

God Is Not Looking For Perfection

1. So many people in the world, will not seek the face of God, because they feel as though they must be in a perfect condition, before God will hear their prayers. How wrong they are! No one lives a perfect life, and God knows this very well. We all stand in the same condition, as the Centurion who came to Jesus; desiring for his servant to be healed. We read in Matt. 8:5-10: "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a Centurion, beseeching Him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.** The Centurion answered and said, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.**" All we must do in order to get God's attention, is to come humbly before Him, in faith; just as the Centurion did. There has never been a single human being created by God Almighty, who has ever lived a life of perfection. What do we mean by perfection? By perfection, we mean to live without ever making any mistakes, without ever doing any wrong whatsoever, never breaking a single one of God's holy commandments, and to do everything we do, in perfect accordance with God's holy Word, or the Holy Bible. The only person to live upon the earth, who was ever able to live perfectly, and never break a one of God's commandments, was Jesus Christ. That was the reason for the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth; because no person could ever live up to God the Father's requirements. The Heavenly Father knew when we were born, that we would never be able to live a life of perfection. But since God the Father is a most holy God, He cannot look upon sin. Therefore, Jesus Christ came to bear the sins of the whole world, so that through his name, we could all become righteous in the eyes of the Father once again. Adam and Eve; the first human beings to ever be created; failed to live a perfect life. They yielded unto the deception of Satan, as soon as they were tempted by him. We read in Gen. 3:1-6: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the Garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For

God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” **A.** The serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Hebrew-aruw (aw-room): cunning, crafty, prudent, tricky, or deceiving. The mind of mankind is very easily persuaded to change in it’s thoughts or beliefs; and this is exactly what happened to Adam and Eve. They had earlier been plainly told by God, that they should not eat of this tree; the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden; which was called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But they were persuaded by the serpent, or Satan, that the only reason why God had told them such, was because that when they ate from this tree, that they would be as God was; which was nothing but a lie. We read the truth which God told Adam back in Gen. 2:16-17: “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the Garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” We must realize that God had given Adam this commandment before He had ever created Eve. And the only way which Eve would not of known of God’s precious commandment, would of been if Adam had failed to share with her, what he had previously been told by God. But I would believe that if Adam had loved his wife very much at all, that he would of shared this very important commandment with Eve; since it was a matter of life and death. And we must also assume, by the words which Eve replied to the serpent, in verses 2-3 of Genesis chapter 3, that Adam had made it very plain to Eve, what God’s commandment was, concerning the very important tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden. **B.** Eve, evidently did not take very seriously, the orders which the scriptures prove to us, that she was made aware of. Regardless of whether it was a serpent who spoke to her, or who it may of been, the commandments of God should of taken top priority in her mind. But it sounds as though she showed no resistance whatsoever, in receiving the lies which the serpent spoke to her. **C.** Satan was using the serpent as his instrument in speaking to Eve. And what Satan spoke to Eve, was so direct and in contradiction to the commandment of God, that she should of at least took the time to consider what he was telling her. The serpent told Eve, “Ye shall not surely die.” She should of at least took the

time to consider why God would of told her husband such a thing, if it were not true; that she would die if she ate of the fruit from the tree. When we know that God has told us something, we should stop and think why God would even speak it to us. God spoke this commandment to Adam, because it was a true fact. Eve should of immediately thought of all that God has already done, in the beautiful creation which He had made. When the serpent told Eve, that the fruit from the tree would make her and Adam as gods, knowing good and evil, the conversation should of ended right there; that very moment. She already knew nothing but good; and what could she possibly have to gain by knowing evil? And there never has been, or never shall be, any other God except God Almighty Jehovah. How could she possibly think that she could ever be comparable to the God who had created her and her husband, and all the beauty which she now beheld all around her? She evidently was really taken for a mental ride by the serpent. And we read nothing in the Bible, about her ever going to her husband and discussing the matter with him, before she took of the forbidden fruit. She evidently just chose to believe every word that the serpent spoke to her. D. The serpent just plainly told Eve that she would not surely die. Satan was just more or less telling Eve that God was a liar.

