

Our Call To Perfection – A Call To Die

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September 24, 2016

We are all called to be the Bride, but what does that mean, and look like for us as believers? **READ Revelation 19:7-9.**

READ **Hebrews 6:1-2** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (doctrines of the church we should be matured)

There is a beginning and an end to our faith and salvation. Beginning: we are adopted into the family of God (Romans 8:15). End: to be the Bride of Messiah, the Lamb's wife (**Ephesians 5:27, Revelation 21:9**).

1 Peter 1:9 Receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your soul. Given faith, so we would reach the end result.

In between, is a process every believer should be going through called: sanctification, where our soul is being saved, purified that we become transformed, literally, on this earth, perfected in love. We can see God's eternal plans of this in the following scriptures:

Matthew 5:48 you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. **1 Peter 1:16** Be holy, for I am holy.

Philippians 2:12 ...work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

1 Peter 2:2 ...you should crave the pure spiritual milk, that you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation (AMP).

Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:19 ...of whom I travail in birth, until Christ is formed in you.

Ephesians 5:27 ...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle...

Ephesians 1:4 ...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame** before Him in love.

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according **to the counsel of His will**.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now (present tense) the God of peace..., **21 Make you perfect** in every good work **to do his will**, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight... (KJV).

Psalms 138:8 The Lord will perfect that which concerns you.

Ephesians 4:11-13, tells us why some were to be apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers: all were to help perfect the saints until the full stature of Christ has been formed in us, so that we would do His will, which is Ephesians 5:27, that we would be found on this earth, before His second coming, and return, to be without spot or wrinkle. This is the high call that is on every believer's life and absolutely possible, as He would never put it in His Word if it was not, knowing He never sets us up to fail, but only to succeed in Him, and all by grace!

Three stages to full salvation:

- 1) Justification = by faith we are saved, most Christians never get further than this stage
- 2) Sanctification = our soul/mind being purified, renewed/transformed, trials, total surrender our will (Roms 12:1-2, Eph. 4:23).
- 3) Glorification = union, God's end vision for all – impossible to get to this stage without stage 2.

We see the 3 stages in **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** ...because God from the beginning **chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14** ...for the **obtaining of the glory**...

Our soul not automatically saved. Get rid of all wickedness, and in a humble spirit receive the Word, which has the power to save your souls (**James 1:21**). Greek word for soul = psyche – psu-kha (5590).

Explain consecration and sanctification. **Our role** (physical choices, to Him), **His role** (Spirit sanctifies our soul from sin).

How does our soul get saved? 1 Peter 1:22 is a key. Shows us the sanctification process – stage 2, in detail (READ).

James 1:22-25 we need to be a doer and hearer of the word...washing of the water of the Word (Ephesians 5:26).

1 Thessalonians 2:13 ...when **you received the word of God** which you heard from us, **you welcomed it** not as the word of men, but **as it is in truth**, the word of God, which also **effectively works in you who believe**.

We see **believing** and **obeying Truth** is a key to our souls being saved, purified – transforming and perfecting us in love.

Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 4:23 another key. The renewal of our mind, that we would know the perfect will of God.

We all have an inner struggle, where our flesh wars against the Spirit (**Galatians 5:17**). If we are in this world – in sin, in compromise, our mind – soul will not be renewed/transformed. We will not know the perfect will of God. We may have good intentions, but they are all worthless to Him – no eternal value (**Matthew 7:21-22**). Why we need to know the call that is on our lives. That will only come about if we fervently seek to know it by prayer, fasting, being in the Word, summing it up – by having an intimate love relationship with the Lover of our soul and then He will reveal. **SHARE 3-DAY FAST.**

If we don't know the goal, what HS endeavors to work in us – that we're all expected to be perfected in love and what that means, we'll wonder aimlessly missing the high call that is on our lives to be the Bride, never living the abundant life.

At the same time, we need to realize, God will never understand our disobedience – we all have access to the same HS/grace to obey. On that Day when we all have render an account for how we lived our lives, there will be no excuses.

Ephesians 1:13-14 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** who is the **guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...** (example of purchasing something on a credit card online).

At our new birth, the HS was a down payment, like “earnest money” on a house or a car – with the intent to pay in full.

