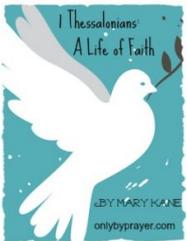


# 1 Thessalonians A Life of Faith, Part 13: Pray and Perfect

*9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,  
10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith. 1 Thessalonians 3:10*

Picture **perfect** ... *practice makes perfect*. These well-known idioms are part of American culture. People long for perfection. Perfectionism is a cruel task master, especially when one is ... well, ...imperfect. Despite our flawed condition, we continue to seek perfection. We work, strive, and labor for **perfect** test scores, perfect teeth, perfect children, the perfect job, the **perfect** wedding, the perfect vacations, the **perfect** house, the perfect outfit, etc. We try everything except the one thing that will help achieve our goal—prayer. Prayer, however, helps us not to be perfect, but to be *perfected*. Biblical perfection is very different from the human idea of perfection.



What does perfection have to do with a life of faith? The Bible does have a good deal to say about perfection,

*“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48*

Whew! That sounds like a **perfect** impossibility until we read,

*“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:23*

and,

*“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:28*

God’s plan in for man to be perfected, but Biblical perfection will not be achieved apart from Christ. To learn how to be perfected, please click on the link below.

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