

2018-12-12 Perfection

Wednesday



Christ Jesus admonished us to be "perfect, even as [our] Father, which is in heaven is perfect" (Matth 5:48). Today's readings will elaborate on this concept of divine perfection.



Holy Bible

1. Gen. 17:1 I

I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2. II Cor. 4:6

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

3. John 1:9–13

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

4. Matt. 4:23

¶ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

5. Mark 1:40–42

And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

6. Luke 15:11–14, 16–21 2nd and (to And), 22–24 the (to .)

¶ And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to *me*. And he divided unto them *his* living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. ... and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And ... the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

7. John 17:1–11, 17–26

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. ... Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou

hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

8. I Pet. 5:10 the (to 2nd), 10 make

the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, ... make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

9. Song 4:7

Thou *art* all fair, my love; *there is* no spot in thee.



Science and Health

1. SH 302:19–22 (to), 26

The Science of being reveals man as perfect, even as the Father is perfect, because the Soul, or Mind, of the spiritual man is God, the divine Principle of all being, ... Man's true consciousness is in the mental, not in any bodily or personal likeness to Spirit. Indeed, the body presents no proper likeness of divinity, though mortal sense would fain have us so believe.

2. SH 485:19-24

The belief that life can be in matter or soul in body, and that man springs from dust or from an egg, is the result of the mortal error which Christ, or Truth, destroys by fulfilling the spiritual law of being, in which man is perfect, even as the “Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

3. SH 276:19

When we learn in Science how to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect, thought is turned into new and healthy channels, — towards the contemplation of things immortal and away from materiality to the Principle of the universe, including harmonious man.

Perfection
requisite

4. SH 262:27–28 (to 2nd .), 30–31

The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man's origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly. ... Divine Mind is the only cause or Principle of existence.

Mind the
only cause

5. SH 591:16 (only, to 2nd .), 18–19 not (to ;)

MIND. The only I, or Us; the only Spirit, ... not that which is *in* man, but the divine Principle, or God, of whom man is the full and perfect expression;

6. SH 510:28-1

Science reveals only one Mind, and this one shining by its own light and governing the universe, including man, in perfect harmony.

7. SH 512:21–25

From the infinite elements of the one Mind emanate all form, color, quality, and quantity, and these are mental, both primarily and secondarily. Their spiritual nature is discerned only through the spiritual senses.

Multiplication
of pure ideas

8. SH 518:24–6

Genesis i. 31. And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. The divine Principle, or Spirit, comprehends and

expresses all, and all must therefore be as perfect as the divine Principle is perfect. Nothing is new to Spirit. Nothing can be novel to eternal Mind, the author of all things, who from all eternity knoweth His own ideas. Deity was satisfied with His work. How could He be otherwise, since the spiritual creation was the outgrowth, the emanation, of His infinite self-containment and immortal wisdom?

Perfection
of creation

9. SH 550:5–6 (to identity), 7–9 2nd of (to ,)

God is the Life, or intelligence, which forms and preserves the individuality and identity ... of men. God cannot become finite, and be limited within material bounds. Spirit cannot become matter,

Deep-
reaching
interrogations
Deep-
reaching
interrogations

10. SH 468:12-13

Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal.

11. SH 468:11–12

Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error.

12. SH 555:18–26 (to ,), 27 or (only)

Only impotent error would seek to unite Spirit with matter, good with evil, immortality with mortality, and call this sham unity *man*, as if man were the offspring of both Mind and matter, of both Deity and humanity. Creation rests on a spiritual basis. We lose our standard of perfection and set aside the proper conception of Deity, when we admit that the perfect is the author of aught that can become imperfect, ... or that Truth confers the ability to err.

The origin
of divinity

13. SH 470:16 (only), 21–24

The children of God have but one Mind. ... God is the creator of man, and, the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect. Man is the expression of God's being.

Indestructible
relationship

14. SH 468:14

Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.

15. SH 475:5–7, 8–9 man, 11

Question. — What is man? Answer. — Man is not matter; he is not made up of brain, blood, bones, and other material elements. ... man is made in the image and likeness of God. ... Man is spiritual and perfect; and because he is spiritual and perfect, he must be so understood in Christian Science. Man is idea, the image, of Love; he is not physique. He is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas; the generic term for all that reflects God's image and likeness; the conscious identity of being as found in Science, in which man is the reflection of God, or Mind, and therefore is eternal; that which has no separate mind from God; that which has not a single quality underived from Deity; that which possesses no life, intelligence, nor creative power of his own, but reflects spiritually all that belongs to his Maker.

Fleshly
factors unreal



Hymns

1. Hymn. 529:1-2

Love divine, Your healing presence / Lifts us to the holy place, /
Where we see Your whole creation / Filled with light and crowned
with grace. / We Your children know Your glory, / See Your power
from above / Sweep away the shade of darkness / With the healing
tide of love. // Humble hearts accept Your blessing, / Turn from
sorrow, want, and sin, / Turn the page, rewrite that story, / As the

Christ is welcomed in. / Now we know our true relation, / Perfect
God and perfect child, / We can live in joy and freedom, / Loved,
and pure, and undefiled. //

2. Hymn. 450:1-5

Blest Christmas morn, though murky clouds / Pursue thy way, / Thy
light was born where storm enshrouds / Nor dawn nor day! // Dear
Christ, forever here and near, / No cradle song, / No natal hour and
mother's tear, / To thee belong. // Thou God-idea, Life-encrowned, /
The Bethlehem babe — / Beloved, replete, by flesh embound — /
Was but thy shade! // Thou gentle beam of living Love, / And
deathless Life! / Truth infinite, — so far above / All mortal strife, //
Or cruel creed, or earth-born taint: / Fill us today / With all thou art
— be thou our saint, / Our stay, always. //

3. Hymn. 20:1-3

Be true and list the voice within, / Be true unto thy high ideal, / Thy
perfect self, that knows no sin, / That self that is the only real. //
God is the only perfect One: / My perfect self is one with Him; / So
man is seen as God's own son, / When Truth dispels the shadows
dim. // True to our God whose name is Love, / We shall fulfill our
Father's plan; / For true means true to God above, / To self, and to
our fellow-man. //