

## I Am Not Perfect

Those who have known me for any time would probably respond, "No kidding, Mr. Obvious."

So why am I stating the reality of life for most people?

It may be the end of the year, and we strive to maintain the optimism we have in the coming year.

The same could be said for a new month, a new week, or recovering from a day that went south very quickly. We did not recover before midnight struck, and we stumbled into the following day.

Some may say life does not offer "do-overs," which were proper etiquette on the playgrounds across the country during our youth.

But God does.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

Speaking in the past tense should not be confused that our actions surprised God. God is never surprised, and we do not understand that he is Proactive, not reactive.

He foretold what would happen in our world, possibly in our lifetime, but God-willing, we do not see the wrath unleashed.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as, in fact, you are doing."

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath...encourage one another and build each other up...

God does not like, want, or enjoy our suffering. Why do we want to displease Him by causing suffering and pain to ourselves?

Back to the original statement, "I am not perfect," yet I was made in the image of God himself, so why do I feel I need to change?

Because life has beat me up enough, I know I have not been at my best, and I can improve with each day going forward.

He allowed me to choose right or wrong; I can take ownership of my choices.

He gave me wisdom, discernment through facts, hopefully, a decision that will be the best, and the ability to learn from bad choices.

He gave me experience. Experience is disguised as everyday life; excitement and boredom are key ingredients. The mundane can be more devastating than going after the gusto and falling short.

He gave me insight: a developed calm demeanor to learn and implement appropriately.  
He gave me an out: dropping to my knees, asking for forgiveness, and stating that my way(s) didn't work, but His ways always do.

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Nowhere is it stated that he expects or will only value you if you are perfect.

...with all your heart.

He wants your heart, not perfection.

God gives us talents, but we control our efforts and the intensity with which we use them.

It can be confusing that we are expected to strive to become saints before leaving Earth. Saints were not perfect, but they used the gifts from God to bring others to God, and it isn't our real responsibility to bring others to God.

Don't worry about changing the physical which others see. Change and improve your heart; the world will benefit from those you change.

Vivat Jesu