

PRAY EVERY DAY June 26, 2022 Resource

*A Collect for Grace from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may do always what is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2022 Challenge (One Year Bible Reading Plan)*

You may find this plan on the Virginia Annual Conference website <https://vaumc.org> or pick up a copy at KUMC.

*The Bible in a Year with KUMC*

This plan is available at KUMC and on the church website. This plan can be started at anytime.

*Hymn #353 from A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists, 1780*

What! never speak one evil word!  
Or rash, or idle, or unkind?  
O how shall I, most gracious Lord,  
This mark of true perfection find?

Forgive, and make my nature whole,  
My inbred malady remove;  
To perfect health restore my soul,  
To perfect holiness and love.

*Small Group or personal study*

- What was your furthest moment from God this week?
- What was your closest moment to God this week?
- Read 1 John 4:7-21
- “Perfecting Grace” and “Christian Perfection” are two ways of describing a distinctive and oft misunderstood aspect of John Wesley’s theology of grace. John Wesley contended that if the scriptures call for us to be holy as God is holy and to love perfectly as God does, then God must have the gift of grace to make it so in us. Read and consider some of the Bible passages on the call to be holy and perfect in the love of God and consider if you think God can do it in people and you: Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:1-2; 20:26; Matthew 5:48; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7; 5:23-24; Hebrews 6:1; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 John 2:3-6; 4:12.
- Perfecting grace is not related to human ideas of perfection. Christians who are very close the God, quite sanctified, and filled with faith are not free from imperfections like ignorance, infirmities, mistakes, or temptations. Perfecting grace is God’s work of removing sin from our lives (negative) and empowering us to love God and our neighbors as ourselves (positive), even to love perfectly. Perfecting grace does not usually result in lifelong sinlessness or perfect loving. Christian perfection is not a state to be reached, but it is grace we are transformed by in relationship to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sin breaks relationship with God and neighbor. The perfecting grace of God enables us to perfectly love God and

neighbor. What do think about God's perfecting grace being God's power to let you love like God loves (both God and neighbor)? What questions do you have about perfecting grace?

- If God desires us to be holy and love like God loves AND God is able to bring the fullness of God's love to us in the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit, then what would hold you back from seeking, praying for, and receiving that grace? What sins would be better than the freedom and love God has for? If God has perfecting grace for us, would we settle for less than the God's full restoration, forgiveness, and love?

*A Prayer of Augustine of Hippo*

This only do I ask of thy extreme kindness. That thou convert me wholly to thee and thou allow nothing to prevent me from wending my way to thee.

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships*

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

*A Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.