

Self Improvement..... Don't even go there.

[Mat 5:48](#) *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect".*

Could this be attainable in this life? If it isn't then Jesus would not have said it. But what a dilemma. How can one attain to perfection? Impossible surely. Certainly not by self effort, that is for sure. Someone more enlightened may say, "well obviously this cannot be done by self effort, but by the Spirit", quoting the scripture - *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.* [Zec 4:6](#). But even this leaves us guessing to what our part in all this is, doesn't it? But what am I to do? We ask.

Jesus said, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free".* [Jhn 8:32](#). What truth are we to know that will make us free? Free from what? Will knowing this truth show us how we are to be perfect? What is this truth? When we see it, It is wonderful. It is the reality of the mystery that God has cleverly hidden, until such times as eyes are ready to see and ears are ready to hear. The Truth is, that you are *already* free and *already* perfect NOW. Well I certainly don't look or feel it you may well be saying, and who could blame you for that. For the realm of appearances that we seemingly live in, certainly do not agree with this great truth do they. Never the less it IS the truth. Don't forget Jesus instructed us not to judge by appearances, didn't he. So we ask again, "free from what"? Free from the lie, we have all fallen for. (Humm 'fallen for - the fall, that just this second struck me). What lie? The lie that we are mortal, human beings. The lie that God is one entity and we are a separate other. That God is one person and we are lots of other little persons. No, No, No never.

Jesus said, *"No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.* [Mat 9:16](#). He also said, *"Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."* [Mat 9:17](#). Here he is giving us a great truth, regarding the whole question of How? Paul also literally tells us how to, when he says, *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* [Rom 12:2](#). I looked at this verse in the greek version and I was amazed to find, that for the word 'transformed', the original greek word is 'metomorphosise'. The word in the greek and the general sense of the word 'renewing' was 'renovating'. Well, in the light of Jesus' statements above regarding wineskins and old garments, we can understand that what Paul is really saying is, "The only way you can attain to this 'perfection', is by metomorphosis. By the complete renovating of your mind/consciousness". Let's look at the word renovate again. Ten years ago my brother moved to France. he bought an old french farmhouse in the Bordeaux wine area. It was old and though sound it needed a lot of 'renovation'. But, my brother held in his mind's eye, what the house would be like after the work was completed. Before he could start to create the house the way he and his wife wanted it, he first had to pull most of it down. This is what happens when you renovate. Out with the old and in with the new. Wineskins and garments. What is it that we must pull down (renovate)? Nothing much (chuckles), just our whole perception and conscious awareness of who we have believed ourselves to be, all these

years. For we are NOT who we think we are. We are NOT mortal human beings. So, what is the New that we must replace the old with? The truth that we are eternal spirit beings, and there is only ONE who is eternal, *and we ARE that ONE. NOW, and have always been The ONE.*

The caterpillar must die, in order to bring forth the butterfly. Again Jesus said, "*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it*". [Mat 16:25](#). If he were talking to the insect world he could have said, "If you hang on to your caterpillar life, you will never become a butterfly, but if you lose your caterpillar life, you will gain the life of a butterfly. Then you will be able to fly, and you will be free from your earthly bondage. Paul, who admitted to dying daily, obviously applied Jesus' words to himself, so that he was able to say, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" [Phl 1:21](#). "For me to live, really live my life, enjoy my life and do what I want to do IS Christ living, and to die to the conscious awareness of who I thought I was, actually gains me this freedom. For this is eternal life that you know ME. To know this ME and who this ME is, is the great truth that Jesus promised would set us free. Free from the lie of ever having been separated from our source. Our REAL SELF. So we can see from all this, that the problem is not in self-effort, but rather in our perception (conscious awareness), of who the self is! A caterpillar could never be a butterfly. You cannot stick wings onto a caterpillar to try and make it fly; ridiculous. But no more ridiculous than expecting a human being to be spiritualized. It cannot be done. Sorry folks. But thanks be to Christ, (our real and true selves), for it is already done. We already are what we are seeking. We seek the way. We are the way. We seek the truth. We are the truth. We seek the life. We are the life. We seek the light. We are the light. We seek the resurrection. We are the resurrection. Why? How? Because we are HE and HE is WE, "because as he is, so are we in this world". [1Jo 4:17](#)

