



Week 6: Kingdom Come

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in Heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

On Earth as it is in Heaven ...

OG: Have you ever asked yourself how on earth can God's kingdom in heaven be on earth? What does that look like?

Well our entire Citizens of Heaven, Residents of Earth has been leading us to the answer.

Through this series we have gone on a journey of giving (GOD CONTROL) over our personal lives and siding with Him. Then we what (OWN OUR ROLE). We take extreme ownership over our personal growth by allowing God to radically transform our lives. This transformation is God's way to what (MAKE LIFE WHOLE).

The more we change, the more we walk in His Authority – the power to bring Shalom to our world! We've counted the cost and are now ready to see God's Kingdom come to every sphere of our lives! From Daniel, to Esther, to Shadrach and his friends, we see how "Kingdom" comes through people walking in their individual authority!

So the question then becomes, How do we become people that usher this kingdom, this shalom reality here on earth? We will continue to answer this question together this morning. Turn to your neighbor and say the key is we're BEING MADE PERFECT!

MY LIFE VERSE. Romans 12:1; Romans 12:2 NLT

"2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect," (Romans 12:2).

This word Perfect in the greek is ...

perfect

τέλειον (teleion)

Adjective - Nominative Neuter Singular

Strong's 5046: From telos; complete; completeness.

"But you are to be perfect, even as your father in Heaven is perfect," (Matthew 5:48).



Again, we see the greek work teleion. However if we take a look at the Hebrew word used for perfect, we can find even a greater understanding of what the word means to be perfect. There are two words used for perfect in Hebrew.

Perfect, Perfection

Two word-groups in the Hebrew Old Testament are translated "perfect" or "perfection": tamam [m'T] and calal [l;l'K]. The former [Tamam] connotes wholeness, soundness, integrity, and often takes on ethical significance; the latter [calal] connotes completeness, perfection, and can carry the aesthetic sense of comeliness (the quality of being attractive or pleasing in appearance) or beauty. Nearly all New Testament occurrences translate Greek words sharing the tel- stem, from which some half-dozen words are formed that bear the sense of completion or wholeness.

Are you starting to see it? When you think of something that is complete you think of something that is whole. MAKE LIFE WHOLE
 So one can think PERFECT = COMPLETE = WHOLE
 Now I know what you are thinking. P. Theresa no one is ever perfect so how can we be perfect? Great question. I thought the same thing.

As we read the word of God, there is a biblical insistence that God's people are called to be perfect: Remember Matt 5:48, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt 5:48). One commentary I found says it like this:

In Scripture nothing is clearer than the unique holiness of God, so this cannot be a command for sinners to become God's ethical equals. It is rather the call to "be imitators of God as dearly beloved children" (Eph 5:1). Children who treasure their parents typically mimic them. Christians should mimic their Lord, who is perfect, thus reflecting his perfection in their lives. For some this will involve voluntary impoverishment for the sake of gaining true riches: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Matt 19:21). For others it is not the pride of possessions but the pride of self-expression that must go.

Pride of self- expression is BASICALLY WHAT IS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH

"Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way," (James 3:2 NLT).

You want to get a pulse check on how you are progressing in imitating Christ's perfection? Check what's coming out of your mouth. And if your like me, you gotta check it on the daily! LOL Just be encouraged. God knows we are not perfect which is why He sent Jesus to give us the power to become perfected in HIM!



OG: Discuss the power of the spoken word in your life. In what ways do you need to improve in the things you allow to come out of your mouth? Is there anything you need to repent from? If so stop and do so right now.

Interestingly, if we look at what the word of God says about Jesus being perfect. We would be surprised.

The New Testament is aware that Jesus Christ was sinless (John 8:46 ; Heb 4:15 ; 7:26). It speaks of him being "perfect, " however, only in the Book of Hebrews. God made Christ "perfect through suffering" so that he could bring "many sons to glory" (2:10).

On Suffering: 1 Peter 2: 19-25 NLT (Read; this is for someone in the congregation today)

"For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls," (1 Peter 2:19-25 NLT).

OG: How have you viewed suffering in your life? What have you learned about the purpose of suffering? How has suffering perfected you?

*"For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made Holy,"
(Hebrews 10:14).*

To be made Holy is implying the complete purification from our sins.

Christ took the penalty of sin.

Christ took the power of sin

And when he returns he will take away the presence of sin from this world.



