



**Spiritual Perfection
Matthew 5:48**

Matthew 5:48 (ESV)

“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

I. Conversation

Verses 33 – 37 (HCSB) “Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord. But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; or by the earth, because it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Neither should you swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your word ‘yes’ be ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no.’

Speak with Integrity

Psalm 58:3 (NIV)

Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies.

- Affirm God’s Sovereignty in all of life.
- Tell the Truth in Every Circumstance

Psalm 119:29-30 (NKJV)

Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth;

II. Conflict

Verses 38 – 42 “You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you, don’t resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Surrender Your Rights

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

III. Compassion

Verses 43 – 47 “You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don’t even the Gentiles do the same?

Serve Your Neighbors

Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

1 Peter 2:21-23 (NIV)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.



IV. Completion

Verse 48 - "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Submit to Jesus

Colossians 1:27-29 (NIV)

God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.