Eve should of questioned the serpent's statement, at this very moment. And perhaps, she did. But the Bible tells us nothing of any further discussion between Eve and the serpent. But if Eve did question the serpent, she was probably told just another lying story, to try and decrease any faith which she may of had, in what God had spoken. As we mentioned earlier, the serpent (or Satan) was more subtil than any other beast. So there's no telling how much garbage the serpent may of filled Eve's mind with, before he left. I'm sure that God had made it very clear to Eve, that she had been created as a partner for Adam. Why would a wonderful, loving God, tell the two not to eat the fruit which He had created; if it had not been for a just cause? Since the very beginning, God gave man the choice of doing what is right, or to do what is wrong. This was the purpose of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Why would an all-wise God as our God Jehovah is, create fruit for them to eat, if He knew that it was going to give them the supernatural power that only He Himself possessed? Eve certainly did not use wisdom in listening to what the serpent had to say to her. She should of stopped for a moment, and thought of how it felt to know nothing but good. I can't even imagine what it would feel like to know no evil. Regardless of how true the

serpent's story may of sounded to Eve, she should of stopped and thought for a moment, "But what if his story is not true?" What then?" Eve evidently just took the serpent's words as truth, without a second thought. Let us always remember, that Satan is out to do absolutely nothing, but to deceive us in every way he possibly can. E. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food. The only evidence that Eve had of such, was the lying words of the serpent. She saw that it looked good, but she really did not know for sure at all, that the fruit of the tree was good for food. She was only going by the lies that the serpent had told her; which evidently, she believed without second thought. We know nothing about a piece of fruit by just looking at it, except that it may look good. But on the inside, it may be rotten to the core; and may instantly take our life, after we have eaten the first bite. It may be good for food, if it furnishes the nutrients that our body needs. But we cannot be sure of this, just because someone else tells us that it is true. We cannot be certain that it is truth, until we go ahead and eat of the fruit. But I'm sure if Eve had first went back to God, and discussed the conversation which she had just been in with the serpent, that He would of convinced her that it was only a deception, or a trick of Satan. F. And that it was pleasant to the eyes. This was the only true fact about the matter; the fruit was pleasant to the eyes. The fruit looked good, but it done nothing good for either Eve or Adam. G. And a tree to be desired to make one wise. This was only a lie which was spoken from the serpent; a lying thought which Satan had put into the mind of Eve. The words which the serpent had spoken to Eve, probably just kept ringing in her ears; just as he tries to do with the lying thoughts which he puts in our minds sometimes; until he convinced her that it was truth. The fruit of the tree did not make neither Eve nor Adam wise about anything, except what a liar Satan was. It did not take neither Eve nor Adam, but just a moment, to realize that they had been deceived by Satan; and what an unwise thing it was, to eat from the tree.

For God had very clearly ordered Adam to not eat from the tree; for it would be death for him if he did so. H. She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. Eve went ahead and took of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and did eat; and also gave of the fruit to her husband Adam, and he did eat also. It sounds as though Adam was standing by the side of Eve, when she was tempted of the serpent to do wrong, and take of the fruit of the forbidden tree; but we do not know this for certain. We desire to think that

Adam was not present, during the time of the conversation between Eve and the serpent. It seems as though Adam would of been wise enough, to know better than to purposely disobey an order which he had so plainly been given by God. But if this was the case, he evidently was absent during the serpent's deception, and when his wife Eve picked the forbidden fruit; and Eve would of had to of misinformed him, as to which tree the fruit had came from. It is very evident that Adam took of the fruit without second thought, when it was offered to him by his wife. But God knew when He created Adam and Eve, that they would not be perfect people, even though it is what He desired; just as He also knows that you and I will not be perfect.

