

Understanding

Grace

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INTRODUCTION: DEMYSTIFYING GRACE

The writings of Peter in his epistles are very unique; and they focus on the multiplication of grace and peace.

1 Peter 1:1-2

1. Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

2 Peter 1:1,4

1. Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Peter was sent to the Jews and Paul to the Gentiles. Peter wrote to the Jewish churches in Gentile nations. Jews in Gentile nations are people of covenants and not like Gentiles who were alienated from covenants. The Jews have God and that is why the Samaritan woman said, ‘the Jews ought to worship in Jerusalem’, because the name of the Lord is there. (John 4: 20b) Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship...”. Samaritans seem to be impure people because they have to move from Samaria to Jerusalem.

The pure Jews were in Jerusalem because they were regarded as the people of God, they have God. So, if they will believe Jesus, it must be for a reason. There is something they want to get; and that cannot be gotten through the law. ***Romans 4:1-2, 13-14.*** Abraham found faith. The Jews have the oracles and covenants. They actually enjoyed covenants through the law via Abraham and David; and have gained many natural things likewise.

Romans 9:4

Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises;

Christ was the seed that was promised to the Jews. So, from their seed, Christ must come out; He is their actual gain. If the Gospel will come to them, it must bring something that they have no access to through the law. This is one of the problems of the church. The church has not really come to settle with God on the promise because the faith we use today cannot win the Jews, since it projects what God had already done for them through the law. The prosperity of the churches in Nigeria cannot be compared with the prosperity and creativity that the Israelites had displayed.

The covenant blessing of prosperity includes and depends on the covenant of Life and Peace. But we hardly project the covenant of Life and Peace which ought to be expressed through Grace. The epistles are painted with Grace and Peace, which does not seem to make sense to some people because it is regarded as the language of Paul but it went beyond him to Peter who talked about grace and peace being multiplied.

CHAPTER ONE

GRACE AND PEACE: THE COMPOSITE OF THE COVENANT OF LIFE AND PEACE

In the first epistle of John, it appeared like he was not talking about Grace and Peace. His address was first to the elders which eventually ushered in the subject of grace and peace to the Church. So, Why this emphasis on Grace and Peace? If the Lord will multiply grace and peace towards us, we must appreciate the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, because grace and peace are documents for effectual spiritual living.

The Operations of Grace

1. Grace: A Tool for Salvation.

According to *2 Cor 13:14, which reads: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, [be] with you all. Amen*; grace must always be with us, this must not be absent in our lives as it pertains to the new covenant, else, everything becomes wrong with us. There is a grace that Christ brought that must be multiplied because, this is how we know we have grace.

2 Peter 1:2, Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

From the scriptures, it is clear that we can get many things from God without Christ but we cannot experience the salvation of the soul outside Christ. The devil fights to stop our salvation, and we need abundance of grace to stop his activities. The gospel is given for salvation and so is grace. The Grace of the Lord Jesus is not needed for wealth because covenant of the law can do that. The covenant in the New Testament assures us of salvation which grants us the assurance of receiving Eternal life. God's covenant with David is that his seed will always be on the throne and God kept this covenant to his children after him, even when they misbehaved, He would chastise them and correct them. However, in Christ, these natural covenants are converted into spiritual realities.

In the New Testament, God wants to lavish grace and peace on us till we live solely by grace because, every other natural thing we enjoy does not last with us. When we receive grace, it brings us into eternal salvation because, it is the real currency of heaven. As what sustains the earth is the natural water so also is the realm of God sustained by the living water (eternal life).

The only water that can satisfy our soul is the living water which is in the realm of God. Jacob dug the well which the Samaritan woman was speaking about in *John 4:12...Art thou greater than our father Jacob which gave us the well...*? God gave Isaac and Jacob wells but God also knew that they will need another well in the future, which they will fetch from and that will never run dry. The provision of the New Testament is to bring us into a life that will not expire; this is the essence for grace and peace.

2. Grace: A Tool of Change

According to *Exodus 33:13 if I have found grace in thy sight, now show me thy way, that I may know thee...* Moses was asking for grace because he knew that the lineage he was in will pass away. In verse 13 of 1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...* we see clearly that there is something grace ought to impact if we press into it, which translates into change in us. Glory appears when we look to the end for grace. There is an energy our hearts need to exert to the end as only then will we find the change that comes through grace.

Note: There is no one that cannot change.

Grace can make a violent man become a lovely man but, the law cannot provide this change. (II Corinthians 3:8) The Devil brings divers kinds of temptation so that we will lose our hold but God increases grace. Any problem that comes against us in the path of grace further increases grace towards us, and as we are moving into knowing God, we are being changed. Our issues are used to change us so that we will not know God in our heads but our hearts.

