

What does it mean to be “made perfect” or “perfected” in the book of Hebrews?

Hebrews [re: Jesus – 2:10; 5:8-9; 7:28]

[Re: US – 7:11, 19; 9:8-10; 10:1; 10:11-18; 11:39-40; 12:23]

Survey of Hebrews

1. 5:9 – Christ was made perfect and became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. Are we saved eternally only if and when we obey (keep his rules)? Or does “obey” refer to a state of mind?
2. 7:11 – “if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood...” Of course it couldn’t. Therefore, it must be attainable through another channel. cf. Galatians 3:21.
3. 7:19 – the Law made nothing perfect, but... a better hope. Hope of being made perfect? What state or condition must one be in to “draw near” to God?
4. 9:9 – what does it mean to “perfect the conscience of the worshipper.” Elements of the law were not capable of doing that.
5. 10:1 – the law could not “make perfect” those who draw near. Why? Can something make them “perfect”?
6. 10:14 – He has “perfected for all time...” Matured? Completed? Or in some way is he flawless?
7. 11:40 – the Old Testament heroes of faith were not made perfect until we were. “Mature?” “Complete” – in what way? Or, flawless?
8. 12:23 – “the spirits of the righteous made perfect.” Where are they?

Alternatives

1. “To be made complete.” If so, what does that mean? (Keep in mind that the Greek word group is rarely translated “complete”).
2. “To be made mature” (i.e., “matured”). Ephesians 4:13. I Corinthians 14:20.
3. To be made the “end” or purpose of God’s plan. Cf. Romans 10:4 (end = *telos*).
What is the practical implications of this?
4. “To be made completely free from defect or fault, flawless.” Literally true, in the flesh? See I John 1:8, 10.
5. To be made perfect as Christ is perfect, sitting on the right hand of God. See Eph. 2:1-6; Col. 1:13-14; 21-23.
6. Other?

Greek: “perfect”

τέλειος (5046)
teleios
perfect, man, of full age

τελειότης (5047)
teleiotēs
perfectness, perfection

τελειώνω (5048)
teleioō
make perfect, perfect, finish, fulfill, be perfect, consecrate [mature in Hebrews 5:14]

τελείωσις (5050)
teleiōsis
performance, perfection

τελεσφορέω (5052)
telēphoreō
bring fruit to perfection

πληρόω (4137)
plerooō
fulfill, fill, be full, complete, end

English
To be free from defects or flaws.

How God Sees Us

