Pursue Perfection



### seek safety by flight

(adapted from Strong's Concordance)



2 Timothy 2: 22(a)
Flee also youthful lusts;

1 Corinthians 10: 14

Therefore, my beloved, <u>flee</u> from idolatry.

#### 1 Corinthians 6: 18-19

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6: 20

For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Timothy 6: 10-11(b)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things ...

1 Corinthians 10: 13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

### Failure -

not hitting the mark; the brand of sin that emphasizes its *self*-originated i.e., it is not originated or empowered by God

(adapted from Strong's Concordance)

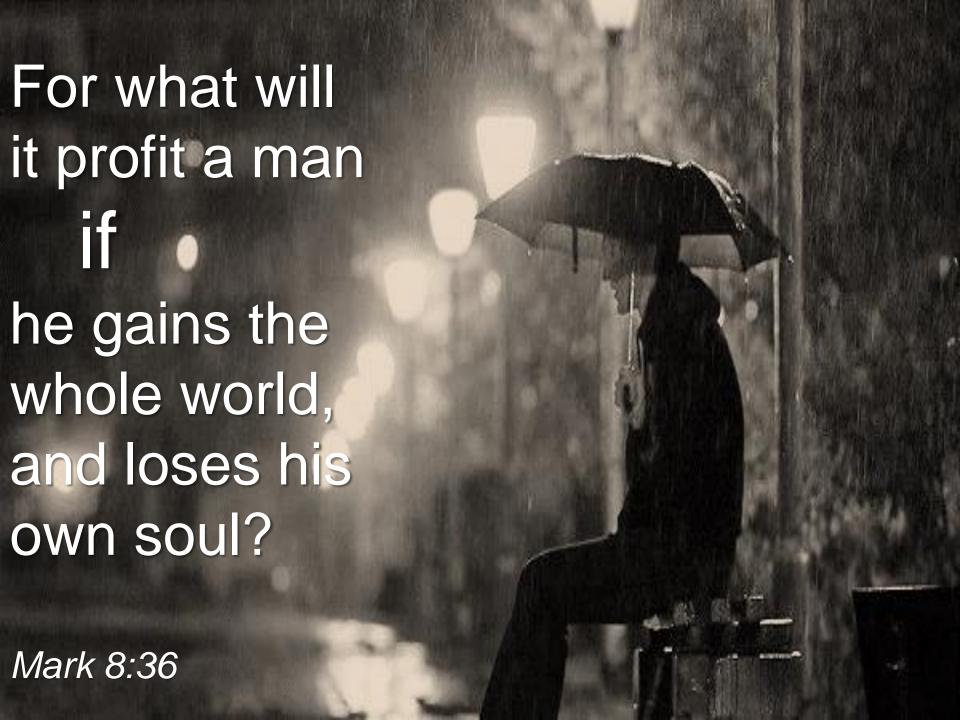
failed or Experienced failure Adam & Eve, Cain, 10 spies, Lot's wife, Saul, David, Solomon, Israelites, Disciples, Peter, Judas, Paul and many others.

Genesis 4: 6-7

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

Genesis 4: 9

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"



Mark 9: 33-34

Then Jesus came to Capernaum (with His disciples). And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

#### Mark 10: 21-22

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Luke 14: 26

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

**Matthew 15: 8-9** 

These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

Hebrews 10: 24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching!

#### Galatians 6: 9-10

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## Pursue Perfection

### Pursue-

aggressively chase, like a hunter pursuing a catch (prize); earnestly desiring to overtake (apprehend)

(adapted from Strong's Concordance)



James 4: 7-8

Therefore, **submit** to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

1 Timothy 6: 11

But you, O man of God, flee these things (love of money; a root of all kinds of evil) and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

2 Timothy 2: 22

Flee also youthful lusts; but <u>pursue</u> righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

# Pursue Perfection

Perfection reaching the principal end, aim,
purpose; completeness or maturity

(adapted from Strong's Concordance).



The word *perfect, perfected,*perfectly or perfection is used in 80 verses in the NKJV of the Bible; 45 times in the NT.

**Philippians 3: 12-13** 

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

2 Corinthians 12: 8-9

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made **perfect** in weakness."

#### **Hebrews 6: 1-2**

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

James 1: 2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* **perfect** work, that you may be **perfect** and complete, lacking nothing.

Matthew 5: 43-45(a)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;

Matthew 5: 43-45(a)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;

Matthew 5: 45(b)-47

for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Matthew 5: 48

Therefore, you shall be **perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is **perfect**.

Hebrews 2: 10

For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation **perfect** through sufferings.

#### Romans 12: 1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

#### **Colossians 3: 12-14**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

1 John 4: 17-18

Love has been **perfected** among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but **perfect** love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1 Peter 4: 8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

-C.S. LEWIS