3. Grace: Our Tool for Service

God is able to make the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be sufficient towards us so that we are able to do every good work (2Cor 9:8). This means that the devil will not be able to stop us from doing every good work. Paul was able to write dangerous epistles while in prison because of grace. Therefore, our inadequacies no longer becomes are not our limitations. While we stay with Jesus and the ministry of grace, all that we need to do, we will do. There are natural things we get without raising the covenant of the law but of eternal life. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ does not work with how much we have, it emphasizes on the heart posture. Important to note is that any change that does not affect the heart is no change at all.

The natural mind cannot give peace, we must never trust it, because it is judgmental. The evolution of the spirit might be a little bit slow but it will do a good and lasting job. If we can look till the end for the grace, that is, following the Lord and not being religious, we will end well. Though the head (human ability) engineers faster results; yet if we commit ourselves to it, it will sink us. We should learn to trust in the Spirit because our end should be in the Spirit.

4. Grace: A Tool That Ensures Fruitfulness and Relevance

Men that are in the spirit will always be fruitful, even in their old age. When men in their mind, at forty, would have reached their peaks, especially in natural endeavors, the spiritual man gradually evolving. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of faith is for grace, because grace is attached to faith. Each time faith is activated, grace is released. Hence, there is salvation. Grace is a life code we are learning and it is not by observation but by revelations. As long as faith is residing in us, then grace is accessible.

Jesus was raised for thirty years for a job of three and a half years which naturally makes no sense. He was a carpenter; yet, he knew He had a higher calling. We need to know that whatsoever we are in the natural cannot be compared to what grace can make out of us. Grace will outgrow the flesh. We are required to live and function as elders in the Spirit. We should find grace to accelerate unto salvation and, because faith is provided through the word we hear, we must never allow a disconnect.



CHAPTER TWO

THE THRONIC INVITATION OF GRACE

(Heb 4:16- Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need...). This scripture is an invitation of Grace to the throne. There is a place in the spirit called the throne, which Jesus Christ manages and from where Mercy flows.

People seem to value mercy more than grace but grace opens the portal for mercy. Mercy overlooks what we have done but grace brings us to what or who we should be; mercy overlooks our works but does not change us while grace transforms us and place us where we should be.

The Peculiarity of Grace

1. Christ: The Grace of God

When we are celebrating Jesus, we are celebrating the grace of God. The good news of the gospel is that God can change the mortal man into an immortal entity. Whatsoever will amount to Christ is a product of grace. If we know what grace is meant for, we will know what it wrought in Jesus and we will not frustrate or despise it. Grace is about change and as long as we are in Christ, we can be changed. We are only expected to understand the administrations of grace so that we will not oppose it but rather cooperate with it. Grace comes from God and not from us; whatsoever we do or achieve as an accomplishment is what grace has allowed.

2. Grace: The Pathway into Peace

There is a grace we received at new birth which is rest, Matt 11:28-29:*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls...* When we learn of Him, we enter into peace and rest; the way to peace is rest. When grace is fully formed it leads to rest. The season of Grace brings us the entrance into the way of peace. When we do not know how to receive grace, we will frustrate it. Grace is not expressed until it turns to peace and that is how Grace and peace are multiplied we must come to receive grace for peace.

3. Grace: Our Initiation into the Life of The Throne

2 Timothy 1:1b...*according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus...* The promise of life is in Christ Jesus and what is in Christ is called Grace and Truth. So, it is the working of grace that produces life. The way grace should work is by abiding in us, thereby it produces life because, we cannot access the promised life without grace. What was promised before the world began was life. *1 John 2:25..and this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.* If we were told that all Christ brought for us were grace, mercy and peace, would we have been satisfied? Are we aware that all these writings are blessings, greetings of the seven Spirits and thronic salutation? The seven spirits are the eye of the Lord which constitutes grace. Our destiny as children of God is the throne which we are being welcomed into. As Christ overcame and is seated, we also need to do the same. This is because the last victory is that we must sit with Christ completely on the throne as partaker with Him. The throne is nature, authority, right and inheritance and this is what we are heirs of. We are heirs of life.

It is also the throne of God and of Life. We will not enjoy Church, Jesus Christ, The New Testament and God until we come into these things. The Church of Jesus Christ is where grace is administered because Christ is the administrator of grace and the essence of all these things is for us to come into rest so that death is totally dealt with.