But, it requires our response everyday. It has to be intentional, if we want to possess our full inheritance (**Philippians 3:14-16**).

That response on our part, everyday, is a call to die to self. Deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow the Lamb (Matthew 16:24). **This call is on every believer's life – to live the crucified life.** He bought us, we are not our own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). It's a call to let go of all our pride, selfishness, greed, lying, jealousies, gossiping, bitterness - all the works of the flesh that are in our lives (Galatians 5:19-21). It's a call to let go of all our own ambitions, love of titles/reputation, our dreams and desires – a total surrender of our will for His will. It all comes back to relationship, living a holy, consecrated life unto the Lord, having a disciplined prayer and Word life that is a lifestyle – not a random few hours a week.

CLOSING:

We are coming into some really dark times. Nobody is prepared – we have not seen it before. Yeshua makes this clear in Matthew 24, forewarns us of what's to come, great tribulation, and if the days had not been numbered nobody would survive. He also, says during this very difficult time, that even the very elect can be deceived. The call on my life is to help prepare the Bride of Messiah – to sound the alarm for the Church to wake-up, repent, return to holiness, purity – to the fear of the Lord. To help prepare the Bride of Messiah for what's coming, by learning how to dress herself in her “wedding garments” that she would be ready for her wedding day, by helping her understand the eternal purposes of God, and what He had planned for us and what He requires and expects every believer to become – pure, holy, conformed to His image. To be a people on this earth, who would be known solely by His name (conformed to His character), displaying His excellencies in them and through them, now.

The Lord tells us that if our houses are built on sand, they will be swept away. It's life and death that our foundations are built on Truth/rock. Why it's so important we know why He died for us – to be perfected in love, that we would qualify to be His Bride. It will only be His Bride who will be protected in the dark days that lie ahead – most will perish, forewarns us that it will be just like the days of Noah – the flood came and all but eight were swept away (Revelation 3:10, Matthew 24).

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; **that** as He is, so are we in this world. The word “**because**” is not the right translation from the Greek, should be “**that**” makes difference.

#1 question the Lord will ask on that Day: did we become love with the one life He gave us? Most will have regret.

1. God looks at the heart – our motives why we do something. God is love – everything He does is out of this motive.
2. #1 priority, call that is on all our lives is to be perfected in love – conformed to His likeness by dying to self.
3. Important we know the specific call that is on our lives – most do not. Comes back to relationship and developing a hearing relationship. The higher the level of consecration in one's life, the clearer they will hear the voice of the Lord. A lot of good intentions in the Church that are all worthless to Him (Matthew 7:21-22). **Precious/Vile**
4. How much we are conformed to His death/love, to His likeness in word, thought and deed will determine how well, and how much we will fulfill the specific call that is on our lives.
5. Paul's #1 desire was to know Him. To know the power of His resurrection, to share His sufferings, to be conformed, transformed to His death. Speaks of dying to self – living the life of the Lamb, selfless. Paul said, I die daily. Only when a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, will it bear much fruit (Philippians 3:10, 1 Cor. 15:31, John 12:24).
6. Paul's #2 desire was to present to Messiah a chaste virgin – the Bride (2 Corinthians 11:2, Acts 20:24). For the Lamb to receive the reward of His suffering – the reward was His Bride from all nations (Psalm 2:8).
7. This should be our focus – Kingdom minded – eternal, and not on the temporal. This should be the foundation of our walk, about Him being satisfied to have His Bride by His side as He deserves, not about us being satisfied. But I can share a secret, if we make it all about Him being satisfied, I promise we will be more than satisfied!

Ephesians 4:11-13: Five-fold ministry. Why? For the perfecting and equipping of the saints.

Cheap grace messages have infiltrated and defiled the Church - rampant. Paul was concerned we would be beguiled, seduced, turn away from pure devotion to the Lord when another “jesus” was preached (2 Corinthians 11:3-4). **Doesn't this sound like today with all the hyper-grace, friendly seeker, prosperity messages that we hear – all watered down, lukewarm messages to satisfy our flesh, at the cost of destroying our souls.**

We need to know it's absolutely possible to be like Him in word, thought and deed – don't let anyone deceive you and tell you it is not. This is what the Word of God teaches. This is the true Gospel that has been lost in the Church that needs recovered. This was the Gospel that Yeshua, Paul and the Apostles preached ceaselessly.

