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## LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION

NO.230

### WHAT IS THIS PERFECTION?

Today, by the ear of the Spirit, the call to go on unto perfection is heard loud and clear. The words of the teacher of Hebrews resonate, *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God...And this we will do if God permits.”* (Heb.6: 1,3)

More than ever, we need to know what this “perfection” that we are going on unto really is. From the teachings that I hear most from those in this “going on land,” we are encouraged to continue to yield to His Spirit in order to become a more perfect being. And that is the truth but not the whole truth. We have heard a lot of truths but it is when the whole Truth is revealed that we really know truth.

Although it is part of it, our perfection has more to do with completeness and maturity than with being free from imperfections in the flesh. God does work within each one individually, but our perfection, completeness and maturity comes to us as a corporate body. We are His church, His bride and from our union with His Spirit, the Man child-The new man- The last Adam will appear.

It is important for us to understand this and to realize that we stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us in the faith. Each of them was perfect in their day, yet their full perfection is when

the entire church is complete in Him. *“They without us should not be made perfect.”* (Heb.11: 40b) We can each individually or as an assembly be perfect (complete) in our day but this is not the Perfection that we are ultimately called to as a perfect Man.

Paul teaches that *“He gave some apostles, 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 FULNESS OF CHRIST.* (Eph.4:11-13)

This perfect Man is the Christ Man who has been gathering His member in Himself as far back as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Joseph, Abraham, Job, David and all those who reached the perfection of their day. They completed their course perfectly for that day.

*“Noah was a just man and **perfect in his generations**, and Noah walked with God.”* (Gen.6: 9b) *“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) The apostle Paul wrote to his beloved Timothy, *“I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...**”* (II Tim.4: 7)

Paul was perfect (complete) in his calling. He fin-

ished his race and now he joined the throng on the other side of the veil, waiting for the better resurrection. They are waiting for the last batch of saints who are completing their course unto perfection.

Then time will be no more, there will be no more delay, no more waiting because the Lord Himself will appear in His new creation and show forth the glory of God to the world.

It was in the day that the "MIGHTY ANGEL came down from heaven CLOTHED WITH A CLOUD and roaring as it was a LION that John heard a voice from heaven saying, *"Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not."*

This is another study but it was then that this same angel stood upon the sea and upon the earth with his hands lifted to heaven and he *"...sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are and the sea and the things which are therein, THAT THERE SHOULD BE TIME NO LONGER. But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."* (Rev. 10:6-7)

There is a day when time is no more because the mystery of God is finished (complete, perfect). This mighty angel that John saw and heard in the Spirit is now announcing loud and clear that the times of the appearing of the Christ creation have arrived.

The first Adam man has totally embraced the ways of the enemy who has come in like a flood and taken possession of the mind and heart of that man. The first Adam man has chosen darkness rather than light because his deeds are evil. This means that this first Adam man has totally rejected the Light of God and with pride has taken over the rule of the people of this world, offering himself as their Deliverer and Peacemaker when indeed he has brought them deeper and deeper into a pit of slime from which there is no way out.

Many alluring and captivating preachers have

been packing their churches with messages offering hope of a better earthly life for this first Adam man. The word Adam means "red" as the earth. The first Adam is the dusty, earthy man. He is the one that Jesus put to death on Calvary. Jesus atoned for his sins unto the saving of his soul, but none of his works will be saved.

The wonderful mystery of God is that while He has been bringing this corrupt Adam creation to an end, He has been preparing His Last incorruptible Adam to take his place. This is the "second Man" but the Last Adam because after Him there are no need of any more Adams. This Adam will remain perfect forever. *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."* (I Cor.15: 45)

The first man Adam dwells in a lower "heaven" which is the realm of the soul or human emotions and understanding. He is ruled by the carnal intellect which draws its knowledge from the natural world.

The Last Adam is a life giving spirit. His source of life and knowledge comes from God. He draws his strength from the Spirit and is therefore established (seated) in heavenly places in Christ. *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES (realm of Spirit) IN CHRIST JESUS."* (Eph.2: 5-6)

In Christ, we are caught up in the realm of Spirit, which is above the realm of the soul man. *"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."* (I Cor.15: 49) When all this is fulfilled in the earth, there is no longer time because there is no more waiting for something that is already here. Everything is fulfilled, the plan of God in Christ is complete. This is perfection.