This is why a key New Testament verse for understanding perfection in the Christian life is 2 Corinthians 12:9:

"But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Believers are perfect to the extent that they participate in the grace that God offers in Christ. Christ was perfected through the travail of righteous living amid the bruising realities of an unjust world. The means and abiding symbol of the perfection he won is the cross. His followers know perfection as they abide in the bright shadow of this same sign (*taken from Bible Hub Study tools*).

So How are we being Perfected?

1. In Character: In this life we cannot be flawless; that's why we are only imitating Christ's perfection as we become one with Him. So the key to perfection is constant progress. We are BEING made perfect.

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope," (Romans 5:3-4 NKJV).

"Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny."

2. In holiness: We are to separate ourselves from the world's sinful values. We are to be devoted to God's desires rather than our own and carry his love and mercy into the world

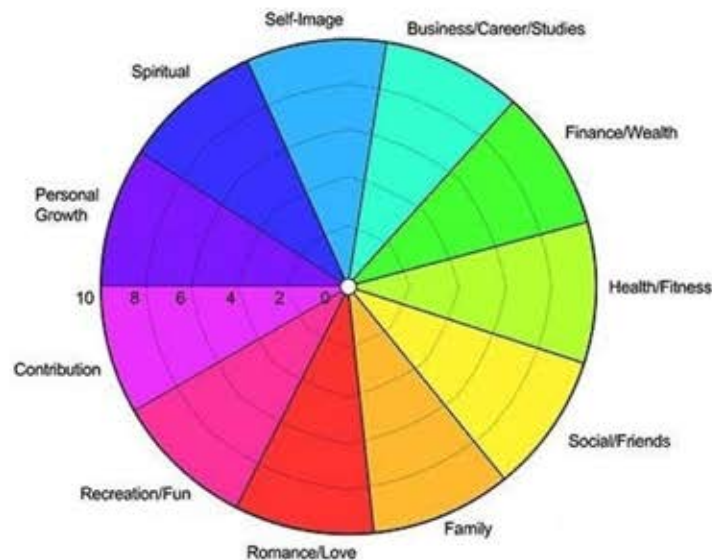
3. In maturity: We can't achieve Christlike character and holy living all at once as we mentioned earlier; we are being made perfect. But we can expect different behavior from a baby, a child, a teenager, and an adult. Just as there are stages of biological development; there are stages of spiritual development. Evidence of how mature we are can be demonstrated in how we speak, serve, and most importantly love.

In Love: We can seek to love others as completely as God loves us

As we are being perfected it will affect every area of your life.



THE PIE OF LIFE



OG: Take the time to draw out a pie of life for yourself in order to see the different areas of you life. Take time now to pray for each other and invite the Lord into each of those areas and show you how He is perfecting you in these areas.

As I was studying for this message. I had a spiritual knowing or understanding that the words perfect, complete, and whole were tied together and that all this leads to peace (Shalom). As I began to ask the Lord to help me tie it all together he lead me to a definition of peace:

The Hebrew word for peace, shalom (שלום) is derived from a root denoting wholeness or completeness, and its frame of reference throughout Jewish literature is bound up with the notion of shelemut, perfection.

When we allow the Lord to transform us by changing how we think, we are made perfect in HIM and become carriers of HIS peace.

How will HE complete this work? Through the indwelling of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. As were are being made perfected, complete, whole in Jesus we are becoming one with God and can **enter into His perfect peace.**

Like Jesus will be able to be in the midst of a storm and still have peace. We walk in the confidence that is Christ and can begin to exercise the believers authority over every area of our lives.



One of the first scriptures I memorized was Philippians 4:6-9 New Living Translation

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's **peace (Shalom)**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His **peace (Shalom)** will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your **THOUGHTS** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of **peace (HaShalom)** will be with you."*

OG: Church I have to ask, How is your thought life? Good or Bad? Do you need a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit to renew you once again? Do you need to be transformed by the renewing of your mind? What can you do to renew your mind?

My prayer for each and everyone one of us is the same prayer the Apostle Paul prayed for the Thessalonian church:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Amplified Bible

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful and absolutely trustworthy is He who is calling you [to Himself for your salvation], and He will do it [He will fulfill His call by making you holy, guarding you, watching over you, and protecting you as His own]."

OG: Other scriptures to reflect on for further study:

1 Peter 5:10 ESV

"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Zechariah 13:9 ESV

"And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"