

PARTAKERS of the DIVINE NATURE The Gospel You can be Perfect

Born
 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
 -John 1:12-13 -John 3:5

Babe
 "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ."
 -1 Peter 2:2 -1 Corinthians 3:1

Child
 "Edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" "You have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe."
 -Ephesians 4:12-14 -Hebrews 5:12-13

Grow
 "Grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ" "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
 -Ephesians 4:15 -1 Peter 3:18

Mature
 "Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature."
 "Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind."
 -1 Corinthians 14:20 -Philippians 3:15

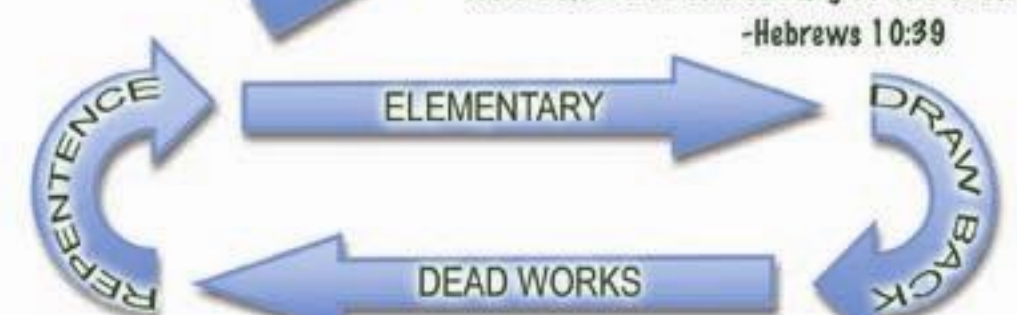
Perfect
 "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." "But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
 -Colossians 1:28 -James 1:4

Read the Letter to the Hebrews to see these directions:

"Beloved, we are confident of BETTER THINGS concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation" -Hebrews 6:9

"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end." -Hebrews 6:11

"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." -Hebrews 6:1



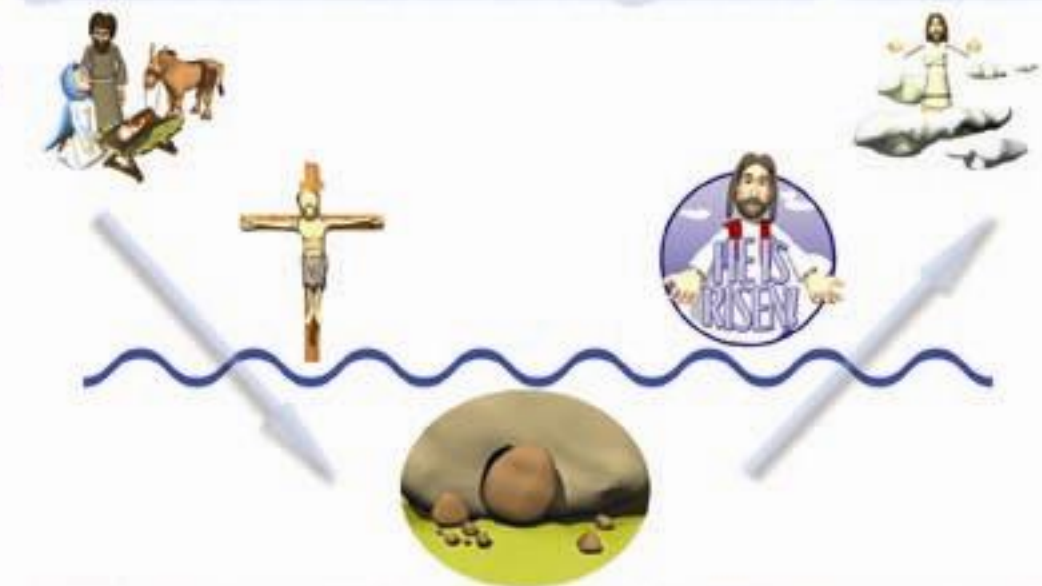
"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." -Hebrews 6:4-6

What about SIN?

To sin means to 'Miss the mark'. Missing the mark with God happens when we do not do as He says, hence we 'Break His commands', thus we sin. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," -Romans 3:23 After you have become a Christian there may be times that you sin again. This requires repentance (Changing your mind about the direction of moving away from God), confessing your sin and asking God for forgiveness. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." -1 John 1:6-10 The Apostle Paul shared how he felt about his endeavor to get to heaven; "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind" -Philippians 3:12-15 We need to strive to be faithful because if sin becomes "Willful" (Deliberately going away from God) there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. (Hebrews 10:26)

Becoming Christ-like is a process. Jesus told Nicodemus not to be astonished at the idea of being "Born again". God wants us to have a fresh spiritual start with a new birth. He said to Nicodemus in John chapter 3 that "We must be born again of water and spirit to enter the Kingdom of God" (The church). When we are baptized (Emersed) in water for the "Answer of a good conscience towards God" (1 Peter 3:21) we are 'Circumcised of heart' (Spirit) and we are added to God's family as newborn babes in Christ. We feed on "The pure spiritual milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2) as we grow. Eventually we partake of spiritual meat of the word and grow in understanding of God. Turning back to the ways of the world from God's ways results in our being lost again forever. (Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-27) God is not pleased if we do not grow up from the elementary principles of Christ. He wants us to grow up and mature spiritually so that we are like Christ, who is like the Father. It all starts with "Obeying the Gospel", which is following the "form" of the Gospel that Jesus gave us. (Romans 6:17)

Jesus passed through the heavens to die and become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. The good news of this redemptive act is called 'The Gospel'. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." -Romans 3:23 We are all in need of forgiveness of our sins. Jesus' blood can perfect us when we 'Obey the Gospel'. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." -Hebrews 10:14



"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven -Colossians 1:21-23

Yes, you can be Perfect !

Have you been made perfect? Jesus said to His followers, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." -Matthew 5:48 He was referring to our 'Spiritual Maturity'.

Many in the world claim that 'Spiritual Maturity' is not attainable. This foldout was designed to explain what the Bible say about 'Spiritual Maturity'. Not only is it attainable, it is expected. Follow the 'Growth Pyramid' that describes how we are to "Add" to our faith. God wants us to be His children and take on His "Divine Nature". Our lifetime goal should be to follow the character transformation outlined in 1 Peter chapter 1.



"God is Love" (1 John 4:8) and we should be like Him. "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us" -1 John 3:16