

PERFECTION MUST BE ACHIEVED BY ALL CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS.  
WHAT DID PAUL MEAN WHEN HE SAID,

“Not as though I had already attained, **either were already perfect:** but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:12** Paul was not saying that he had not reached a **sin free perfection.** He was talking about he had not accomplished his mission that God had chosen him to do. God apprehended , or took hold of Paul from his mothers womb that He might use Paul to do a **specific work.** Read about in the following scripture:

Galatians 1:15-16 **But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup> To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen;**

PAUL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PREACHING PERFECTION , IF HE HAD NOT BEEN LIVING A PERFECT LIFE. IN THE SEVENTH CHAPTER OF ROMANS PAUL ILLUSTRATED HIS LIFE, BEFORE HE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT. READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES.

Romans 7:18-20 For I know that in me (**that is, in my flesh,**) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me;

but **how to perform that which is good I find not.** <sup>19</sup> **For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.** <sup>20</sup> **Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

Paul was trying to show the problem we would have trying to live a sin free life, without the Holy Ghost. But now, look at what he said about the believers, that are Spirit filled.

He said,  
Romans 8:1-5 *There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* <sup>2</sup> **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin** and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin , condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup> That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> 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.

Paul talked about his unperfected life before he learned to walk in the Spirit. But after he learned to walk in the Spirit, he invited every believer to follow him as he followed Christ. Paul talked about his unperfected life, to show us how he progressed from a carnal life to a spiritual life in Christ.

Paul invited those that observed his life as a Christian to do as he was doing in order to obey the command of Christ where he said,

**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

**Matthew 5:48**

**Paul said;**

<sup>9</sup> **Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:** and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9

**Be ye followers of me,** even as I also *am* of Christ.

I Corinth.11:1

**Philippians 3:17** Brethren, **be followers together of me,** and mark them which **walk so as ye have us for an ensample.**

**I Timothy 4:12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

**Paul taught those that would follow him as he was following Christ, to walk in the Spirit. He said, This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

**Galatians 5:16**

Paul had reached perfection , because he said he was dead to sin. And when you are dead to sin, you are perfect

Read Roman 6:2 What shall we say then? **Shall we continue**

**in sin,** that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> **God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin,** live any longer therein?

Romans 6:7 **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

Galatians 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:.....**

Galatians 5:24 And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Paul had **infirmities in his body** of flesh, which had nothing to do with his **spiritual life.** Read,

I Corinthians 12:7-10 and, **Galatians 4:13-14** Ye know how through **infirmity of the flesh I preached** the gospel unto you at the first.

Paul was pressing toward that day when he also would have a perfect body. Read, I Cor.15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.