

# The Deep Dealings of God Pt 23 - Let Us Go on Unto Perfection - God's Love [1 Corinthians 13]

by Phil Beach Jr.

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*This sermon emphasizes the importance of spiritual maturity, communication, and valuing what God values, as we seek to become like Jesus Christ and produce qualities of the divine nature in our lives.*

**Duration:** 1:02:57

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:8-9, Matthew 6:21, 1 Corinthians 13, Hebrews 6:1, James 5:7

**Topics:** "Perfection", "God's Love", "Spiritual Maturity"

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## Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the importance of spiritual maturity and the transformative power of God's love as outlined in 1 Corinthians 13. He encourages believers to move beyond childish ways and to embrace a deeper relationship with God, which involves genuine communication and love for one another. The sermon highlights that true spiritual maturity is characterized by valuing what God values and being long-suffering towards others, reflecting the love of Christ. Beach Jr. warns against the distractions of modern life that hinder communication and urges the congregation to seek the eternal treasures of God's kingdom. Ultimately, he calls for a heart transformation that allows believers to forgive and love as Christ does.

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## Transcript

Stand up nice and quietly against the wall. Don't run, please, children. Please don't run.

I want to ask a question, all right? How many have thus far experienced the touch of Jesus in your heart, in your soul? Isn't he wonderful? Let's praise him. Amen. It's him.

It's his hand. It's his love. It's his touch that we all so desperately need, right? Praise the Lord.

All right. Father, we just want to thank you for the children. We pray, God, that you'll place your hand upon their life.

We dedicate them to you afresh, Lord, as they go to children's church. We claim every one of them for you, Lord. We claim their hearts for you.

We pray that you will preserve them from the wicked one, preserve them from the lie of this age that tells them the most important thing in life is to get what they want. Help them to see, Lord, the greatest joy is to be free from ourself and to become a love slave to Jesus Christ. We claim them for you, Lord.

We simply say, devil, you can't have them because we've given them to God. Amen. God bless you and children's church.

May the Lord speak to every one of their hearts by the word of God. Amen. I'm excited this morning about Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

He is almighty. He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. He is the great comforter.

He is the almighty God. He is the healer. He is altogether lovely.

He's the perfect one. He's the reigning one. He is everything and all in all.

And I trust this morning that through His word, He will speak to our hearts and energize us and strengthen us and encourage us in wherever and whatever we're going through at this moment. So let's bow our hearts for a moment. Our Father in heaven, we thank you for the precious Holy Spirit.

We thank you for His ministry and our midst, ever living to reveal the splendors of Jesus Christ, the glories of the man in glory, ever living to communicate to us all the good and all the power that Calvary produced. And Father, this morning we do pray that the eyes of our heart would be opened as we look into Your word. And we pray, O God, that You would communicate the incorruptible truth of the Word of God and deeply plant it within our beings, Lord, that it might bring forth a harvest of righteousness.

Lord, we stand against every scheme. We stand against every plot and stratagem of the wicked one, not in ourself, but through the Word of God. And we pray that the Word of God would effectively expose the powers of darkness that are seeking to lead us astray.

And that the Word of God would be able to lead us to the light of God's truth. And through it, Lord, we might be free this morning. Free our soul, Lord.

Free our soul from fear. Lord, we ask that Jesus Christ would walk in our midst through His Word, laying His hand upon each and every one of us and healing us. Father, we stand against diseases in our midst by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

We thank You, Lord, that You are the great healer and that we cannot heal ourselves, nor can we confess our healing, but You, when Your Word is spoken, when You stand in our midst and You speak and say, arise and be healed, then we know, Lord, that we are healed. We thank You for the faith that's arisen in our hearts, Lord. We thank You, Lord, for the atmosphere of faith, the atmosphere of heaven that You have brought into our midst this morning.

We're listening for Your Word. We're listening for Your healing Word. We're listening to Your healing Word that can speak to our crippled condition and say, oh, You crippled one, arise.

