

- EMEKA NDUKWE

The law of Moses demanded that it be tooth for tooth, life for life and blood for blood, wound for wound, and stripe for stripe(Exodus 21:23-25). That law was given by God, through Moses, for the nation of Israel to observe. And so, God who gave the law could not bypass it to bring grace. That was whythescripture says that Christ did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).

Jesus did not bypass the law to bring grace. He actually paid the price demanded by the law once and for all. He bore all the penalties of the law that you should have gone through so He could bring grace to you.

The law demanded the shedding of blood for the remission of sin (**Hebrews 9:22**). That was why Jesus had to shed His blood on the cross of calvary. The blood of bulls in the days of the law covered the sins of the people. But the blood of Jesus does not cover sins, it washes them off completely. The blood so cleanses you that even the devil who is the accuser of brethren has no

sins with which to accuse you before the Father. That is how powerful the blood of Jesus can be, as part of the finished work of the cross of calvary.

The law says it is wound for wound(Exodus 21:25), and so, Jesus had to wounded for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5). The law says stripe for stripe(Exodus 21:25), and so, He bore the stripes for us on the cross of calvary(Isaiah 53:5).

The law says that the penalty for sin is death(Ezekiel 18:20) and so, Jesus had to die on the cross of calvary for our sins. This is fulfill the payments as required by the law. Jesus had to pay all of the price as demanded by the law. He could not bypass any of the law as doing so would have meant going against the law as given by God through Moses. Jesus disarmed the law that should have stood against you, not by destroying the law, but by paying all it demanded. And so, if you are in Christ, the law had been disarmed concerning you. That is the reason the scripture says that you are no longer

under the law (Romans 6:14).

"exchange of life". It is now the life of Christ in place of your own life. That is why Apostle Paul could say, "It's no longer I that liveth, but Christ in life. That was why the scripture says that God lives in me"(Galatians 2:20). The life of Christ can never be under the power of the old nature, which is the sin nature. In Christ Jesus, you are a new creation in the order of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). And Jesus, whose life you now live, can never be a victim of the law.

Nowonder, the scripture says that the law is no I prayed for one man and spoke some words of longer meant for you(1 Timothy 1:9). Meaning grace over his life, and God prospered him that grace has placed you above the law, and this tremendously in his business. After some time, he isbecause you now live a righteous life by grace. returned back to me and said "pastor, hope I will Grace is not a ticket to sin. The life of grace is the not be asking for too much if I ask God to do more life that lives above sin! This is where the body of for me?". The truth is that grace is an Christ is missing it. If you truly understand grace, inexhaustible ocean. Nothing you fetch from it then you should live above sin. It is at the grace that can reduce it. Christ is an inexhaustible bank realm that scripture says you are no longer a of grace. There is no demand you place on God victim of the law. Outside of grace, you are through Christ that can be too much on God, or perpetually a victim of law and its death penalty.

When the scripture says, "as sin increases, grace also increases..."(Romans 5:20) it does not mean that God increases grace, so you can continue to sin. It only means that God withholds the wrath of the law through His grace, so as to give the sinner room to repent. That scripture is for the one that is yet to be born again. For it is written, the one that is born of God (born again), does not continue to sin(1 John 3:9).

I was reading through one young man's article, and he said "a Christian cannot go to hell". At first, it didn't sound appealing to me, but after I pondered over it, I discovered it was the truth in a very raw form. It was not a "religious statement".It was a truthful statement. Who is a Christian? A Christian is someone that is Christlike. You cannot be living like Christ and still end up in hell. Just like Christ Himself cannot end up in hell. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ brings you to the dimensions of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that like Christ, you can also live above sin! It is because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that the scripture says, "sin shall not have dominion over you"(Romans 6:14).

Apostle Paul said "I am what I am, by the grace

God" (1 Corinthians 15:10), meaning that grace gives you the capacity to become whatever you In the grace dimension, what you have is an desire to be. The grace of God gives you the capacity to achieve your heart's desires.

> You cannot understand grace and yet be stranded shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory(Philippians 4:19). His riches in glory are the resources of God made available through Christ. And that defines grace. For grace simply means God's Resources at Christ's Expense.

> can make heaven go bankrupt. Grace is an open check. A song writer called it extravagant grace. Those that understand grace live in plenty.

UNDERSTANDING THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

There were two things that qualified Jesus to die on the cross of Calvary: (1) He was without sin(1 Peter 2:22), and (2) He was anointed (Psalm 45:7). That was why He was referred to as the Holy and Anointed One. Take a careful look at the scripture, and you will discover that the Holy Spirit had all of these qualities as well. He was also holy and anointed, and that is why He is reffered to as the Holy Spirit.

I was talking with the Holy Spirit, and I asked Him why was it He couldn't come in the form of man to die on the cross of calvary in the place of Jesus, since He was able to come to earth in the form of a dove? And He said to me, "my office didn't cover that assignment", and I said, how? And He said to me, "under the dispensation of the law, it is a man's son that is held responsible for whatever his father did" (Deutronomy 5:9).

And so, after the Father brought the law, and it was impossible for Him(the Father) to come to the earth to settle the law by dying on the cross of Calvary, (moreover, the earth could not contain Him - Isaiah 66:1-2), it had to be Jesus, His only begotten son that could pay the price for the sins of man. Jesus coming to die on the cross of Calvary was in compliance with the law as was stipulated by the Father. In other words, the Father's son (Jesus Christ) was held in place of the Father as stipulated by the law. Law was that brutal!

