

TUESDAY**Standing Perfect and Complete**

Colossians 4:12 ¹²Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

- Short prayer = packed w/ eternal significance
- Every word = stand / perfect / complete = reveals different dimension of what it means to grow into fullness of Christ
- Same spiritual focus / we need today = to live w/ one clear aim: to stand perfect / complete in all will of God

1. **“STAND”** — remain steadfast / unshakable = firm / unmoved
 - Doesn't mean we never fall = means we keep getting up
 - Paul uses same word = **EPHESIANS 6:11** when urges believers to “stand against / wiles of the devil” withstanding forces of darkness thru divine power by putting on / whole armor of God
 - We live in / age when = truth is being redefined
 - Convictions = often traded for convenience
 - God calls His people to stand firm = not by our own strength / but thru His power = grounded in unchanging truth of gospel
 - **Colossians 1:23** “Continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”

2. **PERFECT** = Gk word translated “perfect” doesn't mean flawless
 - Means complete/ mature/ brought to full purpose
 - **Matthew 5:48** Jesus used / same word, “Be perfect, therefore, as your Father in heaven is perfect”
 - Perfect refers to perfection of character that finds its ultimate expression in sacrificial love

- Calling us to = maturity of love
 - w/ heart that mirrors = self-giving love of God
- Jesus explained spiritual growth = in stages of maturity
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- **Jesus described spiritual growth by stages of maturity**
- Mark 4:28** “First / blade, then / head /then full grain in head.”
- What beautiful picture / of maturity! **Perfect in every season**
- Blade is perfect as blade = young stalk does not need to
 - bear grain to be considered whole / simply needs to grow
- In same way = newborn baby is perfect at birth
 - Not because it has reached = adulthood
 - Because it’s complete for its = stage of life
- BUT = Capacity for maturity = normal/ infant soil diaper
- But – dysfunction in maturity = if Dirtying diaper @ 6 years old
- You are perfect = at every stage
- First accept Christ = sees you perfect / as baby Christian
- Romans 4:17** God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
- No shame in spiritual infancy = if growing toward maturity
- God looks at our hearts / asks = Are you growing?
 - Are you maturing in love / faith / trust?
- Spiritual growth / doesn’t happen by accident
 - Requires prayer / focus / surrender
- Perfection **not** static / it’s continual pursuit of Christlikeness
- We are perfect in Him = yet ever growing into Him
- We cannot claim to have arrived at perfection
- Philippians 3:12** Paul made it clear: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on...”

3. “COMPLETE” —in all will of God

- Means to be filled to capacity / satisfy fully /
 - reach full measure = of what God intends
- Used of Abraham’s being “fully convinced” that God would do what He promised = though humanly impossible = **Rom 4:21**
- That’s what completeness looks like
 - faith that rests entirely on = God’s sufficiency
- Same idea **2 Timothy 4:17** Lord stood w/me = strengthened me “so that the message might be preached fully thru me”
- God wants to bring = our faith / calling / our purpose
 - to full measure
- Happens only when we live **ALL** will of God = not just parts of it

Colossians 2:9–10 ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and **you are complete in Him**

- **1 Corinthians 1:30** Christ Jesus became our
- **Wisdom from God/ righteousness/sanctification/redemption**
- RBF = ALL Heaven’s resources = available for spiritual maturity
- Means trusting = we are complete in Christ
 - even while we are still growing
- Blade / Head (ear) / full kernel all belong to same field
 - Under same sun / growing by same grace

Colossians 1:9–11 Paul prayed = filled w/ the knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom /spiritual understanding = walk worthy of Lord, fully pleasing Him = fruitful in every good work = increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹**strengthened w/all might, according to His glorious power**

- Spiritual completeness means = being faithful to stage we’re in
 - while allowing God to shape us into next one

CLOSING THOUGHT:

- Standing perfect and complete in all the will of God means
 - Standing firm in truth when the world shifts
- Maturing in love even when it's costly.
- Living fully satisfied in the assurance that God's plan is good.
- Yielding to His will = same God who began good work is faithful to complete it = **Philippians 1:6**
- Our responsibility = stay rooted in Christ/ focused on His will, and open to His pruning hand
 - because in every season = He is shaping us for eternity