



Rejoice, give thanks and pray to God while going

**“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;  
I have overcome the world” John 16:33b**

## **Periodical Message (July 2021)**

### **A Word from us,**

Some would say ‘Perfect...that is what I want!’ when they read what we are writing about the weather in Iraq, that ‘It is sunny and hot here right now’—perfectness could have a personal perspective too. In the Eyes of God though, the Standard is VERY high; a Perfect God knows very well what perfect means, when He is commanding you to be perfect. He also knows that ONLY Christ has the power to change us from within and make us perfect. No matter how you try, and over centuries many tried to do the ‘Perfect thing’ and FAILED, whether with painting, building a monument or else.... I encourage you to listen to the One Who is perfect, to invite Him IN you and to let Him produce that Perfect Man of God out of you.

**Yours in the Lord,  
Salman**

## **A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

WHO can change us to be perfect?

It is a heavy burden to think of the perfect life the Lord intended for us and the life we live, though we try our best, we seem always lacking something!

Because of what is going on in the world, I always hear people asking ‘WHY can’t God just make the world perfect?!’ – Preacher, brothers and sisters in the Lord do you understand WHAT they want to say? It is the same blaming-game and they want to accuse God in Whom they neither believe, nor even accept His existence!

The Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy tells us this: **“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” 2 Timothy 3:17** – HOW could that be? If we apply the Word of God, which is PERFECT “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” **2 Timothy 3:16**. Many want to be perfect, do a lot of things with many activities to achieve that...but they fail. If we don’t apply the Word of God, or do not allow the Holy Spirit to do what He is supposed to do in our life, perfectness would not be attained.

Again Paul the Apostle tells us: **“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesian 4:17** You see, the Son of God IS THE WORD and we NEED to get to know Him, as He is, with all His majesty, with all His beauty and with all His power and ability to CHANGE us.

Let me tell you what the basic definition of the word perfect is: completeness, maturity. In the Hebrew and Greek, the definition includes uprightness, being without spot, totally obedient and it also means to finish what is started: a complete performance. THAT reminded me of these verses from the Bible commanding us to be holy: **“But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written ‘Be ye holy; for I am holy’” 1Peter 1:15-16**

We believe in a Holy God; He is unique, nobody and nothing is like Him; He is PERFECT in all ways and WE, as believers, should be LIKE HIM. Yes, we need Forgiveness, but that alone will NOT bring us to heaven; we still need Holiness!

We read in Scripture “Follow peace with all men, **and holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord” **Hebrews 12:14** – you SEE, without Holiness we will NOT see Jesus!

When applying the Godly-Standard I don’t see myself as fulfilling such definition; I admit my life is NOT perfect, no matter how much I strive to be perfect! And it is NOT a comfort for me to know that many Characters in the Bible and before us, including David, determined in their hearts to obey the command to be perfect and said “**I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart**” **Psalm 101:2**

But the question is: were they perfect?

Dear in the Lord, perfection does not mean a sinless, flawless heart, after all, David was said to have had a perfect heart toward God, yet he failed the Lord often and the list of his sins included adultery and murder. Go and read again the calling of Abraham out of the Land of Chaldean to understand God’s Ways and His Godly-Standard. In the **Old Testament** the command to Abraham was clear and God told him “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him ‘I am the Almighty God; walk before me, **and be thou perfect**’” **Genesis 17:1** – **if I may ask you, do you believe Abraham was perfect?**

We also see the Lord’s command to be perfect in the **New Testament** as well when Jesus said ‘**Be ye therefore perfect**, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect’” **Matthew 5:48** – **were the Disciples perfect?** After all is it possible to walk before the Lord with a perfect heart?!

I have been taught by the Spirit that the perfect heart is a responsive heart and it will quickly and totally answer the Lord’s whisperings and warnings and wooing,. The perfect heart says at all times “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears. Show me the path and I will walk in it”

I pray that your heart is such a perfect heart, listening to that small, soft voice and heeding the warnings of the Spirit. Be assured that Christ commits himself to those who walk before Him with a responsive and listening heart.

