The Cross Before The Crown

1Peter 5:10—*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.* 11—*To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*.12—*By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Adam had the Tree of Life available to him every day, but was more interested in other things. Not everyone is going to want God’s glory, but there is a calling that goes out to all.

1. **The Calling to the Crown**
   1. There is Grace with the Calling

God’s all Sufficient Grace is for you to make it. *“But the God of all grace”*

2Cor.12:9*—And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

* He knew God called him to preach and even to suffer, but he learned better and more clearly of God’s will through suffering.

2Cor. 4:15*—For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

* When you are going through hard times, believe for God’s grace. He has ALL we need.
* “of many” –Others can benefit from our meekness in suffering. Paul had a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble. We in turn benefit from Paul’s suffering in that we now see an example of God’s grace at work.

2Cor. 8:9*—For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

2Cor. 9:8*—And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Romans 16:24*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

2Cor.13:14*—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.*

* “you all” –God is calling me!
* Move my faith toward His grace, He will give what I Believe Him for. It will be according to my faith.
* There is a lot to receive and it is going to take all the grace of God to receive it.

Eph 6:24*—Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*

* Be real, honest, consistent🡪God’s grace is given to those that are!

Php 4:23*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

2Thes. 3:18*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

1. Prevenient Grace
2. Illuminating Grace
3. Saving Grace
4. Justifying Grace
5. Enabling Grace
6. Sustaining Grace
7. Refreshing Grace
8. Comforting Grace
9. Restoring Grace
10. Growing Grace
11. Enduring Grace
12. Sanctifying Grace
13. Living Grace
14. Dying Grace
15. Grace to be Watchful
16. Grace to be Sober
17. Grace to Resist
    1. There are Stages in the Calling
       1. Infancy 🡪 Child

* The Holy Ghost infilling brings you from an infant to a child. This is a greater experience added to salvation.
  + 1. Cadet 🡪 Solider
    2. Child 🡪 Son
* A ‘child’ has not yet ‘arrived. Must climb higher and draw closer to Christ’s stature.
  1. There is a Climax to the Calling
* We will not understand this ‘climax’ by just reading our Bible.
  + 1. Christ is the Ideal to Behold.

The calling is to HIS glory. Without His example to behold, we would be totall in the dark and blind to what to do and how to do concerning pleasing God.

Is there any difference in nature between the Father and the Son? No, not in holiness, righteousness, goodness, etc.

(Heb 1:3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

* + 1. Christ is the Example to Follow.

Christ’s glory should become our experience. In the Gospels Christ commanded the disciples “follow me” and “know the truth”. (there is a process—**made** free and not *set* free.)

When the head directs, the body should move!

No matter how much false there is, there is still a real: JESUS!

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

* Seek more and more.

(Mat 5:48) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

* We have been called FROM the **lowest** TO the **highest**.

(Eph 4:13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

* There is only one Son (Father-Son-Holy Ghost), YET he will bring many “sons” unto glory (Heb. 2:10). He will have a people that will become one with Him.
  1. There are Requirements in the Calling.

(Matthew 22:14) For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

* + - 1. Obedience is required
         1. Answer the call
         2. Rely only on His Grace
         3. Give Him all the Love, Praise and the Glory.

1. **The Course to the Crown**
   1. The Reality of Suffering & Conflict

There will be conflict.

* + 1. Kinds of Conflict
    2. INWARD: personal, emotional, intellectual.
    3. OUTWARD: family, World, physical
    4. SPIRITUAL: devil, Spirit
* God doesn’t tempt us, but the devil certainly will.,
* The thing Job feared came upon him. Ps. 40:12 ‘innumerable evils have compassed me about’ 🡪could not ‘look up.’ That is a horrible pit of depression when you cannot ‘look up.’

2. There must be conviction to overcome the conflicts.

* 1. The Reason for Suffering & Conflict

The course to the crown is through suffering. God’s purpose is to make you perfect. He allows suffering for a TEST or to PROVE you.

* + 1. Test of Faith
    2. Test of Patience
    3. Test of Obedience
    4. Test of Faithfulness
  1. The Results of Suffering & Conflict

(1Pe 5:10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you.*

* The crown is worth any suffering we have to go through.
* No amount of suffering should hinder us from seeking the crown.

**CONCLUSION**

1. To be one with Him, we must be LIKE Him and unlike Him in only one point = He alone is GOD.
2. You need all of the grace of God working in your life.