Grace destroys the effect of death and it brings Life to appearance. Life cannot come into existence without death, being first of all dealt with. This is the project of grace and why it needs to be multiplied. If life appears then there is hope for immortality to appear. Those who receive and enjoy Grace are those who are holding the promise of life. Grace is not for trading but for living. The gifts of the Spirit are measure of grace and they are called manifestations of the Spirit which came by Jesus. Grace is the divine ability given by the Spirit. It is the enabling power given by Jesus Christ and it is not for personal profiting; it is the endowment from the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER THREE

THE REIGN OF GRACE: THE WHEEL FOR APPREHENSION AND OBEDIENCE IN SERVICE

The insights that come from the Spirit are very instructive and enlightening enough to shed light on a number of doubts in people's hearts and issues that can cause offence in the heart, and make one stumble. We are on the way; and there are many stones on the way that can cause us to stumble. Yet, it is possible to journey and make progress on the path of Life, though many travellers who have been ordained for glory have stumbled on this same path because the devil is no respecter of persons, he can trap anyone. Romans 5:20b.... *where sin abound, Grace did much more abound...*

Grace: A Tool For Willful Service

It does not matter how long sin has been in existence, grace can outweigh it. This is why if we come into contact with anyone on the path who has a problem, we come to them with compassion, knowing that they are also elect and have been commissioned to enter into glory. Though sin may have reigned unto death, even so, it has been determined that Grace should reign through Righteousness unto Eternal Life. If a generation will speak of Eternal Life, they must speak also of the reign of Grace. This generation must talk about how grace will abound and will outweigh all the works of death and darkness.

How will these happen?

- One of the key ways for this to happen is in Romans 6:16a: *...know ye not that to whom ye yield yourself servant to obey...*, talking about the reign of life is talking about a son who is serving. Any generation that talks about the reign of life, is asserting that sons will serve God, His righteousness and find help to go beyond physical service to serving the revelation and unveiling of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It also means that sons will come into the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. It is true that we have served sin unto death, but God be thanked because according to Rom6:17. *that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that "form of doctrine" which was delivered you...* This pattern or form is an instructional

scheme or wisdom of delivery because it is possible to have doctrine and not have the pattern of doctrine. This is why the place of the delivery of the word, must not just be of babbling but a form of doctrine must be delivered and when people receive this pattern or form of doctrine, it should make men free to become servants of righteousness.

The template of our functionality is that God will begin to move us to serve righteousness and the requirement is that man must obey from the heart. It is not of compulsion; man must come to a point where there is a willingness of the heart to obey "that form of doctrine". It is not just a general thing in the Church but personal Experience. We will realize that the day this personal experience of willingness to obey the doctrine happens, those teachings of the past that appear ineffective will be turned into grace; which means that learning has taken place, thus, signaling a conversion. We must know that it is possible to have a pack of knowledge from teachings, which leave us trying to obey one instruction after the other but, the truth is that it is the doctrine that should produce the life. So, it will take a lot of energy to try to obey them one by one. In Paul's writing, a time came when he gave thanks to God over the people for obeying God from the heart. Just as the scriptures says in Isaiah 1:19: *if ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land...*

Grace: A Tool for Apprehension and Obedience in Service

Man is a free entity because he has the ability to make choices and to stay on a decision either positive or negative. A man can be listening to teachings and decide not to obey what he has heard and just stay with it irrespective of whether the word has the power or potency to convert the soul. Hence, is the need for the positioning of the heart to obey teachings and the requirements for grace. It is expedient that we meet Jesus; Paul met him and something opened in his Heart. What he used to struggle with ceased, because it is the place of oath (Hebrew 6:16...*for men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end to all strife*), this is when the word of God becomes a thing that is compulsory for us. Others may have a choice on what they want to preach or teach but to Paul it was an apprehension, something was laid upon him, and you will hear him say words like:....*woe is me if I preach not the gospel!...1 Corinthians 9:16b*...This could come out of him because he came in contact with

a Person who changed his orientation and he submitted his will to Him. He laid down his will to take on the Will of God.

Struggle and strife should cease as we become children of obedience and when we are looked upon in the spirit, we should be recognized as children of obedience because we would have willfully turned our heart to obey the doctrine of Christ) *...whom shall he teach knowledge, and to whom shall he make to understand doctrine?... (Isaiah 28:9)*. There must be a weaning and a drawing out from our zones of comfort. There may have been moments in our lives when we have enjoyed what we wanted to enjoy but, there comes moments when we must enjoy only the needful. We must only be drawn by the needful, even though it is hard. Doctrine must become our desire and we must move to the zone where our need comprises only of the needful. Nothing changes a man as doctrine does! Once we have learned doctrine, change becomes rapid and we will follow the epistles such that everything it teaches become important and this will frame us in the same manner to become people of common discussion. The deep things in the Father's heart will become the things he will begin to discuss with us because doctrine is meant for those who will not err, who will do the will of God.

