

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES ON PERFECTION

2 Samuel 22:31

Psalms 20:7/19:7

Matthew 5:48

Romans 12:2

1 Corinthians 13:10

2 Corinthians 12:9

Hebrews 2:10; 7:11; 12:23

1 John 4:18

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

- ✧ In what ways is God calling you to perfection and holiness? What gifts and talents has He given you? How does He challenge you to develop them? How might your gifts and talents be employed in your search for perfection?
- ✧ How has God perfected what is lacking in you? How have your strong points overcome or compensated for your weaknesses?
- ✧ Commit yourself to reaching out to someone you know who is struggling in some way. How can you bring God's presence into his or her life?

"Be all that you can be."

"In pursuit of excellence."

"Simply the best."

"Strive for perfection."

We're continually being challenged to grow, to improve, to achieve, to be perfect. But perfection means different things to different people. For Christians, "being perfect" means living in a God-like way—"laying aside all earthly cares," accepting God's love and presence in our lives, and sharing His love with others.

"But where," you may ask, "do I go for guidance in seeking the perfection to which I am called as a Christian?" The Church offers a wealth of resources to which you can turn for help.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING



THE BIBLE

The Bible offers inspiration and encouragement, especially when stress, strife, or feelings of hopelessness seem to destroy our quest for perfection in Christ:

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be perfect, equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16, 17).

THE WRITINGS OF THE HOLY FATHERS

The Holy Fathers offer direction in our daily lives. Many of their writings are simply spiritual themes and scriptural passages designed to strengthen our faith and inspire us to accept the challenge to live a more perfect Christian lifestyle.

PRAYER

Personal prayer, as well as prayers offered by others on our behalf, is essential in seeking perfection. Prayer enables us to “be perfect and fully assured in all the will of God” (Col 4:12). “Night and day,” writes Saint Paul, we are called to “pray beyond measure” and to “perfect that which is lacking” (1 Thess 3:10).

GRACE

Grace is the presence of God in our lives. By acknowledging and responding to His loving presence, we recognize our weaknesses:

And He said unto me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me (2 Cor 12:9).

SUFFERING

Suffering enables us to identify with Christ by putting all-consuming self-concerns in their proper place:

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory through Christ Jesus will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little (1 Pt 5:10).

THE SAINTS

The saints are those who have already attained perfection and holiness in God. They constantly remind us that ordinary people can indeed respond to God’s presence in an extraordinary way. Their lives challenge us to “cleanse ourselves from every defilement of the flesh and spirit, making holiness perfect” (2 Cor 7:1).

WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENTS

At every stage of our lives—from cradle to grave—the sacraments and worship challenge us to attain holiness and perfection. In **Baptism**, we enter into our relationship with God and His People, the Church. In **Chrismation**, the Gift of the Holy Spirit seals and confirms our baptismal commitment. When we fall short of God’s grace, we are reconciled with Him and with those around us through **Confession**, while the **Eucharist** brings us into a common union with Christ and one another. We are spiritually and physically healed through **Holy Unction**, while our calling in life is sanctified through **Marriage** and **Ordination**.

A FINAL THOUGHT

We are continually reminded to avoid anything which prevents us from attaining perfection. This is perhaps the greatest challenge to our lives as Christians today:

As for those that fell among thorns, after they have heard, they go forth and are choked with cares and riches and bear no fruit to perfection (Lk 8:14).