

**Reading:** Jeremiah 18:1-6

**Topic:** Dealing With Our Imperfections

**INTRODUCTION:** When we begin to serve the Lord, we come to Him \_\_\_\_\_ as we are with many faults and imperfections that God will begin to work on to eliminate through time and \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. THE WORKING PROCESS:

### A. The Raw Material:

1. When we come to the Lord, He saves us from \_\_\_\_\_ and death through the power of the Gospel and our obedience to it, and we are \_\_\_\_\_ again. Rom. 1:16
2. However, even though we have been \_\_\_\_\_ from our sins, there are a number of things in our lives that are not pleasing to God, and He begins to \_\_\_\_\_ on us to change us to be more like him. Phil. 1:6

### B. The Potter's Wheel:

1. Once we have experienced the New Birth and we begin to \_\_\_\_\_ with God daily, our imperfections and \_\_\_\_\_ begin to be revealed to us through the Spirit of God as we pray and read His Word.
2. God commences His work on us and in us in various ways just like a \_\_\_\_\_ who is working with a lump of \_\_\_\_\_ on the wheel. Jer. 18:3,4
3. God uses various ways to mold and \_\_\_\_\_ us - a. the teaching and preaching of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; b. through circumstances and \_\_\_\_\_; c. through relationships with other people. Phil. 2:12,13

## II. THE IMPERFECTIONS:

### A. Antagonist:

1. To antagonize means to provoke others and stir up \_\_\_\_\_ by our actions and words, even maybe using some other \_\_\_\_\_ to do it for us. Pr. 30:33
2. People who are antagonists are often people with deep \_\_\_\_\_ problems, and they are frustrated so they tend to take out their frustrations on others \_\_\_\_\_ them. Pr, 28:25, 29:22
3. This imperfection is very harmful to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ because it can disrupt harmony and cause disunity to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. 2 Tim. 2:16,17
4. The antagonistic spirit and attitude needs to be dealt with if we are to be \_\_\_\_\_ effectively in the work of God, otherwise God may deal with us severely or even \_\_\_\_\_ us from the work. Rom. 16:17
5. Allowing God to put us on the potter's wheel and do a \_\_\_\_\_ in us will change us from being an antagonist to being a \_\_\_\_\_ maker and an asset in the Body of Christ. Mt. 5:9

### B. Complainer:

1. It is in the nature of most people to \_\_\_\_\_ about things that do not please them and there are some people who \_\_\_\_\_ constantly about anything and everything.
2. The Children of Israel got into this habit, and it greatly displeased the \_\_\_\_\_ who sometimes sent a judgment on them for constantly \_\_\_\_\_ and murmuring. I Cor. 10:1-5
3. The last straw for the Lord came when the people were right on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Promised Land and ready to enter and the ten negative \_\_\_\_\_ caused the people to murmur and complain once too many times, and many of them ended up dying in the wilderness and missing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the place that God had planned for them.

4. The way to deal with the attitude of constantly \_\_\_\_\_ is first to recognize it, and realize that it is not pleasing to God, and to pray and ask God for help to \_\_\_\_\_ our attitude.
5. It is not easy to change from an attitude of complaining to an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_, but it can be done with the help of the Lord through \_\_\_\_\_ and allowing the Word and Spirit to work in us. I Th. 5: 16-18

**C. Spiritual & Physical Laziness:**

1. Unfortunately in today's modern world, strong work ethics are not \_\_\_\_\_ as they were in times past, and as a result many people have developed the \_\_\_\_\_ of laziness and boredom. Pr. 26:13-15
2. This is not how God planned for \_\_\_\_\_ to live, because the results of laziness lead to procrastination, lethargic behavior, and many other undesirable characteristics that render one ineffective in \_\_\_\_\_ and in the work of God. Pr. 24:31-34
3. In the Parable of the talents, Jesus revealed His displeasure with the behavior of \_\_\_\_\_ and in this story the slothful servant ended up being cast into \_\_\_\_\_. Mt. 25:26,30
4. The best way to \_\_\_\_\_ off the spiritual and physical habits of laziness and indifference is through choosing to discipline oneself through establishing a \_\_\_\_\_ routine of prayer and the Word of God in our lives, and making the flesh do things that it does not want to do! Eph. 5:14-16

**D. Insubordination & Rebellion:**

1. Since the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_ God has established an order of authority that is designed to operate in harmony with God Himself at the \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 11:3
2. When God's order is properly followed, it produces harmony, productivity and \_\_\_\_\_ both in the natural working world as well as in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Is. 9:7
3. What happens when people fail to submit to God and to His \_\_\_\_\_ and authority is confusion, rebellion, trouble and disorder whether it be in the home, the \_\_\_\_\_ or even in society. I Sam. 15:23
4. If we allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of insubordination and rebellion to penetrate into our lives, it will lead to our spiritual downfall and can cause the downfall of \_\_\_\_\_ others as well.
5. The only way to get rid of the rebellious \_\_\_\_\_ and attitude is through humbling ourselves, repenting of our behavior, and asking God to forgive us and to \_\_\_\_\_ us a clean heart and a right spirit. Ps. 51: 10,11

**CONCLUSION:** There are sometimes many imperfections in our \_\_\_\_\_ when we come to God and begin our walk with Him. However, if we submit ourselves to God, to His Word and Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives, as time passes, He will do a work in us to \_\_\_\_\_ us more and more like Him. Phil. 1:6