In the physical realm, when someone says, "the law will catch up with you", you already know he is not wishing you well. This is the true picture; It's like a tenant that had been living in a public, unkept and dirty yard. He owes the landlord of the house rent of many years, plus other in addition to some penalties as a result of not keeping to the rules and regulations of the public yard. And all of a sudden, the tenant's father shows up and says he wants to relocate him to a new well furnished duplex which he had freely built for him. The tenant's father will have to settle the owner of the public yard all that his son was owing over the years. That was how God settled the law to move you to another dimension of life which is the life of grace.

That dirty public yard was the life of law. The new dulpex is the life of grace. Notice that in the public yard he owed rents. But the new duplex is freely his own. He cannot owe rent there because he doesn't need to pay any rents for what his father had bought for him to freely live in. That is exactly what the grace dimension is all about. It is a life beyond the law. It is a dimension of life where you don't pay "rent" to the law. It is therefore a life beyond sin. If you understand grace, you should be living above sin. It is at the grace dimension that the scripture says the law is no longer your schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24-27).

Look at how the scripture puts it, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on

Christ"(Galatians 3:24-27, KJV).

Like I told you earlier on, God could not just come down to the earth to abolish the same law He brought, for kings don't sallow their words. God rather settled the law by sending His only begotten Son to die on the cross of Calvary. God could not abolish the law, He rather settled it (Matthew 5:17). So His people could be free from the law and move to the grace dimension of life. That is why the scripture says that those that continue to live in sin are nailing Christ to the cross the second time(Hebrews 6:6). It is like asking Christ to go through the painful process of dying on the cross of Calvary all over again.

The life of law is like the life of the woman with the issue of blood. The more she tried to stop the bleeding, the more she bled. Until she spent all that she had and went bankrupt (Matthew 5:26). What happened to the woman with the issue of blood was more than just healing. It was an exchange of life. Jesus collected her leaky life and gave her His own life that was not leaky. That perfectly describes grace; it is a life that is leak proof, it is beyond the reach of the law. It is a whole life of holiness unto God.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and never said that virtue left Him. Because He did that by the anointing. But when the woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus, He said virtue left Him(Luke 8:46, KJV). Because, what she pulled from Him was the Zoe, which means the God kind of life. And because the life of God which she now had could not be leaky, she stopped leaking blood. (You can see my episode on THE LIFE OF GOD for more clarity)

One young barrister came to me one day and said to me, "pastor, how come you live a life of holiness?" He said each time he told himself that he was going to stop sleeping with women, he found himself sleeping with three different women the following day. How was I to help him? I took him to the scripture and let him know that there was a gracedimension to life whereby it is now Christ Himself that lives through a man, and therefore causes the man to live above sin (Galatians 2:20). He saw his powerlessness and so accepted the powerful life that Christ Himself offers.

GRACE THROUGH FAITH

The life of grace is to be accessed. How? Through faith. That is why the scripture describes it as grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). The life of grace has nothing to do with your human efforts. For if it were so, God would have expected you to save yourself from sin without having to send His son Jesus Christ to die for you on the cross of calvary. The grace dimension of life is a full package and that is why it is described as the finished work of Christ on the cross of calvary. You can't do it better than Jesus did it. It is a finished and perfect product. You cannot improve on it; all you need do is to accept it by faith. It is therefore the life of grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All you need do is reckon with the finished work of the cross. And this grace dimension will be downloaded in your spiritman as a spiritual software. That is when you find yourself living above the same sin that besiege as well as kill others. Don't let anyone make the grace dimension of life look complex to you. God had taken care of all of its complexity by sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross of calvary for you. And your part is to accept all that Jesus had already done.

Any thing that makes grace and the finished work of the cross to appear complex and unattainable to you is not of God. Just release your faith in its simplicity and you will be amazed at how much grace you will be operating in. the scripture says even if your faith is as small as the mustard seed, you can still operate spiritual principles

(Matthew 17:20). And you can be sure that the faith in your spirit per time will at least be the size of the mustard seed. Release it that way and tap into some dimensions of grace.

God knows that you can only live and survive as a child of God by grace. And so, He had made accessing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ a very simple thing. So much so that even the faith as small as the mustard seed can fetch you the needed grace. When you understand and operate this spiritual principle, your life can never be devoid of grace. It is because you don't understand that you can access grace by a childlike faith that you are still enslaved by sin. It is never in God's program for you to be enslaved by any form of sin.

Being a slave to sin is a mockery of the finished work our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Nothing that is a mockery can ever please God. That was what the scripture was pointing at when it said that without faith it is impossible to please God(Hebrew 11:6). Reason being that without faith, you cannot access grace. And once you cannot access grace, your life becomes a disgrace, making it displeasing to God. And so, your life as a whole is displeasing to God because you are out of grace, and the reason why you are out of grace is because you are without faith. For it takes grace to live above the disgrace of sin. And grace can only be accessed through faith. That is why without faith it is impossible to please God. It is faith that ushers you to the grace dimension, and it is because of grace that your life is pleasing to God.

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