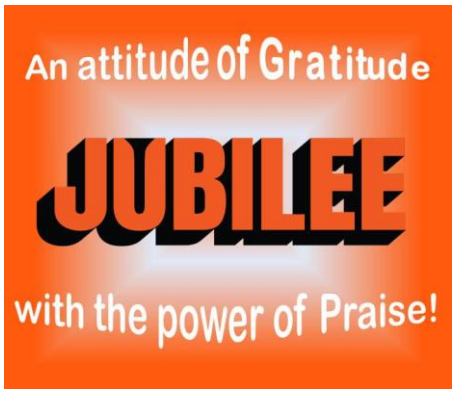


11/16/26

"You will be perfect, even as your Father in the heavens is perfect!" Wow! How exciting is that?! Astonishing to be sure, but it must be true! Why? Because Jesus said so, and He would never lie! Let that just elevate your mind for a while. But how could this be? Because we can be fully equipped by His Spirit through His Word! Let's reflect on what's been heard over the last few weeks.

1) "**Let this thought or personal understanding directing your behavior be the same as is in Christ Jesus, Who, having the nature of God, didn't think being equal to God was taking something that didn't belong to Him."** (Php 2:5-6, Enhanced version) Think this way too!

2) "**Whoever hears these fundamental precepts of mine and performs them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock."** (Mt 7:24) Before they were scripture they were words. That day Jesus spoke those words to the people, and today He still speaks His words to all of you, guiding you and directing your lives. God will, and does, speak to you!

3) "**All scripture is God breathed, and is profitable when engaged in teaching, as presenting evidence, interacting in correction, and engaged in training in righteousness, in order that the man of God may be perfectly prepared to engage in every work imitating out from God, having been fully equipped**." (2Tim 3:16-17, Enhanced) Be perfect!

Today we have those fundamental precepts and so much more! The plan, the mystery of The Gospel, the empowering knowledge of The Kingdom is written down! God breathed words for us to read so that The Life of The Spirit contained in the words is conceived in us. The Seed that *becomes* in us just as Jesus said, "**If you abide in me and my words abide in you, whatever you should desire, you require, and it will become to you.**" (Jn 15:7) No wonder we should, "**Let cheerful constancy have her perfect work in order that you all may be perfect, possessing the whole share and not leaving anything off.**" (Ja 1:4, Enhanced version) Hallelujah! Might wanna read that paragraph again and let it sink in! That should cause a response in you that we started out with yesterday, "Father, I love you!"

If you take to heart what Jesus said in Lk 6:45, **"For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."** I suppose it could be considered incriminating evidence of a crime of a lack of passion, but why? Part of it is a lack of gratitude. Not that we aren't aware of the grace of God that we've received through faith, but that we let so many negative considerations suppress the expression. Instead of expressing our gratitude for the blessings in or lives, we let our focus fall on the problems we've yet to overcome or what we lack that we want. Bad idea! And regardless of the reason, we're ignoring the greatest commandment, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all of your intentions and motivations, all of you desires and affections, and of your deep thoughts and meditations, with all of your determination."** That's Mk 12:30 expounding the concepts of heart, soul, mind, and strength. And as you express it, let it be a check list. Am I? Do I? Then, "Help me!"

If your heart is filled with love and gratitude to The Father, The Son, and The Spirit, you should express it. Not only are you blessing God, you're fortifying you. Remember, "The joy of The Lord is your strength"? "The rejoicing in The Lord is your fortitude!" (Neh 5:10) And what better way to rejoice in Him then to say, "Father, I love You!"

Love never fails!

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