

Perfection or Overcoming

Q. If we live above sin, is that perfection ?

If you live above sin, that is not perfection in the biblical sense. We should be trying to live above sin every day. After all what sin do you have to commit ? While we may slip and commit a sin it should not be daily thing in our lives. We should be striving to live above sin, not just every day, but weekly and monthly. If we do commit a sin, we should immediately ask for forgiveness! As John says in 1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin we, have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Jesus lived above sin his whole life, yet he was not perfect till he had suffered many things. Heb. 2:10 7; Heb. 5:8-9.

Overcoming is more than living above sin; it is crucifying or mortifying our carnal nature (or old man). See Col. 3:9 & Eph.4:22. Paul gives us some of the requirements of overcoming in the following scriptures; Rom. 12:9-21; Eph. 4:22-32; Col.3:1-17 and Gal.5:14-26 includes the works of the flesh and the fruits of the spirit. We must not only put off the old man (crucify or mortify our carnal nature), but we must put on charity and the attributes of Christ.

Perfection and overcoming or synonymous terms. We can reach or obtain perfection today, that makes us a part of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus or a member of the bride of Jesus Christ. See Phill.3; 14; Rev. 14:1-5. Also see the promises for the overcomers in Rev.2:1 through Rev. 3:22

Q. Is it necessary to strive for perfection since some say that it is not obtainable today?

One thing I know for sure if you don't strive for perfection you will never, never, ever obtain it ! We must strive for in order to obtain it. If you don't set a goal you can never it. A quote I once heard said “A vision without action is just a dream”. In the Olympics this year they had a runner who had lost both legs below

the knee. He was told he would never run and possibly not be able to walk without great difficulty. He would not listen and was able to reach the finals in the races. If he had accepted that he could never compete, that would be the end of the story. He pressed on and today we have fine example of determination and self-discipline. I have heard that scientist say that a bumble bee can't fly, because his wings are too small. The old bumble bee doesn't know it so he just flies anyway.

Jesus tells us in Mtt. 5:48 to be perfect as our heavenly Father in heaven is perfect. Also see Col. 1:28; James 1:4; Heb. 6:1; Heb12:23; & Eph. 4:12. Perfection is obtainable today. When you reach perfection, you have quit the sinning business and have overcome. Gal.5:24 says they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust.

When you have reached perfection, your soul does not die. For the wages of sin is death Rom. 6:23. Jesus said if a man keep my sayings he shall **Never see death.** John 9:51; verse 52 says **Never taste death.** My dictionary defines never, as: 1.not ever, at no time, 2.not at all, in no case. So if we overcome our natural house may die, but we will move out a live soul. Our soul will not see or taste death. Also see John 10:27-28. II Tim.1:10 says that Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. So either Jesus abolished death or he did not. As for me I'll put my trust in the word of God. The book of Hebrews says Jesus brought a better covenant with better promises. If my soul still has to go out of existence or to the grave yard then how is the new covenant better than the old. People had the hope of a resurrection under the old covenant.

Q. For those that come forth in the final resurrection, will it be necessary for them to overcome ?

Yes it will. There is only one mark, one aim, one target, or one goal to reach for eternal life and that is overcoming. In order to live throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity we must overcome. If we do it on this side we gain a greater reward. So why not strive for the best, the high calling. If we decide to procrastinate here, then who is to say that we would not procrastinate over there

and still lose out? So why should God waste his time on us. Let us press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus Phill. 3:14.

Q. Is it necessary to become a martyr to overcome and become a part of the bride of Christ ?

In Rev. 20:4 John said he saw them that were beheaded for the witness of Christ and that they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. So it appears that at first glance that you must die a martyr. It is however necessary to understand what it means by beheading. Everyone who has made the bride was not naturally beheaded. Peter was crucified, Stephen was stoned, and others were fed to lions. They all however were beheaded; they all lost their head and took on Jesus as their head. In other words they all made Jesus Christ their head and no longer followed their own wants or directions in life. Tradition also tells that John died of old age on the isle of Patmos where he received the book of Revelation. To overcome one must know what overcoming is. You must also know the requirements and what sin is in order to avoid sin. You must stay full of the spirit. As Paul says in Rom. 8:4-6 "that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after, the spirit the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Rom. 8:13 also tells us "if we live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live."