

2022: Perfecting Life

2 Peter 3:18
Hebrews 6:1

Your First and Highest Calling

Sunday 7th August

Introduction

Psalms 90:12 (NKJV) says: “teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” In the New Living Translation, **Psalms 90:12** says: “Teach us to realise the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”

Question: how can we assess the progress that we are making with the ‘perfecting life’ mandate?

Answer: The perfected life is one that genuinely loves God, reverences Him, communes with Him, and obeys Him.

Genuinely Love God

The first and highest calling is to genuinely love God.

The perfected life is one that genuinely loves God, reverences Him, communes with Him, and obeys Him.

1, 2 and 3 John contain scriptures that have a deep revelation of the love of God. John was so confident of the Father’s love for him that he referred to himself as the ‘disciple whom Jesus loved.’

John’s account was often from a perspective of love.

This is shown in **1 John 2:3-5**, which says: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

This means that Christians who don’t keep His commandments actually don’t genuinely know or love God.

One way to express the love of God is by obeying His commandments.

The Love of God

Continuing from a perspective of love, **1 John 4:7-8** says: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

Galatians 5:22-23, which talks about the fruit of the Spirit, says: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Interestingly, love is the first fruit of the Spirit mentioned. Some Bible scholars say: ‘if you get the love part right, all other aspects will flow naturally.’

One of the signs that you are prioritising your first and highest calling is that you will start to manifest the fruit of the Spirit, and see more of the fruit of the Spirit in action.

“A person who hasn’t accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour doesn’t have the ability to love like God, because such a love is only poured into the heart of someone who is reborn.” Minister Dayo Oyinlola, New Wine Church, London.

If you genuinely love God, when you fall into sin, you would be so grieved by it that you will quickly repent and ask for grace for it to not happen again. The love of God cannot be in a person who deliberately sins against God or violates His commandments continually. This is habitual and wilful sin, and such a person is in rebellion towards God.

Romans 5:5 says: “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

The Holy Spirit pours *agape love* unto our hearts. This kind of love is different from that between a parent and child, siblings, or husband and wife; it is the **love of God**.

Nonetheless, even for us that have a reborn spirit, there is still more work to do to grow in the love of God. We all have the potential, which means that effort needs to be made, to love God’s way.

Confidence Towards God

When you obey and honour God, you will have confidence towards God, and you can pray with boldness. This will help to facilitate your fellowship with God, which is your first and highest calling.

1 John 3:21 says: “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.” As a believer, not having confidence towards God is not a good thing.

If you are not honouring and obeying God, you will not have confidence before him.

“Many of us get caught up in the things we do to please God, but we forget that the first and highest calling is fellowship with Him.” Minister Dayo Oyinlola – New Wine Church London.

It is becoming a lot more convenient to be lukewarm as a follower of Christ. However, people in the world are getting more and more passionate about what they believe in and the causes they stand for.

“We can’t afford to be half-hearted about what we believe in.” Minister Dayo Oyinlola – New Wine Church, London.

It will be very difficult to be still in these times. You are either going forward or you are regressing; there is no neutral.

You can’t be a hypocrite before God.

With the Holy Spirit, you have the ability and capability to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your might and all your strength.

Get excited about loving God, and prioritise fellowshiping with Him.

God wants to commune with you, so give time to loving God.

Lastly...

Be encouraged to:

“Make the necessary adjustments now, through the *perfecting life* process, to ensure that you will be where God wants you to be this year.” Minister Dayo Oyinlola – New Wine Church, London.

Remember: The ‘perfected life’ is one that genuinely loves God, reverences Him, communes with Him, and obeys Him.

In **John 21:15-18**, God called Peter by his full name to emphasise the seriousness of what he was going to say. He told Peter: ‘Feed my sheep.’ What God is saying today is: ‘If you love God, obey Me’.

This is your first and highest calling.