2. God is not looking at our perfection; for if He were, He would have to be disappointed continually. But He looks at our desire for perfection; at the effort we put forth to do the very best we can do. All that God expects, is for us to do our best, to walk uprightly before Him. There was one man who walked with God, and done so for quite a long time. His name was Enoch. We read in Gen. 5:21-24: "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." I do not believe that this is speaking of Enoch literally walking physically by God's side at all times, but that he allowed God to take part in every area of his life. I believe he prayed to God continually, served God continually, and trusted in God in every situation. I do not believe that there was ever a circumstance in Enoch's life, in which he did not attempt to seek the guidance of God in the matter for direction. Yet, I do believe that Enoch made mistakes, just as you and I make mistakes. But he strived to always please God, and to do what God would have him to do; even though he did not always do everything in a perfect manner.

3. God always looks at the desires and intents of a person's heart. When they are focused upon God, and our desires and intents are to please God, then God is satisfied. For God knows what is in the heart of man. If God expected perfection from us, David would most certainly of never made it through the battles which he faced; for he most certainly performed some pretty wicked acts. Yet he was called, "the man after God's own heart." We read in Acts 13:22: "And when He had removed him (Saul), He raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also He gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will." Also, we read in 1 Sam. 13:14: "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought Him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept

that which the Lord commanded thee.”

This is what God had spoken to Saul, before David replaced him as king of Israel. David was said to be the one who sought the heart of God. Yet he did not live a life of perfection, by any means. One time when this is proven, is in the story of David and Bath-sheba. We read in 2 Sam. 11:1-17: “And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in the eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king’s house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? Why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and

sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.” Hebrew-chayil (khah-yil): an army of men with much strength, who are very highly trained in fierce fighting. David was guilty of adultery, and also of murder. Does this sound like perfection? Not by any means. Even though God forgave David for these horrible sins, the consequences of these horrible sins, remained in David’s life for a long time; even after his death. The child which was conceived by Bath-sheba died, David’s son Ammon raped his sister Tamar, and later Absalom had his brother killed, for the wickedness which he done to their sister Tamar, and then later, Absalom revolted against his father David’s kingdom. 4. Solomon also, who was the son of David, was a very wise king; yet he lacked perfection by a large degree. We read in 1 Kings 11: 1-8: “But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites. Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammorites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.” It sounds as though Solomon did more evil in the eyes of the Lord, than his father David had done. Yet we always hear of what great and mighty kings, Solomon and David were. Yet they both committed

evil in the sight of the Lord in a great and mighty way. Neither of them were men of perfection, by any means. 5. Elijah was a great man of faith; yet he was not perfect. After he was obedient unto God, and slew the false prophets at Mt. Carmel, he then ran like a coward, when Jezebel threatened to take his life. 1 Kings 19:1-4 tells us: "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." Does this sound like a perfect man, who is scared so bad, that he requests for the Lord to let him die; just because of a threat of a devil-possessed woman? Elijah was used mightily of the Lord; yet he was a long ways from being a perfect man.

6. Peter was one of the greatest disciples to ever live; yet he was no man of perfection by any means. He denied having any acquaintance with Jesus the Lord three different times, before Jesus went to the cross. We read in Matt. 26:31-35: "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto Him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with thee, Yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples." And also in Matt. 26:69-75 we read: "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter

remembered the Word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." Yet after Peter repented of his sin, he became one of the greatest preachers and one of the greatest teachers of all time. Yet he made many mistakes, just as we all do. He turned out to be a great servant of God; but it was not because of any perfection of his own.

Conclusion:

If we desire to be great servants of God, all we must do is remain faithful unto Him, abide daily in his holy Word, pray to Him continually, let our lives be a light for Him as we are faithful and obedient to his Word, and keep our eyes continually upon Him. We read in Heb. 12:1-2: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Let us never become discouraged, because we cannot live perfect lives. God knows that we are not capable of doing such, and He does not expect it from us. All He expects is for us to attempt to be Christlike in all things.

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