



# Perfection

November 28, 2018

Is perfection possible? I use the word perfect often. When one of our student athletes does a drill just right I say perfect. When a colleague sends a suggestion via email I may respond by typing perfect.

When my wife baked those miniature sweet potato pies for Thanksgiving and I took the first bite (the night before, just to test them out) I responded by saying mmmmm perfect.

We often act as if perfection is possible. This is evident in our reaction to making a mistake.

When we mess up we remind people that no one is perfect as if they thought perfection was possible.

Have you said those two words? Nobody's perfect. The person you're talking too has never responded by saying "thank you for reminding me, for a minute there I forgot you weren't perfect."

But what if perfection is possible? I believe it is attainable. In 1999 I was a member of a football team that finished the season a perfect 13-0.

Alabama State alum Rodell Thomas was a member of the 1972 Miami Dolphins that finished the season with a perfect record. Many believe Alabama will finish this season with a perfect record. I use to work at Trent Richardson's old high school.

If you asked him about perfection he could mention the 2009 season when the Tide were perfect. In the spring of 2017 Cadillac Williams worked on my staff as the running back coach.

If you asked him about perfection he may mention the 2004 Auburn squad that went undefeated.

What if perfection is possible?

In 1956 Don Larsen pitched a perfect game in game five of the World Series for the New York Yankees. Have you ever put on a shirt, hat or pair of shoes and said perfect. Or cut into a nice piece of steak, take a bite perfect.

Although we use the phrase "Nobody's Perfect" to excuse our mistakes we wouldn't accept those words after we have received unfair treatment.

Could you imagine a judge saying "I may have screwed this up, but nobody's perfect." What if a referee told me "I probably blew a few calls tonight coach, and it probably cost your guys the game- but hey nobody's perfect."

When is it acceptable to say: Nobody's perfect? What if your surgeon informed you that they usually lose two patients a year, but this year they haven't lost any. He looks at you and says "you're the last patient we're going to operate on this year."

He continues by saying "I hope I get this right, but nobody's perfect."

Wouldn't you want the surgeon to strive for perfection instead of acknowledging his imperfections?

It's obvious we're not perfect, but could we be perfect for one day or half a day or for six hours or maybe for six minutes.

What if the cashier at McDonalds decided to strive for perfection for one customer a day and that customer was you?

What if the mechanic told everyone in the shop that they were going to do a perfect job on one car per day and they selected your vehicle?

If we change our perspective and attitude and decide to chase perfection I believe we could reach our full potential.

Not reaching your full potential is like having 400 channels on your television but only watching one. It's like having a brand new car and never driving it because you bought it just to use the trunk. It's like dying of starvation while sitting inside Golden Corral.

I believe we should chase perfection. The only hope we have in attaining perfection is to chase it.

Do you know what happens if we chase perfection and never catch it? We then have to settle for excellence. I can live with that.