We're listening for Your Word, oh God, that can speak to our blindness and say, oh, ye blind one, open your eye and see. We're listening for Your Word, oh God, that speaks to us in our darkness and says, behold, I am the light of the world. Lord, in our confusion, we're waiting for You to speak to us and say,

behold, I will be Your peace, oh Jesus, be that which we need this morning.

We pray. We thank You, Lord, that though at times it seems that we're being defeated, it seems like we're losing ground, but we hear Your Word this morning speaking to us saying, all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Father, we look to You for Thy Word.

In Jesus' name, amen and amen. We're going to look, by the help of God's grace this morning, at what it means to experience spiritual maturity. We're going to look this morning, as we've been laying a foundation for many weeks now, at the eternal perfections inherent within Jesus Christ which God wants to produce by the power of His Holy Spirit in our lives.

Brothers and sisters, I pray that God will give us a listening ear because this Word that will continue now for several weeks is, oh, it's almost in a scary way practical. In other words, it's going to touch us right where we live. This is going to get into your home.

This Word's going to get into the way you look at people, the way you deal with your husband and wife and children and your friends. This Word's going to get into us. And it's going to shake us up.

But it's going to produce life. It's going to produce the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ. But brothers and sisters, before we get into this, and this is a continuing message on Hebrews chapter 6, verse 1, let us go on unto perfection.

The cry of the Spirit of God right now in your life and my life is the desire that we might move on to spiritual maturity. Move on to spiritual adulthood. Spiritual adulthood means the putting off, the putting away of childish things.

Childish ways. Childish ways of thinking. Childish ways of speaking.

Childish ways of acting. You know, the temper tantrums. It's time for us to accept the call of the Spirit of God.

It's time for us to submit to the child training of God so that we can come to spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity will result in releasing us. Listen closely.

It will result in releasing us from a world that revolves around ourself. Spiritual maturity will result in releasing us from essentially an I-centered, me-centered, my-centered way of looking at things. Spiritual immaturity is characterized by perceiving.

You see, all of us have a way of looking at things. All of us perceive things. Spiritual immaturity keeps us bound to perceiving things by how they affect us.

How they relate to us. And the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Word of God is to emancipate us from that mindset so that it is no longer how it affects me, how it affects my welfare or my good or my bad, but how does it affect the glory of God? How does it affect the purpose of God? Does it give Jesus a bigger place in my life? You see, when God wants to give Jesus a bigger place in our life, it's not always to our personal benefit. It's not always to our personal success.

It's not always to our personal increase or our personal enlargement. And that's the trap that spiritual immaturity is caught in. We see everything as it relates to us.

This is why, was that an amen out in the hallway? My, my, I'll tell you. Listen, this is why there's so much trouble in our relationships. Now I hope you have boots on with steel toes today.

Back in the 70s or late 70s when I first got saved, I for just a few months worked on a construction crew and the big thing was to get those big boots with steel tip toes in case a piece of uh what do you call it dad? The thing that you the wood that you use to build frames? The scaffolding or or the big pieces of wood would fall on your toe, you wouldn't break it. But relationships are suffering today because we're resisting listen we are resisting the pain that comes when father speaks to us no longer as children but as sons and daughters and requires that we put off our childish ways. Before we get into this and we're in no hurry no hurry we've got until Jesus comes we're gonna walk slow we're seeking to move with the Holy Spirit because God wants his word to minister to us he wants his word to to find a place in our heart but now listen closely let's go for a few moments way back to the beginning Genesis chapter 1 this is something the Lord has put into my heart and he confirmed it this morning and this is something that we all need to ask the Lord to help us to grow in.

Listen carefully in Genesis chapter 3 we know the story about Adam and Eve and we know that the serpent came in and beguiled them and lied to them and as a result they sinned against God and that brings us to verse number 8 of Genesis chapter 3 and they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amidst the trees of the garden and the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him where are you?

