

Living the Christian Life, Like a Son, Like a Daughter

Be Perfect

Matthew 5:48 to 6:4

Q: Be perfect? Affirming the law we are called to press toward holiness. Philippians 2:12, Phil 3:12-15, Hebrews 12:14, 2 Peter 1:2-11. Is this necessary for salvation? No. However, it is the fruit of the Spirit in the healthy Christian. We get better. We improve.

Q: Father? How does this frame everything ahead of us? The child of God has come into a whole new relationship with God. Remember that Jesus called the pharisees, sons of their father the devil and that Paul said as much of all of us in Ephesians 2:2? We have been reborn as sons (Romans 8:15-17). There is a dispensation in the heart. God is no taskmaster but a Father who loves to please, reward and express His love toward His children. We in turn serve a good Father gratefully and as a good Father we aim to please those we love most, first.

Q: How can we be careful not to practice our righteousness before men when Jesus said we should be a light to the world? Just as in the first chapter of this sermon, the issue is the heart and the manner behind what the Christian does. The Christian lives for God, not for men. It should not matter if you are recognized by men. What matters is that the heart went forward to do what you were called to do without regard to worldly attention or reward.

Q: Are there varying rewards for the Christian in the life to come? 1 Cor 3:11-17, 2 Cor 5:10, Matt 25 talents used, talents given

Q: Giving, Praying, Fasting how does Jesus put these toward the Christian in their course of life? Regular, occasional, expected or optional? It's a note that as a Christian lives, the Spirit, God himself, will bring us into pleasing works. A Christian who does not give naturally, pray naturally or fast naturally is no Christian.

Q: Sees in secret? Do we really need to give secretly? Should we feel bad if something we have done has been recognized? It is not the plain-faced doing of the work and how it is performed outwardly but the heart that brings it on. To do a public work is not the issue. However, it makes things more complex for our heart. When we do public work we are more prone to attacks of pride and to Satan's twisting of it toward our own ruin. If it is done in secret the struggle with pride may be less.

Q: What should our response be if we are recognized? Glory to God!