

Righteousness by Faith in the End Time

with Pr Dennis Priebe - Steps to Life, 2015

Perfection

I. Definitions

A. Sin

1. Sinful nature
2. Sinful character

I John 3:2-9
Revelation 3:21
EGW Statements

B. Sinlessness

1. Sinless nature
2. Sinless character

III. Perfection and Perfectionism

C. Perfection

1. Absolute
2. Nature
3. Character surrender
4. Character maturity

IV. Close of Probation

Revelation 22: 11, 12
Daniel 12:1
Revelation 15:8
Revelation 8:3-5
EGW Statements

II. Character Perfection

Jude 24
Philippians 4:13
II Peter 2:9
I Corinthians 10:13
II Corinthians 10:5
Galatians 5:16
I Peter 2:21, 22

V. 144,000

Revelation 7:3, 4
Revelation 14: 1-5
I Peter 1:19
Hebrews 9:14
EGW Statements

Spirit of Prophecy Statements

- II. **IT 144** -- *"We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him."*
- OHC 19** -- *"If you will stand under the blood stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, faithfully doing His service, you need never yield to temptation; for One stands by your side who is able to keep you from falling."*
- DA 311** -- *"There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God."*
- DA 123** -- *"Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us."*
- COL 331** -- *"Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will."*
- 1SM 82** -- *"Through the plan of redemption, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong."*
- COL 330-332** -- *"Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin... The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action."*

DA 671 -- *"The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people."*

IHP 146 -- *"Those who believe on Christ and obey His commandments are not under bondage to God's law; for to those who believe and obey, His law is not a law of bondage, but of liberty. Everyone who believes on Christ, everyone who relies on the keeping power of a risen Saviour that has suffered the penalty pronounced upon the transgressor, every one who resists temptation and in the midst of evil copies the pattern given in the Christ life, will through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ become a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Everyone who by faith obeys God's commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression."*

5T 214 -- *"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost."*

GC 623 -- *"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation . . . Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble."*

1T 339, 340 -- *"Jesus, considered as a man, was perfect, yet He grew in grace... Even the most perfect Christian may increase continually in the knowledge and love of God. Jesus sits as a refiner and purifier of His people; and when His image is perfectly reflected in them, they are perfect and holy, and prepared for translation. A great work is required of the Christian. We are exhorted to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

RH - April 1, 1902 -- *"Christ has made every provision for the sanctification of His church. He has made abundant provision for every soul to have such grace and strength that he will be more than a conqueror in the warfare against sin... He came to this world and lived a sinless life, that in His power His people might also live lives of sinlessness. He desires them by practicing the principles of truth to show to the world that God's grace has power to sanctify the heart."*

AH 16 -- *"The character you bear in probationary time will be the character you will have at the coming of Christ... The traits of character you cherish in life will not be changed by death or by resurrection. You will come up from the grave with the same disposition you manifested in your home and in society. Jesus does not change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be done now. Our daily lives are determining our destiny."*

GAG 230 -- *"Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform. He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the ones upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege... Our work is to strive to attain in our sphere of action the perfection that Christ in His life on the earth attained in every phase of character. He is our example."*

ST - March 4, 1897 -- *"God requires perfection of character from His children... We may say that it is impossible for us to reach God's standard; but when Christ came as our substitute and surety, it was as a human being... With His divinity veiled by humanity, He lived a life of perfect obedience to the law of God... As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the strong for strength."*

AA 531 -- *"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character... God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity,*

perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through cooperation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God 's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory."

GAG 141 -- *"He came to fulfill all righteousness, and, as the head of humanity, to show man that he can do the same work, meeting every specification of the requirements of God... Perfection of character is attainable by every one who strives for it."*

Ms. 148, 1899 -- *"Exact obedience is required, and those who say that it is not possible to live a perfect life throw upon God the imputation of injustice and untruth ."*

RH - March 10, 1904 -- *"He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God."*

PP 88, 89 -- *The godly character of this prophet [Enoch] represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be 'redeemed from the earth ' at the time of Christ 's second advent."*

2T 122 -- *"He lived in a corrupt age, when moral pollution was teeming all around him; yet he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the Divine. His countenance was lighted up with the light which shineth in the face of Jesus. Enoch had temptations as well as we... The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness. He was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. So may we remain pure and uncorrupted. He was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated. So, also, the faithful, who are alive and remain, will be translated."*

COL 332 -- *"And there are Enochs in this our day."*

SL 7 -- *"Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless."*

ST - March 23, 1888 -- *"We shall not boast of our holiness... We cannot say, 'I am sinless.' till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body."*

ST - May 16, 1895 -- *"When the conflict of life is ended, ... when the saints of God are glorified, then and then only will it be safe to claim that we are saved, and sinless."*

IV. EW 48 -- *"Then there will be no Priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father's throne."*

EW 71 -- *"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully... There will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father... I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action."*

GC 425 -- *"Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a*

special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God 's people upon earth."

GC 614 -- *"In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor."*

SR 403 -- "After the close of Jesus' mediation, the saints were living in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor."

V. 5 T 216 -- *"All who receive the seal must be without spot before God."*

GC 649 -- *"None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience-- an experience such as no other company have ever had."*

TM 506 -- "The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed in to the likeness of Chris."

Thoughts On Sin and Perfection

Nature of Guilt

Guilt resides only within those higher faculties responsible for choosing evil, not in lower faculties which suffer the effects of natural law and are part of earth's cycle of sin. Guilt cannot reside in an amoral creation but in man who is responsible for its perversion. Guilt attaches not to man's animal faculties but to those moral faculties involved in exercising the power of choice.

Perfection is not...

Perfection is never absolute, either now or after the coming of Christ. Perfection is never equality with Christ. Perfection does not mean lack of weakness, nor freedom from temptation. Perfection does not mean freedom from illness or absence of mental or physical mistakes. No one who is perfect will ever feel he is perfect.

Perfection is...

Perfection does mean so close a relationship to Christ that the individual ceases to respond to external or internal promptings to sin. Perfection means entire cooperation with Christ. Perfection means continual death to self in a denial of one's own independent will and inclination. Perfection is total rejection of egotism and pride. Perfection is a merger of man's will with Christ's so that the Holy Spirit is in full and final control. Perfection is an unbroken exercise of faith which keeps the soul pure from every stain of sin or disloyalty to God. Perfection refers to the dynamic, growing lifestyle of the person who reflects the life of Jesus. He no longer yields to rebel, sinful desires. Perfection is Christlikeness-- combining a relationship with God such as Jesus had, with the qualities of character that Jesus manifested. Perfection is living a mature life in the Spirit, full of the fruits of the Spirit and thus without sin.

Perfectionism and Imperfection

Perfectionism emphasizes an absolute point beyond which there can be no further development, and grows out of Greek philosophy rather than the Bible. Perfectionism focuses on a quality in man, which can exist independently of the presence of an abiding Christ. Perfectionism is wrong and dangerous, but so is the doctrine of imperfection, which allows the sinfulness and helplessness of man to overshadow what God promised to do for repentant sinners through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. To doubt that the goal of perfection is realistic is to doubt the power to sustain that which God has promised. Imperfection does not understand Jesus as man's complete substitute and example who demonstrated that God's law of love could be kept, and that man could be indeed an overcomer, here and now.