## THE SOLID ROCK

The old hymn reminds us, *"On Christ, the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand..."* Jesus' death and resurrection are the portals through which He brings His people (church). Jesus finished

His course as the atoning Lamb and began to lead His church in the same way. He alone is the atoning Lamb, but those who follow Him are of the same mind for in Him lay their lives down for creation.

Jesus has been building His church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against her for she stands upon the Rock of the revelation of Himself. Indeed, at every step of the way, the Spirit has revealed Him to each one of us in a very personal way. This daily revelation of Himself is the Rock on which we stand. This house cannot fall even through the intense storms that life presents daily. He has revealed Himself to us.

We have found Him in the midst of our storms, we have heard His voice in the night, we have felt His touch during our sicknesses, He is our Rock and we stand upon that revelation. This revelation is not acquired by knowledge of the Bible, it is acquired when He reveals Himself to us as the Father revealed Him to Peter. He is our Rock and our Fortress.

His purpose to bring His church to perfection in Him began right after He offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins. *“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God, from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”*

As the writer of Hebrews exhorts, let us not repeat over and over again the teachings that brought us thus far, but let us move on to more. There are denominations who do excellent work in that area. Every Sunday morning they repeat the call to come to repentance and come to Christ for salvation.

Their teaching stops at that level and it is good for the new converts that need the milk of the Word, but some of the members who sit year after year under the same Word need to feel the stirring of the Spirit and move on. So the writer of Hebrews is exhorting the hearers to go on from that place and move toward maturity or perfection in Christ. Note that it is God who permits this. He knows when we are ready to move on. This is not something we can decide on our own, but it is a sure thing that when we are

ready, God will stir up our nest or send hornets after us so that we will not be able to stay put.

This does not apply only to the places that teach the milk of the Word but step by step, it applies to all levels of teaching. We may be in the “sonship” message and feel the stirring to go on to more. God will present us with the opportunity. If we are fearful to leave the comfort of our nest or if we feel we owe loyalties to the pastors or to the flock rather than God, the stirring will stop and God will not press us. We will remain stunted where we are.

Enoch walked all the way with God until he was not. Each step requires our giving up of ourselves. If we desire to stay where we are, we will find all kinds of reasons or excuses. One of the most popular is to convince ourselves that we must stay to help bring the brethren higher. This is gross deception. We believe that we will bring them up higher when we ourselves are not willing to do so.

Perfection means maturity, completeness, ripeness. The little children that Jesus laid His hands upon were beloved as little children. But it is certain that no one expects them to remain little children. We must enter the kingdom as little children in Christ. As little children we learn obedience to His Spirit and we let Him lead us and train us. We enter God's kingdom as little children but we are not expected to always remain as little children. Let us go on...unto..perfection.

## NAZARETH

Jesus was born in Bethlehem because at the time of His birth, Caesar Augustus decreed that the whole world should be taxed. So Mary and Joseph had to leave their little town of Nazareth and go on their donkey about 68 miles to Bethlehem. Mary was ready to give birth and in the stable, her son Jesus, the Lamb of God, was born.

As soon as Jesus was born, the angels began to appear to Joseph in dreams to guide him and his family to safety. *“And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they*

were departed, behold the **angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream** saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” (Matt.2: 12-13)

I am so glad that Joseph believed that God speaks in dreams. Many Christians today pay no attention to their dreams or they think they come from the pizza they ate late that night. Dreams are such a strong tool of the Spirit to communicate with us that the enemy makes sure that those who dream significant dreams are derided and ridiculed.

This happens because the churches do not teach the truth and because Christians do not read the Bible. It also happens because those who practice witchcraft and such things have used dreams in some of their teachings. All this is to keep God's people in darkness.

After Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt, Herod indeed brutally slaughtered “...all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under...”(Vs.16b) “**But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for they are dead which sought the young child's life**” (Vs. 19-20)

So they came to the land of Israel, but they found out that Herod's wicked son had taken over the rule and again “*Being warned of God in a dream, he (Joseph) turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came to dwell in a city called Nazareth: that it **might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.*” (Vs.22b-23)

This is how Jesus came to be raised in Nazareth which at the time was a secluded, unpopular village in the lower hills of Galilee with perhaps a shady reputation.

