

**Be Perfect
TS016**

**– Part 1 –
4307**

I. His Grace Is Sufficient

- A. Be perfect as God the Father (Matt. 5:48)
 - 1. Perfection and love cannot be separated (Matt. 5:43–48)
 - 2. Example of a circle:
 - a. God is the vast, perfect circle which encompasses the universe
 - b. Each of us can be a small, perfect circle
 - 3. Two related aspects:
 - a. Mature
 - b. Complete
 - 4. Example of an apple
- B. Total love of God poured out to us (Rom. 5:5)—*but* we must *work* it out (Phil. 2:12–13)
- C. At new birth we receive the Spirit (nature) of Christ (Rom. 8:9)—*but* nature must develop into *character*, i.e., *obedience/suffering* (Heb. 5:8–9)
- D. Obey God’s Word (1 John 2:5)
 - 1. Evidence of our *love* for God
 - 2. Means by which God’s *love* is perfected in us

II. The Process of Being Perfected (2 Peter 1:2–7)

- A. A life of multiplication—continuing increase (v. 2)
- B. God *has already* provided all we need (v. 3)
- C. Through *knowing* Jesus (v. 3)
- D. The *provision* is in the *promises* (v. 4)—the goal: to become partakers of God’s own nature
- E. The starting point is faith (v. 5–7)—diligence vs. laziness

III. Seven Steps Upward

- A. Step 1: Virtue / Excellence
 - 1. Excel in every task or profession: e.g. teacher, nurse, bus driver, shop assistant
 - 2. I will show you what I believe by what I do (James 2:18)
 - 3. Be efficient, punctual
- B. Step 2: Knowledge of God’s Word and will, i.e.:
 - 1. Not ignorant of the mystery of Israel (Rom. 11:25–26)
 - 2. Warnings for church from history of Israel (1 Cor. 10:1–11)
 - a. *Do not* lust after evil things
 - b. *Do not* commit sexual immorality
 - c. *Do not* tempt Christ
 - d. *Do not* murmur or complain
 - 3. Not ignorant of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1)
 - 4. Not ignorant about the resurrection of believers (1 Thess. 4:13)
 - 5. Not ignorant of God’s measurement of time (2 Peter 3:8)

III. Seven Steps Upward (cont'd.)

C. Step 3: Self-control

1. With *endurance* it is an essential requirement for *further progress*
2. Pattern of an athlete (1 Cor. 9:24–27)
 - a. Self-controlled (v. 25)
 - b. With a goal in mind—not aimless (v. 26 [Prov. 29:18])
 - c. Know your enemy and how to deal with him!
 - d. Discipline and bring into subjection your fleshly desires—also moods and attitudes (anger, resentment, bitterness, self-pity, depression)
 - e. Proclaim 2 Cor. 5:17

D. Step 4: Perseverance / Endurance

1. Must have *self-control* to endure
2. Diligence to the end—not lazy—with faith *and patience* (Heb. 6:11–15)
3. A gap between doing God’s will and receiving His promise (Heb. 10:36)
4. Run with endurance—a marathon (Heb. 12:1)

E. Step 5: Godliness

1. What is it? The presence of God with you
2. Requires *spiritual exercise* (1 Tim. 4:7–8)
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Bible study
 - c. Scripture memorization
 - d. Meditation
 - e. Self-denial
 - f. Fasting
3. Especially in these last days (2 Pet. 3:11–12)—contrast Jude 14–15 “ungodly” appears four times

F. Step 6: Brotherly Love: love for our fellow Christians

1. Sometimes the most severe test (Ps. 55:12–14)
2. Possible only through the new birth (1 Pet. 1:22–23)
3. Our primary witness to the world (John 13:34–35)
4. Must be expressed by *practical sacrifice* (1 John 3:16–17)

G. Step 7: Love / Agape

1. God’s love—when we were: without strength, ungodly, sinners, enemies of God (Rom. 5:6–10)
2. Repaying *good* for *evil* (Matt. 5:44–48)
3. Only *good* is strong enough to overcome *evil* (Rom. 12:21)—respond with the opposite Spirit