We should never expect mere punishment to redeem us or make us perfect; just consider these cases in **Revelation 16**

-- “And men were scorched with great heat, **and blasphemed the name of God**, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory” **Revelation 16:9**

-- “And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds” **Revelation 16:11**

-- “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: **and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail**; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” **Revelation 16:21**

Imagine what is left of humanity is getting hammered with plagues that make their lives sheer misery; but does this punishment soften them, make them repentant, or turn their hearts to God?

The answer is a shocking NO!

Their only response to this punishment is to curse the name of God who has power over the plagues, so don’t expect punishment to soften or redeem your soul and make you or me perfect. The evil nature of man enslaved him, that he is still rebellious against God, the Creator. I want you to know, dear in Christ, that neither punishment, life in prison nor ten thousand years in hell will change us for the good because of the corrupted nature of Adam. But STILL there is a way: Yes, ONLY the **Resurrection power of Jesus** will ever accomplish this “Therefore if any **man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

THIS IS the MAN God desires and the Holy Spirit would accomplish the job, when we are born in Holy Spirit and He indwells in us. It is evident that the perfect heart wants the Holy Spirit to come and shine into the hidden parts; to expose all that is unlike Christ; this kind of heart cries out with David “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me...”

**Psalm 139:23-24**

As you share sweet fellowship with the Holy Spirit, He will continually prepare you to come into His holy presence as a clean, pure vessel — creating in you a perfect heart and prepared for the hand of the Master.