One day, Philip ran to find Nathaniel with the news that they had “...found the one of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write about, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathaniel

said unto him, **Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?**” (Jn.1: 45-46)

Nazareth was the dark place where Jesus Christ was raised. It was in that place of “no reputation,” a despised place that “... *the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him*”(Lk.2: 40) It was a place of safety for Him and the family for no one would think of looking for the Messiah there.

And so it is for us. When the Lord called us, filled us with His Holy Spirit and impregnated us with the Word of life, He knew that this word could not prosper and grow under the teachings of any of the churches accepted and honored by the world. So He sent us His word to guide us, sometimes through dreams, sometimes through revelations, but always by the moving of His Spirit within.

At times He has led us to various groups of people like us, seeking truth. Many of us thought that we would be with them for the rest of our lives, but we found that this is not usually the case. The Spirit of God never stops moving us until He gets us down to our Nazareth. The place of no religious reputation. The place where Herod will not come looking because he figures we are no longer a threat to him and his organized systems.

Christians measure others by the size or the name of the Church they attend. How many times have we been asked, “What church do you go to?” If we cared to answer truthfully we would say, “you would not know my church if I told you.” Instead we say, “I do not go to church.” Then they either look at us with scorn or if they are nice, they invited us to their church to save us from our backslidings.

There is only one safe place to raise this child. The Herods of the churches will do all they can to shake our faith and cause us to deny this child (Word). So God has chosen Nazareth for us to grow to maturity. It is in some secluded, unpopular, irreligious place that we find the peace and security that we need.

## **OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS**

It is in our Nazareth that we find God's presence and that we learn to know our Father. It is there that our faith is tested daily. When Jesus was twelve years old, his parents took him along to the Feast of Passover in Jerusalem.

This was a yearly ritual for the family. A long journey to the big city. Their son Jesus had always been very obedient and so they trusted him to follow them. But at twelve, Jesus was very bright and he found Himself discussing the things of God with the doctors in the temple. They were astonished by His knowledge and understanding and no one realized that the parents of the boy were already several days' journey on their way home.

When Mary and Joseph realized that their son was not with them, they were frantic. They hurried all the way back and found him in the temple. When Jesus was confronted by His parents, He said something that may have sounded strange to those who heard it, "...How is it that you sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them."(Lk.2: 49-50)

Even though at twelve, Jesus could easily debate the doctors of the Law and He knew who His true Father was, he still had eighteen years of training to submit to in Nazareth.

So it is for us. As long as we are yet children or teenagers in the Spirit, we must submit to one another in our Nazareth. Down in our hearts we long for the day when we can be fully about our Father's business but we are in training until the time of our maturity, when we inherit the business (kingdom).

We are called as a holy nation of kings and priests unto our God. We have been given an anointing to rule and reign with Christ. When we are yet babes, we drink the milk of the Word and used the "in part" gifts given to us as children, but as we mature, our prayers begin to reflect our calling.

James wrote, "*Confess your faults one to another,*

*and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a **righteous man** availeth much. Elias was a man subject to passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*" (Jms.5: 16-18)

It is interesting that James brings up Elijah's prayer for rain as an example of a righteous man's prayer. He first reminds us that just because Elijah was a prophet, he was not without emotions and fleshly desires, but his calling took priority in his life. We too are all still in the flesh but if we set our priority right our flesh does not prevent God from fulfilling His purpose in us. God knows how to bring our flesh under subjection to His Spirit.

Elijah's prayer availed much because it was the prayer of a righteous man. Elijah was about his Father's business. He was a righteous man because his heart was as the heart of God for the people, therefore he heard, listened and obeyed. He prayed according to God's will.

When our prayers are about someone else's business, they may or may not be answered.. God is merciful. But if we pray according to our Father's good pleasure, then we can be sure of a quick answer. What made Elijah a righteous man was just that. His heart was totally with God. He was jealous for Israel who was yielding to the gods of Jezebel and he wanted to do God's bidding.

