perfected? **After speaking of the men and women of faith, Hebrews 11 says this – none of them received the promises yet – then:**

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.

I mean Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, Peter, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah –Noah, Ruth, James, and Mary Magdalene – together with you, with me... at the same time.

I think this is SO EXCITING! Let's read that again!

Hebrews 11:40 NIV

"since God had planned something better for us so **that only together**

with us would they be made perfect."

THIS is saying we're all going to be made perfect – as perfect as GOD is perfect – at the resurrection! At the same time AS all the icons of scripture – Noah, Mary the mother of Jesus, Peter, Paul – all of them. It's God's GIFT.

WHEN will that perfect perfection happen? **At the LAST TRUMP of God**, as Christ descends in mighty majesty and power to receive his Elect, his BRIDE.

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** [CJB – "**brought to completion; Greek Teleo again**), as He declared to His servants the prophets."

When our fleshly corruptible puts on INCORRUPTION. When our weak flesh puts on strong, unassailable SPIRIT – that's when we're PERFECT, completed. Maybe at the 7th trump we can all shout together as one, as our Master did, "FINISHED!"

Again, Jesus has committed to finishing what He's started in 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"

Jude 24-25

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,

25 To God our Savior,
Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty,
Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen."

Jesus presents his BRIDE to himself "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing" (Eph 5:25). He's the one with the spot remover and iron for the wrinkles. It's something HE does. Seeing the end from the beginning, that's how he sees his bride -- without spot, without wrinkle, no blemish—PERFECT.

What A TEAM God is creating. Each one of us will bring something to the table. It's not going to be just 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! HE 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 **we’ll all sing the NEW SONG of Moses (Revelation 15)** -- in perfect harmony, perfect pitch, perfect tone, perfect blend ... because YOU will be PERFECT. All of us, as one, singing praises to our king and God.

Revelation 15:3-4

"Great and marvelous are Thy works,
Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Thy ways,
O King of the saints!
4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For YOU ALONE are holy..."

Look what Paul said about that; and as we read this, keep in mind that God has a dream for you, a goal, something he wants to help you attain.

And so, as a result, we WILL be able to see God Most High, for we shall BE just like HIM!

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.**”

Remember what we started with? “You shall therefore be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Because of our Father’s grace and Jesus’ perfect sacrifice and flawless LIFE – we WILL indeed at the last trump be FLAWLESSLY perfect, in Christ in God.

WHY? Because our Father covers us with his perfection and Yeshua’s robe of perfect righteousness. THAT’s how we’re perfect at that time, just as our heavenly Father is perfect. Because it’s HIS own perfection, his own holiness, his own righteousness over us.

So yes, when we meet Father ---- we shall be just like Him. Perfect. And Matthew 5:48 – You shall be perfect, just as your father in heaven is perfect, will be true.

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. GOD SPEED THAT DAY.