## Prayer Ideas

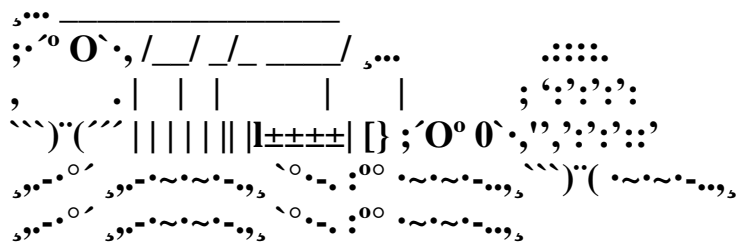
1. May you join us when we pray for those converts in hostile societies: we will be praying for them FIRST starting from this month: Lord, most or all Christians in North Africa are converts from Islam and because of this, they face persecution, often beginning with their own family. It's difficult for believers to meet together; when they do, it must be in secret. We lift your name on high and call upon you, O, Saviour, to keep your people safe, well-protected and to give them wisdom from above and courage to confess your name. Make them, dear Lord, invisible to the enemy and use them as LIGHT in the dark world they live in. We pray also for those who want to know you; SHINE Jesus shine and fill their lives with Your Glory; let them see Your Beauty and may the Holy Spirit pierce their hearts and convict them of sin. We claim many...many souls for your Kingdom before Your Second Coming. Amen.
2. Join us and pray to Our Father in heaven; we ask you, dear Father, that by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, transform our sinful hearts and make us brand new on the inside. Cleanse us from any hidden sins, and forgive us, and transform us into the image of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.
3. As believers in Christ we want to praise God for the start of reconstruction on the Syriac Catholic Gospel Church in Mosul; it is but a sign for the Christians in Iraq and all believers worldwide. For more than three years, ISIS occupied the city of Mousel (Ancient Nineveh) in Iraq and destroyed many Churches and cultural sites, but the LORD has the last word. Praise our Lord, because He did the impossible to save His people, when ISIS attacked and the world was silent. Bless His holy name that places of worship are rebuilt, where believers could hear the Word, worship and praise Jesus. Also ask the Lord to keep His people well-protected and safe and USE them as a Sign to the people around them.
4. Pray for the Christians in the Kurdish Region-Iraq to stand strong in their faith, despite persecution and ask the Lord to encourage them to confess their faith by living a perfect life. Please pray that Christianity in Iraq does not lose its identity and that Christians don't leave the country because they are the salt of the earth "Ye are the salt of the earth..." Matthew 5:13a. Pray that they will be strengthened in their faith, despite all kind of difficulties and persecution and that they will stay and fight in prayer for Iraq. Our 24/7 Prayer Team -JHPH is in CONTINUOUS prayer concerning this matter; be encouraged to join.
5. We want to encourage you to choose one of those widows we are supporting and to pray for them daily; Jina is one of many middle-aged women who lost family in the war or by natural death. She says "Life is hard; I feel very weak in the midst of everything around me" – as a widow with three little children she has no one to help her but God. He is doing it through ICOM so please pray for strength and joy for all widows/women who feel overwhelmed and depressed due to their harsh circumstances in Iraq. Ask the Lord for provision and comfort; may our Lord Jesus Christ open NEW doors to comfort, provide for and protect these women. Amen." Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, **plead for the widow" Isaiah 1:17**
6. The situation in Iraq is not stable, as you well know; lately we experienced demonstrations, terrorist attacks against American targets not far away from our New Mission House in Ainkawa, Erbil, Iraq and even more. We believe and proclaim "**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1** and ask you to continue praying for us, as a family, but also Ministry. Please ask the Lord for protection; we need it to continue serving the Lord and His people. Pray that our time would be used wisely; bringing monthly rations to widows and handing them money, praying for the sick, gathering together and teaching the Word. Guidance is from the Lord and we seek Him to guide us, to guide every member of our 7-Members Team and to provide for them and their families. We are experiencing some changes, especially because of the dwindling donations, but we continue serving, preaching the Gospel and reaching out to the lost. May the Lord keep us safe, provide for us and continue using us, where He sees it fit. Amen.
7. Beloved, I think, you'll agree with me that we don't have time to waste; in fact the time is, and will always be, short, so let us get on with the true task of the Church; it should be representing The Body of Christ; a true Ecclesia— a gathering of saved people. We pray and ask people to REPENT, because without repentance there will not be salvation. The Saviour might come at any moment, because He promised THAT and we, as believers in Jesus, should be living holy lives with our lamps full all the time AND not slumbering! But our concern must be for the lost; I believe you'll agree with me, especially because we were once lost and someone witnessed to us. Intercessory prayers are NEEDED for the lost, for nations and we ask you to join our 24/7 Prayer Team-JHPH in their prayer; may YOU, Lord Jesus, hear our supplication and pour down your fire of love to convict and purify before your Second Coming.

8. If we love Jesus then we will obey Him, and do what HE told us to do and NOT what others 'recommend' for us. His Great Commission is all the more important today as we approach the close of the Church Age. Jesus speaks to us today: Watch and PRAY and "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Matthew 28:19a – We pray that He will give us a heart like His and be in continuous prayer.
9. We ask for your prayer when we go with the Lord to serve Him and His people in Austria and Slovakia, before returning to Iraq. May our Almighty God prepare the way for us, make us invisible to the enemy and use our testimony and preaching to touch and transform His people. We ask Him to literally make us invisible when travelling and crossing borders; dear Lord OPEN the way and guide us, we ask all in your precious and all-powerful name. Amen.

Finally we encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear. Don't ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can, whether believers or else with many thanks. We would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please let's know through an E-mail containing a phone number to send a message to or even call you back. We will be waiting for your Feedback or commentaries too. What did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you through it? If you want us to pray for you, or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House- JHPH.

Have a **^I^** Blessed Day



**Built on the Rock: JESUS CHRIST THE LORD**

**“Choose this day whom you will serve, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”  
Joshua 24.15**

**“...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me”  
Micah 7:7**

Thank you for supporting International Christian Outreach Ministry and standing with us and the persecuted Christians in Iraq.