God's business is His kingdom, His people and His creation. If we listen to the Spirit He will lead us into praying the right prayer or the prayer of the righteous.

Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, "*O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*" (Matt.26: 39b) He was about His Father's business. He was the obedient Son yet He would not have chosen the way of the cross if there had been some other way.

Mature sons will come to the place of full surren-

der to the Father's will. They will no longer look to their own business but only to the Father's and that can be a bitter pill to swallow.

I remember when my brother Jean-Pierre was in his twenties. He was very bright and adept with languages. So he pursued and earned a doctor's degree in philology (the study of languages). This meant that until the age of twenty-six he worked very hard at his studies.

He lived in Belgium and I was in Florida and in those days phone calls to Europe were quite expensive and so we limited such conversations. Although Jean-Pierre did not understand, he knew about my faith and he staid aloof while still trying to keep the peace. There came a time when I was translating studies in "demonology" from English to French so I asked him if he would mind going over them for me to make sure they were grammatically correct. As a serious student, he could use a little extra cash too. So he read all four booklets and went over them carefully.

He did a nice job and when he finished he commented, *"I am glad I do not live in your world of spirits and demons."* To which I answered, *"If one sticks his head in the sand like an ostrich, it does not make him less part of the world of his surroundings."* I left it at that but God's business was not over. God had a purpose in all of this as I would find out later.

It was about three years later that I had this dream, *"I saw my brother Jean-Pierre. He was in a city of tall buildings of learning (universities, libraries, museums and such). Jean-Pierre was running down the street of that city as if someone was after him. Then as he passed by, out of breath, I heard him say, "God is after me, but I am running away.."* This was the dream and although I did not know how it would take place, I knew that the time was soon coming when he could no longer be able to run away from God.

I knew that the city of learning represented all the studies that my brother was losing himself into. But God was calling him and running after him and time

was running out. It was shortly after this dream that Jean-Pierre who had never been sick a day in his life was suddenly stopped by a severe stomach ache. After trying the more simple remedies it was determined that his appendix had to be removed. He had emergency surgery and three days later they discover leukemia. Jean-Pierre never saw the light of the fourth day. God had caught up with him and he was no longer able to run and hide anywhere.

Our Father runs His business and we are there to do His good pleasure. Even though this was a terrible tragedy for my family, I knew that Jean-Pierre had to drink this cup. In his running from God, he was hardening his heart against the truth and against the knowledge of God...God in His mercy did what had to be done.

I saw J.P. in a dream after he passed away and although he was angry and pained for the loss of his life here, he was dressed in a wine-colored suit. This means that he has to go through a time of suffering to re-adjust on the other side of the veil, but in the end, he will be clothed with the body of new life (wine-colored suit). Thank you Father.

I am sure that when my mother sat at the bedside of her beautiful son, she prayed earnestly for him to live and be well again but her prayer was not answered. I was here in Florida at that time and was not notified of what was suddenly happening to my brother in Belgium or I would have certainly prayed the same prayer as my mother.

But the Lord had already spoken. Jean-Pierre had been running away from God and now He could no longer run. I did not understand the dream until it came to pass, but it was the Word of the Lord and God was actually saving Jean-Pierre and bringing him to the fold on the other side of the veil. This could not be done here. Looking at it with the carnal mind one would think that God forsook him but not so...it was indeed God's mercy who took the opportunity to save him.

*"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our*

*God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways, saith the Lord.” (Isa.55 7-8)*

As we walk with His Spirit we are learning His ways. God's ways are strange to the immature, but when we begin to understand, we know how much our Father loves us and *“Our Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (II Pet.3: 9)*

The time will come when all of man's works will be destroyed by fire. This means that they will be totally consumed and their ashes scattered to the winds. All the wonderful worldly works that issued from brilliant godless minds will no longer be admired and revered in the earth. They will be replaced by much greater and more beautiful works than the natural mind could have ever conceived.

### **THIRTY YEARS OLD**

When Joseph was thirty years old, Pharaoh gave him full authority in Egypt. (Gen.41: 46) David was thirty years old when he ascended the throne of Israel and began to reign. (II Sam. 5: 4) He reigned forty years. All these numbers are significant in God's ways of fulfilling His purposes in the earth.