Brothers and sisters the first thing that God did when he saw we had fallen into sin was he sought to communicate with us he sought to talk to us he sought to ask a question brothers and sisters in the day that we are living in it is vitally important that we hold to the truth of God's word that teaches us that God wants to communicate to us even when we have fallen and failed him he wants to talk to us Adam where are you?

Parents listen communicate with your children talk to them God knew where Adam was he wasn't talking about a geographical location he was saying Adam where are you on the inside what's going on Adam talk to me talk to me tell me what happened don't internalize what's going on listen to be a healing vessel through which Jesus Christ can encourage people you don't need to be an educated person with a degree you don't need to be a skilled preacher or teacher all you need is to have a heart that can look at someone in the love of Jesus and say talk to me what's going on tell me what's going on it is the lack of communication the lack of heart communication that is essentially paralyzing and crippling if you notice society is geared toward the destruction of communication families no longer

get together at night and look at each other in the eyes and say hello Bill how are you tell me what's going on no no the television and the computer and the games and the activities what about communication brothers and sisters what about looking into each other's face and saying tell me what's going on bury one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ brothers there is a warning from the spirit of God to us this morning brothers and sisters and that is guard your heart guard your heart let me tell you brothers and sisters human beings were created with the need to interrelate one with another and when inanimate objects begin to take the place of heartfelt communication a decline begins to occur listen what is atrophy when you don't use a certain muscle people who are paralyzed

suffer from atrophy their muscles are not used there is a spiritual atrophy occurring today there is a part of us that is created by God for God for genuine communication genuine interaction with God communion

with God and also it's intended to be that which we enjoy with one another there's a faculty there's a very part of our being that is essential that is suffering from atrophy non-use listen we are living in a generation where people don't even know how to communicate one with another let's be honest alright how many here feel that they have a difficult time communicating with people communicating your thoughts communicating your struggles God is a communicator Adam talk to me but you know what happens we internalize we go inside we hide ourselves like Adam the very nature of sin the

very nature of sin is it wants to hide itself it wants to cover itself that's the withered hand we want to hide it we want to hide it but Jesus is saying talk to me stretch forth your withered hand tell me what's going on and so God met Adam with a series of questions the series of questions were not for God's benefit but were for Adam's benefit the series of questions were intended by God to arrest to stop the inevitable condition that sin produces and that is we draw back into ourselves away from God and away from those that we love and in that state we get confused in that state we get distorted in that state and so God asks questions brothers and sisters may I encourage you and I this morning stand against the influence of the world that would rob you from communion with God that will

rob you from communion with his precious word and that will rob you from communion with those that are in your life we were not created to essentially communicate with inanimate objects and that's basically what our lives have been reduced down to we communicate with inanimate objects we fellowship with Ricky Ricardo and Lucille Ball and Spock we know them we feel a camaraderie with them but what about the Giants or the Lakers now we have to distinguish between the things that differ no I'm not preaching against these things God help us to have maturity to hear what God is saying when these things take the place and cripple and begin to become our actual relationship and our fellowship they need to be taken out of our life and so I'm praying that God will use this short little word here

Adam where are you and he will put something in our hearts and that something will happen in our lives in order to correct these problems that are in our life and in our families we have communication problems brothers and sisters with God and with each other there's a scripture in Matthew chapter 6 which is the word that we want to open up with that will lead us into this incredible life changing revelation of God's love but here's the word it's found in Hebrews chapter 6 verse number 21 how many find as you're turning how many find the temptation in your heart to avoid communication it's easier not to communicate isn't it it's easier not that's true with our relationship with God and that's true with our relationship with one another Matthew chapter 6 beginning in verse number 21 for

where your treasure is there will your heart be also where your treasure is or whatever it is that is valuable to you or whatever you consider to have worth that is where your heart will be and my question this morning is simply are you praying oh dear God so walk in my heart so walk by the power of your holy spirit so walk by the power of your word so as to give me the ability to value the things that you value brothers and sisters God has given us all things richly to enjoy but the things that we see with our natural eyes and the things that we feel with our senses are not the valuable treasures that we are to have our hearts set on there is a whole world in Jesus that is filled with treasure I asked one of the brothers this morning as I walked in how are you and you know what he said

