

Setting Goals to be Perfect in 2026 (2)

Text: Matthew 5:48

Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

PERFECT:

Mature, Full Grown, Strong Faith

Three Points on Perfection

1. Being Perfect Requires Loving Jesus More Than Family and Friends as well as Lukewarm. Satan controlled Christians
2. Maturity Requires Loving Jesus More Than Money
3. To be Perfect in 2026, We Must Love Jesus More Than Self

Point #1: Being Perfect Requires Loving Jesus More Than Family and Friends as well as Lukewarm, Satan controlled Christians

- Matthew 10:32-39 (NASB)
- II Timothy 2:22-26 (NASB)
- Matthew 16:21-23 (NASB)
- Deuteronomy 13:1-11 (NASB)

Matthew 10:32-39 (NASB)

³² "Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ "But whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ "For I came to TURN A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; ³⁶ and A PERSON'S ENEMIES *WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD*. ³⁷ "The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ "And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ "The one who has found his life will lose it, and the one who has lost his life on My account will find it.

II Timothy 2:22-26 (NASB)

²² Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, *and* peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. ²⁴ The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Setting Goals to be Perfect in 2026 (2)

Matthew 16:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ From that time Jesus began to point out to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem and to suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised up on the third day. ²² And *yet* Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but men's."

Deuteronomy 13:1-11 (NASB)

¹ "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes *true*, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let's follow other gods (whom you have not known) and let's serve them,' ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. ⁵ "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken falsely against the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to drive you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall eliminate the evil from among you. ⁶ "If your brother, your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is like your own soul, entices you secretly, saying, 'Let's go and serve other gods' (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷ of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you, or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), ⁸ you shall not consent to him or listen to him; and your eye shall not pity him, nor shall you spare or conceal him. ⁹ "Instead, you shall most certainly kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. ¹⁰ "So you shall stone him to death, because he has attempted to drive you away from the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹ "Then all Israel will hear *about it* and be afraid, and will not do such a wicked thing among you again.

Point #2: Maturity Requires Loving Jesus More Than Money

- Matthew 6:24 (NASB)
- Malachi 1:6-10 (NASB)

Matthew 6:24 (NASB)

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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We cannot serve two masters because, as Jesus pointed out, we end up hating one and loving the other. It's only natural. Opposing masters demand different things and lead down different paths. The Lord is headed in one direction, and our flesh and the world are headed in the other. A choice must be made. When we follow Christ, we must die to everything else. We will be like some of the seeds in Jesus' parable (Luke 8:5–15)—only a portion of those seeds actually bore fruit. Some sprouted at first but then withered and died. They were not deeply rooted in good soil.

If we attempt to serve two masters, we will have divided loyalties, and, when the difficulties of discipleship clash with the lure of fleshly pleasure, the magnetic pull of wealth and worldly success will draw us away from Christ (see 2 Timothy 4:10). The call to godliness goes against our sinful nature. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit can we remain devoted to one Master (John 6:44).

Malachi 1:6-10 (NASB)

⁶ "A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?" says the LORD of armies to you, the priests who despise My name! But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?' ⁷ "You *are* presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.' ⁸ "And when you present a blind *animal* for sacrifice, is it not evil? Or when you present a lame or sick *animal*, is it not evil? So offer it to your governor! Would he be pleased with you, or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of armies. ⁹ "But now, do indeed plead for God's favor, so that He will be gracious to us. With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of armies. ¹⁰ "If only there were one among you who would shut the gates, so that you would not kindle *fire on* My altar for nothing! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of armies, "nor will I accept an offering from your hand.

Point #3: To be Perfect in 2026, We Must Love Jesus More Than Self

- Matthew 16:24-27 (NASB)
- Luke 22:42 (NASB)
- Galatians 2:20 (NASB)

Matthew 16:24-27 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ "For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

Setting Goals to be Perfect in 2026 (2)

Luke 22:42 (NASB)

saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

Galatians 2:20 (NASB)

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:

1. **HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17**
So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
2. **BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6**
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
3. **REPENT ~ Luke 13:3**
I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.
4. **CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33**
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
5. **BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16**
And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
6. **BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10**
Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.