From Faith To Perfection

The meaning of perfection in the Bible relates to a state of completeness.

A total or an absolute wholeness.

Biblical perfection involves freedom from fault, defect, or shortcoming.

In the New Testament, the Greek word or term for "perfection" is 'Teleios' which can also mean "maturity."

To break it down for easier understanding, let me point out that the Bible expresses perfection in at least three different contexts or categories:

1. the perfection of God,
2. the perfection of Christ,
3. the perfection of humans.

Absolute perfection is a quality that belongs to God alone.

The perfection of God:

In **Matthew 5:48** the Bible explicitly states that God is by nature perfect: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

God is the perfect being, all that He does is perfect:

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

"He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He."

(Job 37:16) His knowledge is perfect.

(Psalm 18:30) "As for God, His way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him."

(Psalm 19:7) The law of the Lord is perfect.

In (**Romans 12:2**) the apostle Paul describes God's will as perfect:

"Do not conform to the pattern of 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."

The perfection of Jesus:

In Hebrews 2:10, Scripture says that Jesus was made perfect through suffering:

"God, for Whom and through Whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that He should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation" (NLT).

As Son of God, Jesus was already morally perfect. As Son of Man, Christ's suffering and death made Him "perfect" in the sense of qualifying to serve as the faultless High Priest for God's people (Hebrews 7:28). Only through suffering on the cross was Christ able to accomplish the work of redemption and become the perfect, complete, effective Savior of His people (read Hebrews 5:8-9). Jesus was the perfect example of what it

means to live in obedience to the Father's will.

The perfection of humans:
As we read in Matthew 5:48, God's children are called to be perfect. This does not mean that we/humans can obtain the same holy perfection as God, for He alone is set apart in holiness (Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 99:9; Exodus 15:11).
The call to be perfect is what the apostle Paul meant when he said, "Be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).
As children tend to imitate their parents, God's children ought to imitate their Lord and reflect His perfection in the way they live.

The idea of spiritual maturity relates closely to the word *perfection* in the Bible. Humans are not perfect, but followers of Christ are encouraged to seek perfection:
James 1:4) "And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
In (Philippians 3:12, NLT) Paul says that he had not yet obtained perfection but had made it his goal:
"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me."
1 Timothy 6:12
"Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses."

Another verse that is key to understanding perfection as it relates to 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.'
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' Through the grace God offers in Jesus Christ, Christians are perfected in weakness

Perfection is a gift that humans receive through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ: "For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. (Personal Comment: It only "covered" sin!) But our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then He sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. There He waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under His feet. For by that one offering He forever made perfect those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:10–14, NLT).

"I Have to Be Perfect"

Worry frequently drives us after flawlessness. We sense a need to be the ideal partner, the ideal mom or dad, the ideal worker, or the ideal follower of Christ. We aim for spotless execution in all parts of our lives, scared of errors or failing to meet standards. This demand for perfection can be tiring and may seem unattainable, and finally, a cause to give up and quit!

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This scripture plainly shows we're all flawed. We all err, make mistakes, we all trip, and we all miss God's ideal and His perfection. That's all right!

God doesn't anticipate flawlessness; He wants us to be eager to learn, grow, mature in Him, and rely on His love, His mercies and kindness. The wonderful thing about God's grace is that It provides pardon and rescue. We don't need to gain God's affection; it's given freely.

So, How can we embrace God's grace and be gentle with ourselves? Start by examining your inner critic. If you dwell excessively on your mistakes, remember that everyone falters, and "falls short!"

Learn to forgive yourself.

Talk to yourself with the same compassion and understanding you would offer your friend. Also, develop the habit of recognizing your accomplishments, however small; there is a balance. And remember, most importantly, that God's love and affection for us is unconditional, despite our flaws.

In the Bible, "perfect" doesn't always mean sinless, but rather refers to **completeness**, **maturity**, and **moral integrity**, most often in relation to **God's** nature and His **standard** for believers. The Hebrew word "tamim" can mean "complete" or "blameless," while the Greek word "teleios" can mean "complete" or "entire" or "mature."

Breakdgown:
Completeness and Maturity:
"Perfect" can imply a full development, both in character and in one's relationship with God.
Moral Integrity:
It can also describe a person who is upright, righteous, and avoids evil, even if they are not completely sinless.
God's Standard:
The Bible often uses "perfect" to describe God's nature and the ideal goal that believers are called to strive for, rather than a state of absolute flawlessness and sinlessness.
As Examples:
Noah: Was described as "perfect in his generation," meaning he was upright and righteous in his time.

Job: Was said to be "perfect and upright," though he acknowledged his own sinfulness.
King Asa: Had "a perfect heart" with the Lord.
(You can find his story in the Old Testament: 1 Kings 15:9-24 and
2 Chronicles 14-16.)
Jesus' Perfection:
Jesus is the only sinless, perfect man in the Bible. He is the example of perfection for believers to strive towards.
Believers' Perfection:
Through grace and the atonement of Jesus, we believers can strive towards perfection in Christ, not by achieving sinlessness, but by growing in righteousness and maturity.

Spiritual perfection, within the Christian faith, is about the process and goal of becoming more like Christ in character and holiness. It is the pursuit of complete maturity in faith, love, and obedience to God. This is rooted, not in an idea, but in the belief that we are called to reflect the holiness of God and to grow and mature continually in our spiritual lives.

1 Timothy 6:12
"Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you.

Closing Prayer:
2 Peter 1:2-11 NLT

2May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.
3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.
4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.
5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,
6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,
7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.
8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.
10 So, dear brothers and sisters,fn work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.
11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.