Sin was not tolerated in early church: Ananias/Saphira (Acts 5).

He declares the end from the beginning and is restoring all things (Isaiah 46:10, Acts 3:21). He is restoring a company of people, a bridal company, the Overcomers, back to the Garden of Eden to that place of pure, holy intimacy with Him, that Adam and Eve walked in before the fall. This is His plan. **This intimacy can only be developed, nurtured, matured and maintained with a lifestyle of prayer. Without a lifestyle of prayer, we will always judge the Word of God with our mind.** Prayer draws us into intimacy with Him. It causes us to have an encounter with Him/Truth. When we have a personal encounter with the Truth – we change, that's what transforms us, and causes our spirit man to grow and mature.

Isaiah 5:13 My people go into captivity without knowing it, because *they have no knowledge of Me.*

Knowledge: familiarity gained by personal experience.

That's what revelation is – not head knowledge. It's an encounter with the Spirit of the Living God, transforming and perfecting us into His likeness, that we can receive the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls. So we would finishing the course set before us – to become the Bride of Messiah, to be in union with Him (John 17).

Our obedience to the Word is a key to receiving revelation. Union will only come if we are willing to crucify our flesh, by obeying His Word, and love as He loved us, abide in His love (John 14:22-23). If we are not willing, we might make it to heaven, but we will disqualify ourselves from the high call, settling for so much less than He ever planned for us – never obtaining the Prize – to rule and reign with Him for all of eternity (Revelation 3:21).

If we're not willing, on that Day we will have great regret. Many tears will flow when we see how we wasted this one life we were given to become love. We will suffer great eternal loss. 1 John 4:17 tells us how we will be judged on that Day. Will we shrink back in shame, or come before Him boldly? **We decide by our choices. All are called, few are chosen.** (Matthew 22:14).

We are all called and expected to go onto perfection – this was the Gospel Paul preached (Hebrews 6:1-2).

This earth is our training ground. How much we are willing to die, be conformed to Messiah on this earth, determines our eternal position. There are different ranks/positions in heaven – not everyone ends up in the same place. We're rewarded according to our works – outer court, holy place, holy of holies. All speak of different relationships. Realm of the Least (John the Baptist, Matthew 5:19). 1 Corinthians 15:41-42 speaks of the resurrection of the dead, how some of us will be brighter than others. The brightness is how much we are willing to become like Him. He is light and love (1 John 1:5, 4:8). To the degree we become love, determines how much light is in us – why we do not want to die before its our time!

The Bride will be nearest the throne – the holy of holies. Most Christians will be in the outer court – the Realm of the Least, barely making it to heaven, and will not be able to see the throne. It is why we don't want to waste our trials, our tests, our tears. The Lord saw our end, and He alone knows what we need to get there – they are all redemptive, if we allow.

So, if we are willing, and have a yes in our heart to what the Bridegroom is asking, to exchange our will for His, we can be of good cheer, for He is the One Who puts that desire in us, and then does the work - it is all by grace (Philippians 2:13).

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory.

Closing Prayer: Lord, I ask that You would come now and walk up and down the aisles of every mind here, looking into every compartment within, shifting, repositioning and realigning them to Your eternal purposes. That You, the Sanctifier of Truth, would sanctify their minds with Truth, shifting and realigning their temporal minds, to the eternal, that they would not go by time, space or location as it is known on this earth anymore, but according to the eternal plans that our Father has for them, enabling them by Your grace, to let go of their temporal ways of doing things, so that Your eternal purposes can be burned within their hearts, knowing that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Your ways higher than our ways, and Your thoughts than our thoughts – Lord make our ways, Your ways, and our thoughts Yours, I ask You would do that now Lord Yeshua in every heart that desires You to do so, in Your name Yeshua I pray. Amen.

Notes do not reflect all that was spoken when first taught, but are just that – notes for the author's use to teach from. Therefore, because more detail was shared when spoken, notes have a potential to be misconstrued, pending on the readers level of understanding of the Holy Scriptures, if not understood with all that was spoken.