

☞ West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor ☞

“The Perfecting Believers Series-6 (PBS-6)”

(A Discipleship Series Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way)

Presented by: Kenneth Hammonds, M.Div., Ed.D., *Life & Leadership: COACH*

Director of Discipleship Ministries (*Perfecting Believers*) West Angeles Ministries, Sector Leader  
(*Discipleship, Christian Education, Prayer Ministries, Prison Ministries*)

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“Preaching the Good News and Perfecting Believers IS the Business of the Church.”

*The Perfecting Believers Discipleship Series:*

“Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way.”

**Topic: Perfecting Believers’ Significance in the World – Part One**

“Perfecting Believers to Move from Survival to Significance”

## I. Perfecting Believers – A Review of Major Concepts and Scriptures

### Finding the One Thing You Lack

**Mark 10: 21 (KJV)** - Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest**: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

This man seems to have had it made. He says he kept all that Jesus had told him from his youth.

But, he lacked one thing. But don’t be too hard on this man. Most of us lack MORE THAN one thing!

### Other Scriptures:

**James 1:4 (New International Version, NIV)** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything**.

### 1 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV)

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might **perfect** (*katartizō* – thoroughly equip) **that which is lacking** in your faith.

### 2 Timothy 3:17 (NKJV)

That the man of God may be **complete** (KJV – **perfect**), thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Greek word for “thoroughly equipped” is *exartizō*. It means *to complete, finish, to be thoroughly prepared or thoroughly furnished or equipped. To be furnished or provided with everything one needs.*

Thus, if you are lacking in ANYTHING, in ANY area of life, it is the Task of the Church, through the Power of the Holy Spirit to help perfect (mature) you in that area (or for most of us, in those MANY areas).

### Ephesians 4:12 (KJV)

For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the **work** of the ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ: KJV – For the perfecting of the saints (The Goal of Discipleship, *Perfecting the Believers*)

This maturity is an “*all of life for all your life*” maturing process, not just a one time “spiritual” act.

### Being in Lack Can Be Dangerous

People who lack or who are in need do some crazy things.

What are some of the things people do when they lack something they **really** feel they need?

## II. Perfecting Believers to Move from Survival to Significance – The Pain and Poverty of a Survival Mentality

Believers who are perfecting their Christian lives and daily living must move from a survival viewpoint (especially times of economic distress) to a significance outlook in their view of themselves and their situation in life.

James 1:2-4 – God’s Perfecting Work Around You Brings about a Perfected Work In You.

**James 1:2 (NKJV)** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

**James 1:3 (NKJV)** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

**James 1:4 (NKJV)** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (Message Translation = not deficient in any way. NT Greek – lacking not even one thing)

God is working **ON** you to bring out something Permanent, Positive, and Powerful **IN** you.

### A Survival Mentality

Survival is only concerned about the Present.

Some situations LOOK Permanent but they are only Temporary.

### Scriptural Examples:

- ❖ Woman with issue of blood: Mark 5:25 \_\_\_\_ (12) years
- ❖ Cripple Woman: Luke 13:10-11 \_\_\_\_ (18) years
- ❖ Man at pool of Bethesda: John 5:5 \_\_\_\_ (38) years
- ❖ Blind Man: (John 9:1) since \_\_\_\_ (birth)

### Getting Personal:

What issues have you been dealing with for a long time in your life?

Maybe even from your Birth or since a little Boy or a little Girl?

**Personal Question:** Have you made the temporary, PERMANENT in your life?

We say, “*Oh, this will never change.*” Many of us feel insignificant or less than honorable and depressed because of our Current Situation. We see only the pain of the present and temporary and don’t view (or cannot see) the victory in the permanent.

**Survival** is a Short-term view of your situation.

**Significance** is a Long-term view of your situation.

Significant = Useful, Valuable, of lasting positive Benefit

That which is significant looks at the long-term view and consequences. It looks past the present moment. It has a long-term view and effects. Many of the problems we have hit in life are because we did not look at the long-term effects of our actions.

**Personal Question:** How many times have you NOT looked at the long-term consequences of an act of Passion? You lusted for that thing, that title, that situation, or Person and when you got it, you said, “*Oh my God, what have I gotten myself into?*”

We, as believers being perfected in our Christian lives, need to think, “*I must perform actions that are significant (important, valuable, with lasting positive effect) and not just think on the present survival.*”

**Next Time - Part Two: The Power of Significance** (The *What, Why, Where* and *How* of Significance)