I remember chatting with a friend and at one point in the conversation I said to her, "Our problem is (' the word 'our' being the human race), we don't know or realise who we are", to which she promptly and rather shrewdly replied, " Well I know who I am, I am ME". But, she was being honest, that's the best we can come up with. I am me. But if we ask God who he is, he simply replies, " I am ME". Do you SEE. Do you grasp it? When you say "I am ME", that IS God saying I am ME. There is only ONE Me in the whole Universe. Or as our old friend Norman Grubb used to say, " There is only ONE person in the Universe". He was absolutely right. There is only ONE. Jesus knew this, and was able to say I AM. If you have seen me you have seen The ONE. Before Abraham was, I AM. This is not just true of Jesus, but true of us all. This is what he came to show us. He said, "follow me. Have my mind set, walk the path I walk and know what I know, my/our Oneness with the Father/Source of all. The ONE that IS all and in all".

I'd like to just say a little more about Paul's renewing of the mind. Or as I would put it 'renovation' of our consciousness'. But it means the same thing. I remember several years ago, when I had the great fortune, to travel with my friends, John and Fred, across the USA, visiting folk in their homes, (in quite a few different states), I had the honour of being the speaker at one of the evening 'meets'. I think it was in Kansas City, but the place is not really relevant to the story. I used, as an allegory in my talk, of a projector and a screen. I remember I was particularly pleased afterwards, as Fred told me, he felt it was one of my best talks. That, of course pleased me greatly. But yea, the projector and screen. We know that if we place a slide in the projector, then what ever is on the slide MUST appear on the screen. It is that instant. If

we are viewing something on the slide that we do not like or are uncomfortable with, we merely have to change the slide for one that is pleasing to us, and then we can behold the new image on the screen. The world that we live in and are aware of daily, is like that screen. This is the realm of appearances. I call it 'Shadowlands' for all are shadows and mostly unaware of what is creating the shadow. That which is creating the shadow is 'The Substance' the shadow is not the substance but an image, or likeness of it. We look at ourselves and say to ourselves, "this is me". But it isn't. You cannot see YOU, for you are spirit and therefore invisible. But, you can see the shadow, image, likeness of your true and real self, the Substance.

Suppose I put a string of mathematical equations on the wall. Are we looking at and beholding maths? No. Maths cannot be seen, but only known by that which expresses it. In this case numbers. Likewise, we cannot see the alphabet, it is invisible substance. Where is it? Who knows, it is here there and everywhere, and at the same time nowhere. In fact anywhere you may find yourself, you can call on the alphabet and write whatever you wish, but you will not be looking at THE alphabet, you will merely be looking at the symbols, (letters), that make it known.

So. Paul says be transformed, changed, metamorphosised, by the renewing, renovation, correction of your mind consciousness. We can see that the slide is like the consciousness. If we have the wrong slide in the projector, we see the wrong image on the screen. If we have the wrong conscious awareness of ourselves; the world (our screen), will report falsehood, relativity and not reality/truth. But if we 'let' this mindset be in us, which was in Jesus himself, we will begin to see the screen change. We will begin to start seeing this world as God sees it. And He says, "It is good, very good". And, don't forget, that your image is also on the screen. That is how you are in the world but not of it. Your image is on the screen, but your True and Real Self is consciousness, the slide. The slide is spirit, and cannot be harmed in anyway. The image on the screen is able to walk through the fires of life, only when it is consciously aware of itself as the slide, (spirit), and has ceased to judge by the appearances on the screen, which we call the world. To bring the true image of self on to the screen/world stage, is to glorify The ONE. This is answer to the prayer - Thy Kingdom come, where thy will is done on Earth/Screen as it is in Heaven/slide/consciousness.

So we are not here to glorify our falsely identified selves, by 'trying' to attain perfection, by 'trying' to be like Jesus. But rather we are here to Glorify our Father. Our Substance. The ONE.

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