I'm wealthy and I don't think he was talking about the amount of money in his bank account for where your treasure is there will your heart be also brothers and sisters one of the outstanding signs of growing in spiritual maturity and in spiritual adulthood is that we begin more and more to value the things that God values and we find our hearts desire is after those things as opposed to being after the things that we can

grasp for with our hands for where your treasure is there will your heart be also labor not Jesus said for those things which perish but for those things which endure into everlasting life Paul said while we look not at those things which are seen but those things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen which are

invisible are eternal and so this morning we're going to look into treasures pearls of great price we're going to look into wealth that will never perish wealth that makes up the kingdom of God that makes up the kingdom of the heavens the wealth that all the saints possess in glory right now the wealth that Christ himself is we're going to look at a world that is in complete contradiction to the world that we live in and it is my desire and prayer that God by the power of his Holy Spirit will put into us a desire for these things that exceed any other desire and this is the very reason why Jesus said in verse 31 of chapter 6 therefore take no thought saying what shall we eat or what shall we drink or wherewith shall we be clothed for after all these things do the gentiles seek for your

heavenly father knows that you have need of all these things but seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you therefore take no thought these words describe the heart that is touched by the grace of God that is captured by the word of God that is being transformed by the spirit of God enabling the soul enabling you and I as the believer to value to put worth upon and to seek after those things that are eternal trusting our father in heaven to care for all other things 1st Corinthians chapter 13 1st Corinthians chapter 13 beginning in verse 1 though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling symbol and though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and

all knowledge and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains and have not charity I am nothing and though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity it profits me nothing verse 2 and though I have the gift of prophecy prophecy in and of itself is good but to seek after prophecy can indicate pride and understand all mysteries understanding mysteries is good but in understanding mysteries we could become a little bit arrogant all knowledge and though I have all faith that I could remove mountains all of these things sound quite wonderful and there's a tendency within our lives within the body of Christ to make it an issue with God but Lord I want these things Lord I want faith I want to understand mysteries but the asking

of these things and even the receiving of these things do not in and of themselves indicate that we are necessarily pleasing God or that we are necessarily growing into spiritual adulthood amazingly there seems to be a great emphasis on these things today a great emphasis so essentially we can have these things but there's something in it for us oh there's something in it for us when we understand great mysteries there's something in it for us when we can prophesy and speak elegantly there's something in it for us when we have all faith oh there's just something there that touches the depths of our ego the depths of our desire to want to think that we're important or to want others to think that we're important oh there's something there beginning in verse number four we begin to see a

picture of our father in heaven and his son Jesus Christ the call to spiritual maturity is not an emphasis on charisma giftedness it's an emphasis on character not what I can do for God but oh God make me like you we need multiplied grace now as we look at those things that are the exact opposite of any one of us apart from the grace of God this is not describing natural temperament this is not describing natural goodness this is not none of these things describe anything that any person might have naturally each one of these words describe a quality inherent within the divine nature of the Lord Jesus Christ that he is seeking to

produce in our lives number two each one of these qualities must find a place in real life to be produced these qualities are not produced in Bible school

they're not produced in an ivory tower somewhere the scenario the setting by which these qualities are produced is let us go on unto maturity it is the togetherness the walking together with one another the experiencing of the various different difficulties and trials and temptations and struggles that we're going through one of the signs of spiritual maturity is we cease from wishing that we were somewhere else that we were someone else oh if I only had more of this or oh if I only lived there or oh if I only had this kind of a home or that the grass always looks greener to the immature heart immaturity is characterized by a short season of contentment and a long season of discontentment a short season of contentment and a long season of discontentment and then within that discontentment

