

A Glorious Church

On visiting the General Assembly I was made more aware of the fact that the Church of God is well on her way to perfection. God is breaking down all the barriers. There was such a love and a unity among those in attendance.

There was no difference between black and white or Spanish and English for example. There was humility in her leadership which is akin to that shown by Jesus the lowly Nazarene who had nowhere to lay his head. When introducing feet washing to the early church Jesus said: ***"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."*** [St. John 13:14]

If we do not allow God to perfect us as individuals we are going to be left behind as the church marches on to perfection. At times we may feel that we are ok but God sees in us what we do not see in ourselves. If we will be perfect then self has to die. The Apostle Paul said, ***"...for when I am weak, then am I strong."*** [2 Corinthians 12:10]

We may try to avoid the perfection process but we cannot go to heaven without being perfect. People will tell you that we cannot be perfect in this world, but Jesus said: ***"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."*** [St. Matthew 5:48]

God does not see perfection as we do. We judge one another from what we see outwardly but God sees the heart. We will be perfected through **obedience, humility** and **submission**. These are not terms that the world holds in high regard. Sometimes we do things ignorantly without knowing they are wrong but once the Holy Ghost reveals to us that they are wrong we can no longer plead ignorance. If we still do the wrong God will punish us for disobedience.

A part of our covenant of membership states that: ***"We will walk in the light to the best of our knowledge and ability,"*** yet many members are contented to stay at the salvation stage, failing to go on to **Sanctification** and the **baptism of the Holy Ghost**.

Patience and practice will help to make us **perfect**. As Christians we must be pleasant at all times. We should have a smile even when we don't feel like smiling. We have to love even the unlovable.

Sometimes it seems like we are the only one being tried and tested but we are all going through the process in our own way. God knows what needs to be removed from all of us. Some people are **proud** so God allows things to happen to them to humble them to get rid of their **pride**.

Sometimes God has to bring us to a crisis situation like Jacob. He had been running from himself all his life but God allowed a situation to develop where he had to confront himself.

Jacob had deceived his brother and tricked his father before leaving home and going away for twenty one years. In all that time he lived in Padan-aran but he had not changed, he was the same Jacob. When it was time for him to leave God stirred up Laban and his sons against Jacob and he was no longer comfortable amongst them.

He left Padan-aran to return home but knew that he had to reconcile with his brother whom he had wronged and not seen for all these years.

³ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.⁶ And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that [was] with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;⁸ And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape. And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What [is] thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. [Genesis 32: 3 – 8, 24 – 28]

Jesus won't leave the purging and the perfecting of His Bride to anyone else. ***“That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*** [Ephesians 5:27]

When we have spots on our garments we rub them out or dab them out to get rid of them because they are a blemish. When we have wrinkles we straighten them out with a hot iron. ***“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, it is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.”*** [Zechariah 13:8, 9]

Right now God is taking the church through the furnace. The furnace is not a pleasant place to be. It's where the impurities are removed to bring forth the finished

article. ***“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*** [St. Matthew 13:24 – 30]

Not everyone who claims to be a Christian are true sheep. Though they may look like one and even “ba” like one some do not have the nature of a sheep. Jesus said by their fruit ye shall know them. Jesus also said that the true sheep would hear His voice and follow Him and would not follow the voice of a stranger. Sheep are easily lead but goats are another matter, they are **stubborn and self willed**. They will butt you if you get in their way. Having goats in the midst of sheep causes problems because they have different natures.

Having **stubborn** and **self willed** individuals in our congregations will cause problems in our churches. They do not want anyone telling them what to do. It was this mixed multitude that caused Moses all the trouble in the Wilderness as he led the Children of Israel to the Promised Land. Much of our problems today are because of this ongoing struggle between **SELF WILL** and **DIVINE WILL** in the Church of God. Self will must be cast out of the Church of God the same way that Sarah told Abraham to cast out the bond woman and her son, for the son of the bond woman could not be heir with the son of the free woman. [Genesis 21:10]

The last days, perfected church will not have such people in it. Some people In the Church have hidden under the radar for years but the Holy Ghost is going to do some stirring up and everything that is presently hidden will be revealed.

If we refuse to be admonished we will eventually be rejected. God will have a **Glorious Church** not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

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