

Rise Above

Through Faith, Hope, and Love

- The trap of Perfectionism

If I was perfect then...

There are two problems with trying to be perfect.

- 1) We will never be perfect
- 2) Perfection is not actually what God values

What does God value?

Romans 3:10-28 (See next Page)

This is an epic shift

Perfection = Complete excellence

Faith = Complete trust, confidence, or reliance

Faith is what counts (see Galatians 5:6)

The old covenant:

Here is the law, obey it and things will go well

The new covenant:

God has forgiven, believe Him and receive a new life

Perfectionism is our works (The effort of our “flesh”)

Here is possible way to think about the difference between faith and working for perfection:

Works (Flesh):

If I _____ then _____

Faith:

Because God _____ therefore I _____

When Perfection is our goal then mistakes are horrible, not acceptable, failures.

But when Faith is our goal then mistakes can be a useful tool.

- The trap of endlessly chasing my tail:

The source of Spiritual strength is not our effort but God’s love

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

- The trap of expecting everything to go my way

Our hope is not in all things going as we wanted but in all things God overcoming.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Our focus is not perfection but faith.

Our strength is not in effort but in God’s love.

Our hope is not that all things will go smoothly but in all things God overcomes.

Romans 3:10-28 (NLT) ¹⁰ As the Scriptures say,

“No one is righteous—not even one.

¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

¹² All have turned away; all have become useless.

No one does good, not a single one.”

¹³ “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.

Their tongues are filled with lies.”

“Snake venom drips from their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “They rush to commit murder.

¹⁶ Destruction and misery always follow them.

¹⁷ They don’t know where to find peace.”

¹⁸ “They have no fear of God at all.”

¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.