the mind is spinning the mind is plodding how can we change this but as God begins to work maturity in our life and begins to give us a heart that is able to put off childish ways we begin to recognize that our problem is not in what's going on outwardly but essentially our problem is what's inside and that we realize that God is working on the inside through the circumstances and that circumstances no longer have the eye of an enemy to us because we see the eye of our father and we recognize that circumstances serve his purpose and that develops a rest a contentment a cessation from fighting and struggling and an upward looking all by grace an upward looking to our father in heaven beginning in verse number four charity suffers long to suffer long is to put up with a very very long time

as opposed to hasty anger to put up with for a very long time as opposed to hasty anger to endure patiently as opposed to losing or giving up this word is used particularly in relation to others it's used particularly in relation to others and so when the scripture says love or charity is long suffering it indicates a quality that God alone possesses and that God alone can put in us that enables us to put up patiently with others now brothers and sisters in order to drive this home there's a parable that we want to read Matthew chapter 8 I believe it's very important that the Lord put charity suffereth long first this parable will help us to understand the depths to which this particular scripture charity suffereth long it will help us to understand the depths of the meaning of that verse

listen carefully as we read in Matthew chapter 18 beginning in verse number 23 therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king now this king we're going to interpret as being Jesus himself ok this is king Jesus this is our father in heaven this is the king that the story is talking about Jesus spoke in parables which are earthly stories to illustrate heavenly truths parables are earthly stories to illustrate heavenly truths so this is an earthly story some parables actually were true and some he just made up but they always illustrated a heavenly truth listen to this there was a certain king which would take account of his servants our accountability is with king Jesus brothers and sisters there'll be a day of reckoning when we'll all stand before him and we'll have to give

an account now let me say this we will have to give an account for many different things but in particular we're going to see this particular accountability and what it has to do with and it connects to charity suffereth long God help us help us Holy Spirit help us Lord I pray you'll turn the video camera on let us begin to see by revelation of the Holy Spirit the truth about the measure of grace that's working in us right now about this Lord help us to see and when he had begun to reckon verse 24 one was brought unto him which owed him ten thousand talents but for as much as he had nothing to pay his Lord commanded him to be sold and his wife and children and all that he had and payment to be made notice verse 26 if you write in your Bible then I want you to make a cross reference that's

about to occur just watch the servant therefore fell down now let's stop right now every single one that is in this order pay we have sinned against God and God is asking for an account and we're saying God we don't have what it takes Lord we stand guilty before you there's none of us here who is exempt from this truth right now not one of us the servant fell down and worshipped him saying Lord have patience now cross reference that to 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 4a because it's the same word charity suffereth long Lord have patience in other words he was saying God I've blown it I've sinned I've failed you but be long-suffering toward me be long-suffering toward me have mercy on me please God I don't want you to sell my family and my children and my wife Lord have mercy upon me Lord

be long-suffering what happened I will pay them all then the Lord of that servant was moved with charity compassion and loosed him freed him and forgave him the debt but the same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants which owed him a hundred pence the same servant that's you and me we cried out to the Lord for mercy and he forgave us of our debt and now what we have done we've been forgiven ten thousand dollars and now the same servant Phil you we left the presence of our master and we found someone one of our own brothers or sisters the scripture says here a fellow servant this fellow servant owed him a hundred pence hundred dollars and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat saying pay me that thou owest and his fellow servant fell down at his feet and besought

him saying have patience now did that servant hear that word before it came out of his mouth when he was bowing on his knees before the king who was demanding him to pay his ten thousand dollars he said the very same thing have patience on me and now he is in the very same situation with a fellow servant that he was in with the king in verse thirty says and he would not but went and cast him into prison till he should pay the debt so when his fellow servant saw what was done they were very sorry and came and told unto their lord all that was done and his lord after that he had called him said unto him brothers and sisters listen to this language O thou wicked servant I forgave you all that debt because you desired me to should not you also have had compassion on thy fellow servant even as

