

ABSOLUTELY PERFECT

We all know that God is perfect... that's our comfort when life seems to be unraveling, when disappointment is staring you in the face, when your heart feels crushed by the burdens you're carrying. But let's look at a few *specific* areas of God's perfection, that we might be strengthened in our faith today:

His ways are Perfect:

**As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven;
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.**

Psalm 18:30

If we would grow in faith, we will necessarily hit times where we don't understand God's ways with us; all the great saints of all history testify to this fact. God told us that His ways are higher than ours (*see Isaiah 55:9*). We must decide in our hearts to believe that all His ways are perfect all the time – whether in the valley or on the mountain top – and allow that faith to carry us when our minds can't make sense of what He's doing. Child of God, when your Father's dealings with you seem strange or even unkind, rest in the knowledge that His ways are perfect. In His timing, your faith will be made sight, and you'll see that it was truly all for your good.

His works are Perfect:

**Ascribe greatness to our God.
He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice,
A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.**

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Many years ago, I had a really great mechanic: Stan. Stan only worked on upscale, expensive cars like Land Rovers and Mercedes... *and* on my 1976 Oldsmobile Omega. Oldsmobile didn't make many of these cars, and for good reason. Mine spent so much time inside Stan's repair shop, it must have had the place memorized. And you don't have to be a Greek scholar to know that "Omega" means THE END... which was a fitting name for this American-made beast. It had that rare and elusive combination of being slow, unreliable, handling poorly, and guzzling gas all at the same time. It had extremely low miles (60,000), which I attributed to the fact that it spent so much time in repair shops no one had much opportunity to drive it.

Now, when I left my car with Stan for its latest repair, I didn't watch over his shoulder to make sure he was fixing it right... I didn't call repeatedly to make sure things were going OK... I simply left the car with him, and

walked to the bus stop (to get home). I knew the car was in the best care possible (better than it deserved, in fact); my job was to trust Stan to fix it right. When it came to cars, *Stan's works were worthy of my trust.*

Granted, the illustration is pretty obvious, but I'll say it anyway: **your Father's works are perfect** ~ He knows what He's doing with you! "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). He doesn't need our help to fix our situation, and all our worrying is absolutely pointless. *His works are worthy of our trust*, and we will see in due time that it all was being worked together for our good. So *rest easy* ~ your life is in good hands.

His will is Perfect:

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

Another point of perfection: His will. Whenever we struggle with surrendering *our* will and submitting to *His*, it is helpful to remember that we're not submitting to the hastily laid plans of an absent-minded professor. True, we are called to surrender our will - even laying down our dearest dreams. *But look what we are promised in return:* the opportunity to bring glory to the King, to experience the abiding friendship of the Savior, to participate in the highest purposes of the Creator of the whole universe, to walk in the perfect will of a Father who loved us enough to give His own Son to purchase us. *What cost is too great for such gain?*

Jesus proclaimed that He had come to give us "abundant life," meaning a life overflowing with His grace, love, joy ~ but these things are *only attainable in the realm of His will for us.* And that necessitates surrendering our own will to Him. Every day. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23-24) No shortcuts ~ just submitting to His will, because we know it's glorifying to Him (AND it's best for us).

ONE MORE THING THAT GETS MADE PERFECT... if you will trust His ways, yield to His work in your life, and submit to His will by surrendering your own, **He makes YOUR way perfect:**

"It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect." (Psalm 18:32)

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. **The LORD will perfect that which concerns me...**" (*Psalm 138:7-8*)

GOD HAS PROMISED US in His Word that He will perfect the paths of those whose hearts are fully yielded to Him (Proverbs 3:5-6), and will perfect those things that concern us as we seek first His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33). GOD, who cannot lie, has PROMISED US these things – *we would be wise to believe these promises, and build our very lives upon them.*

You see, one day the economic infrastructure of our nation will crumble. (I'm not hoping for this, I'm just being realistic.) Health insurance, life insurance, retirement funds, stocks & bonds, social security, etc. – all of it will vanish. Fortunes will disappear overnight. And all who put their trust in such transient things will be dismayed! But if you have built your life upon the PERFECT love of a PERFECT Father, you will be ROCK SOLID in the day of trouble.

"Surely he will never be shaken... He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes." Psalm 112:6-8

I personally do not have a "perfect" life, or "perfect" circumstances – in fact, I have got some major challenges, some big areas of trust. But I have a Father whose ways, works, and will for my life and my family are PERFECT! And by His grace I will trust Him, come hell or high water – and I WILL NOT BE ASHAMED for doing so, for He always shows Himself faithful.

Remember the words of Jim Elliott, who laid down his life 50 years ago in the jungles of Ecuador: **"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."** *Whatever following Jesus wholeheartedly costs you is trivial to what you'll gain, both now and in eternity.*

May the Lord bless you with a more perfect knowledge of His perfect love; and may He grace you with a perfect submission to His perfect will for you.

In Jesus' love,

Pastor Matthew Casey

© Springs of Life Ministries / Matthew Casey, 2006