



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

EVANGELIST / PASTOR DAVID W. LANKFORD

P.O. Box 502 Casar, NC 28020 Phone #704-538-8060

www.thevoiceofevangelism.com

Blog Talk Radio and 9.350 Frequency Live Internet Audio Programming

Volume: 17 Issue 06

SINLESS PERFECTION

JUNE 2017

We want to take our Scripture text today from **1st John 3:6**, "**Whosoever abided in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**" Arguably this is one of the most questioned passages of Scripture found in the entirety of the Word of God. I have probably received this question more than any other: "*how can I live a life that is sinless and perfect?*" The truth is you can't, and there is no such thing as sinless perfection in our humanity. The problem is many take the attitude that no matter how I live God will overlook my sins. That too is a very foolish and cynical statement to say the least. First of all we need to understand we are all incarcerated and held captive in this earthen vessel or clay jar. The fact we are held hostage to our flesh is why we struggle daily to keep our flesh in subjection. Without a doubt most believers would agree they should pursue the highest level of moral integrity as possible. Paul the apostle admonishes us in **Galatians 5:16-17**, "**This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that ye would.**" I want to emphasize the word *Spirit* here is capitalized three times in these two Scripture verses. The reason is because Paul is not talking about your spirit but rather the Holy Spirit. Walking in our spirit

will always cause us to stumble and fall because we are not walking in Christ Spirit which is the Holy Spirit. Your flesh is always contrary to the Holy Spirit. This is why the apostle Paul declared in **Romans 8:14**, "**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**" Again the apostle Paul is emphasizing the child of God must be led by the Holy Spirit. It is our personal spirit that gives consent to our flesh to do the things we know are not right in the sight of God. The Holy Ghost will never give anyone consent to commit any ungodly act or deed. As a matter-of-fact, the office of the Holy Ghost is to detour us from sin. The apostle Paul declared in **Romans 8:5-6**, "**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. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**" Once again the apostle Paul is talking about those who walk in the Holy Ghost and seek to discern the mind of Christ. Those who truly abide in Christ make it a habit of not living a life of continual sin. True believers seek to diminish their old patterns of sin as they grow daily in Christ. The Holy Spirit allows us to replace our old nature with new patterns of our faith and lifestyle.

Therefore, we are admonished by the apostle Peter in **2nd Peter 3:18**, "**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.**" The apostle Peter tells the child of God to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That is not possible without spending time in His presence and in His most holy Word. Regretfully, the church is becoming more spiritually and scripturally diminished every day because most Christians do not seek to understand the Word of God. I constantly hear people say such ludicrous statements as (and I quote): "Christians sin every day." That is a lie from the pits of hell. If a Christian truly spends more time walking in the Holy Ghost than in the flesh, they will spend less time living a life of sin. This is why Paul said to be carnally minded is death: in other words, we die spiritually, not physically. Isn't it amazing how the natural man must die to his flesh so that with the Holy Ghost, when meshed with our spirit, we can then live a life of newness! The reason Paul the apostle was so triumphant in his walk with Christ is because he tells us in **Acts 20:22-24**, "**And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me,**

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Paul's spirit was completely bound in the Holy Spirit, and therefore he was able to conquer every measure of opposition that opposed him both spiritually and physically. The Holy Ghost is the very thing that made Jesus Christ so powerful: reading here in ***Matthew 4: 1, "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."*** Just as Paul said he was bound by the Holy Ghost, Jesus was led by the same Holy Ghost, which empowered Him to defeat the devil when Satan sought to tempt Him while in the wilderness. The reason there is no such thing as sinless perfection in this life is because the flesh of man is yet to be redeemed. The only thing that has been redeemed about a Christian is their spirit and soul. Once redemption and the work of the cross has been wrought within our lives we are then sealed by the Holy Spirit of God until the redemption of our flesh. We understand this to be doctrinally correct according to the ***Ephesians 1:13, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."*** As I previously stated, the only thing presently sealed is our spirit and soul. If your spirit wills, you have the power to suffer or allow your flesh to sin. If you yield yourself to the Holy Spirit you can resist the temptation of sin. This is why it is such a daily struggle and battle for most Christians. The way to keep from struggling and sinning daily is to bear your cross. Jesus said in ***Luke 9:23, "And he said to them all, If any***

man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." The key in this verse is denying yourself and daily bearing your cross, which keeps your flesh in subjection to the Holy Ghost. If you do not keep your flesh in subjection then your flesh will sin because you are allowing your flesh to have dominion over your spirit. Paul understood this internal battle when he said here in ***1st Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*** The Greek word for castaway is #96 *adokimos* and it means to be a reprobate: one who has been rejected and disapproved of God. The same Greek word is used in ***Romans 1:28, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."*** Again, the word reprobate here is the same word in the Greek as *castaway* in the previous verse, which again means "to be rejected and disapproved of by God." To lose weight one must change their eating habits. No one obtains instant health. But over time and by sticking to a disciplined diet, they can make great strides in that endeavor. That's why we are called disciples, thus we understand the word discipline. The child of God is disciplined to the tenants, dogmas, and doctrines of Christ our Lord. Of course, the fact that we cannot obtain sinless perfection in this life does not mean we should not strive daily to walk in the Holy Ghost. We all know what it means to offend God as well as to be self-destructive. Yes, God does forgive individual sins: but if we persist in living a life of sinfulness then we reject the power of Christ and His ability to work within our lives and keep us sealed by His Holy Spirit. This is why a person can lose their salvation. As a child of God we are admonished to quit laying the foundation of repentance on a continual basis according to ***Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore leaving the principles of the***

the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (spiritual maturity); not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." One of the great joys in being a Christian is that the Holy Ghost will always seek to bring us back into a proper relationship in Christ even though we may have missed the mark. The apostle Paul tells us in ***Romans 2:4, "Not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*** Anytime a believer errs or sins the Holy Ghost is quick to lead us to repentance if we possess a godly conscience. That is why we should never suffer or allow our conscience to become seared as with a hot iron. We know according to the apostle Peter Jesus does not want to lose anyone once He redeems them from sin according to ***2nd Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*** Simply put, every child of God should seek to live a life of continual repentance by the leadership of Holy Ghost. This is how we keep our hearts pure and our hands clean. Therefore at His second coming you will be ready because your heart is pure! Thank you so very much for your continued love and support for our ministry. My wife, my son Linton, and myself are very grateful for everything you do for us here at the ministry.

We Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford

P.S. Please visit Steve Quayle's website for the September 15th – 17th, meeting in Branson Mo. I will be teaching Saturday evening and ministering Sunday morning and serving communion. We would really love to see you there!