I had compassion on you and his lord was angry and delivered him to the tormentors till he should pay all that was due unto him so likewise shall my heavenly father do also unto you if you from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespass charity suffers long there's your commentary there's your meaning of this thing called charity that we know nothing about I'll take liberty by the holy spirit now and say you look and find your closest and dearest friend here and let them cross you and you see how much love you have in your heart for them we don't know much about this love but this is what spiritual maturity is and I'll tell you there's a lot of dear Christians today who have been delivered to the tormentors because they would not forgive the person that hurt them even

after they cried out to Jesus and Jesus forgave them I'm not going to go into this deeply but the bible says fear hath torment and isn't God's word fits together but perfect love what? casts out all torment may I say brothers and sisters the root of our inability to forgive from the heart lies in the absence of this perfect love and the absence of perfect love produces fear and torment James chapter 5 verse number 7 be patient therefore brethren same word patient unto the coming of the Lord behold the husbandman waited for the precious fruit of the earth and he hath long patience same word until he received the early and latter rain be ye therefore patient same word charity suffereth long we're not going to move on to the next one we want to stay here for a few more moments now listen

brothers and sisters please let us go on unto perfection where do you think God is going to give you the opportunity to discover this wealth this gem this piece of pure gold inherent within the heart of Jesus Christ

where are you going to find it right where you're at now you see it the people in your life right now are God's gift to you so that you can discover first of all how you have no ability in yourself to be long suffering and patient and forgiving but once you discover that you can take that withered hand you can take that failure you can take that miserable sin oh I failed so much here I prayed God forgive me and he forgave me and I'm holding this grudge or I'm wrestling with being patient with this person or that person have you seen it for what it is have you seen it to be a

withered crippled condition in your heart God says be long suffering and we've got to say but Lord it's not in me to be long suffering it's not in me to be long suffering Lord I'm just the opposite I could wring their neck I could plot ways to hurt them real easy Lord I could wish that they would perish from the earth if given an opportunity I'd seek vengeance Lord and God says at the moment of our confession not until the moment of our confession he says stretch forth thy hand and then the miracle of transformation takes place and Jesus begins to put in us apart from us something from himself and then we find the power after we swallow the bitterness of defeat the bitterness of I don't have it in myself then we find the sweetness of God's word and Jesus and that's where we find Stephen

being stoned you know without grace we're closing now, without grace you know what you'll do when stones are being thrown at you, you know stones not literal, when you're being hurt you're being taken advantage of you're being misunderstood, you know what you'll do you'll get your ruler out and measure the size of the stones here's how you know whether there's a forgiving heart in you or not not only will you get your measuring rod out and measure the stones but whenever you talk to someone you'll start talking to them about the stones being thrown at you but when grace comes and when the road of maturity begins to dawn upon us and father begins to discipline us like Stephen when the stones begin to come what does it say in the scripture Stephen's eyes looked where up to heaven Bill they

weren't on the stones they weren't on the sides of the stones his eyes looked up to heaven and he saw the Son of God standing and then what came out of his mouth do not hold this sin against them I would think that probably Stephen saw not the stones that were coming at him but the boulders he was throwing at the Lord you see the stones that were coming at him was his fellow servant his fellow servant in the parable, his fellow servant his fellow brother but oh he didn't see the size of those stones because he saw the boulders that he had thrown at the Lord himself and that he had begged for mercy and God said I release you of your debt so Stephen was too preoccupied with the size of the boulders that were forgiving him to be able to even reckon the little stones that were coming at him

and brothers and sisters there is a grace available in Jesus Christ, there is a grace available when God begins to bring us down the road of maturity where our eyes are so captured on him and we see him so clearly that we don't take into account the wrongs against us and we have the power to be long suffering toward our brothers and sisters and put up with their faults okay dear ones that's number one let's look to him now for a few moments because I believe God has spoken to all of us and now he wants to work in our hearts

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