Thirty is the number of maturity and dedication. John the Baptist was the firstborn son of a priest therefore at thirty, he became a priest. He was six months older than Jesus and began his priestly ministry six months before Jesus came to be baptized.

Jesus was thirty years old when he came to John at the river Jordan and asked to be baptized. John knew that Jesus did not need repentance because His father was not Joseph or Adam therefore Jesus was born without sin. But He had to fulfill all righteousness and be baptized unto death. This let's us know that without repentance we cannot go on with God. The Jordan River speaks of His death and this baptism speaks of the death and resurrection that Jesus had to walk through and that we must follow.

*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized*

*into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him into death: that like Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom.6: 3-4)*

This baptism does not consist only of a ceremony, it is the beginning of a working out of His death in our lives by the power of His resurrection. We cannot put ourselves to death, but His life within provides us with the power to choose Him over our own selves each day. Each time someone or something plays with our emotions, we take hold of His life and we crucify the reactions of our flesh. We do this until the Christ in us has swallowed up the death of our natural man.

At thirty, Jesus was ready to be introduced to the world. Jesus was a Son of God from the beginning. When Mary questioned the angel that came to her to tell her of her pregnancy, he answered, *“The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (Lk.1: 35)*

Isaiah had prophesied of Him, *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isa. 9: 6)* These are the names of the Son who was born to Mary. But it was at the River Jordan, when Jesus was thirty years old that the Father Himself introduced Him to the world.

It is interesting that Jesus was not required to first be baptized as a child, then walk out his calling unto maturity. It was at maturity that Jesus was baptized then walked to His death. It is when we come to understanding what our calling is about that we begin to walk out our baptism of death. I was once baptized as a baby in the Catholic Church and I was certainly not aware of any calling on my life. I was baptized a second time in the Methodist Church and I just thought that made me a member in good standing in that church.

I was baptized a third time by a Pentecostal Min-

ister, and again that did not do much to change my life but perhaps it served to strengthen my commitment. It was later when the Lord visited me and baptized me **in a dream** that my life began to change. With this baptism He led me into a life of repentance and death to self.

Not every one has this experience in a dream, but everyone goes through a spiritual experience with the Lord that changes their lives forever. We do not need to figure out how to die to ourselves, we only need to know that from that day forward it is as John the Baptist declared, "**HE MUST INCREASE AND I MUST DECREASE.**" (Jn 3: 30)

Jesus is the High Priest of our profession and He is the One who baptizes us each day. "*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.*" (Heb.3: 1)

As our High Priest, He is the One who speaks to us through His Holy Spirit. He is the One who is building us into His house. When we hear His voice let us not turn aside or harden our hearts with unbelief as they did in the time of Moses.

It is not the hearing of his voice that is difficult to come by, it is the listening and the believing. How many times have we heard the still small voice and failed to pay attention? "*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness...*" (Vs.7-8) I believe that my brother heard His voice, but he hardened his heart and ran away from it.

With each step that sons take toward maturity, the death of self also takes place. When the sons of God are fully mature they will have fulfilled their death. Then they will visibly be new creatures and the Father will introduce the Son in them to the world.

When Jesus completed His baptism unto death that the heaven opened and "*The Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*" (Lk.3: 22) Jesus

was ready to begin His earthly ministry.

God has times and seasons for everything. No one is able to speed up or to slow down the times except God Himself. He did this once for Joshua and He said that at the end of the age He would shorten the days. "*There shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*" (Matt.24: 21-22)

God closes the door to open another. The time for this is upon us. "*But as the days of Noe were so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*" (Matt.24: 37-40)

The flood marked the end of an age, so now we are also at the end of the age. The events are pretty much the same among the people and the taking away of the old Adam man is at hand. The one taken is the old Adam creation. The one left is the new man Christ. This time it is not by a flood but by fire. Our God's presence is a consuming fire. "*For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.*" (Prov.2: 21) But the wicked first Adam will be rooted out.

God is about to introduce His glory in His sons. This is causing the works of men to be consumed. It is already happening little by little and anyone with a heart to understand is able to see it. As men lose the security that they once relied on, they will find that the only thing that is forever is the Word of God... "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away.*" This means that only that which was decreed by God from the beginning will be established forever. Amen!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*