

The Whole Church #25 – Grace #2

AT Snacks -- July 14, 2024

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Monday:

There are seven things that we talk about that influence, season, and flavor everything we do around here:

The Kingdom Relationship with the Father Grace Relationships with One Another/
Family

Equipping the Saints Signs and Wonders The Poor

The most important thing I could ever tell you: Learn to relate to God as Father. That's the key to your life. Most everybody knows the concept, but fewer know Him experientially. That's where the magic happens.

It's you and Him, sharing and laughing together, interacting with one another. You, talking and listening to Him. You have to make that a priority. If you are not hearing the Lord, there's a good chance the problem is not on His end. **SO MAKE IT A PRIORITY!**

The Kingdom of God is relationship. Heads up: when you build a church on relationships, that's where the enemy directs his attack. He's going to try to cause you to get crossways with someone.

There are a lot of people in this room who are on the same page with what we're talking about. To be equipped for the work of the ministry. That's when the church and the ministry takes on a whole new dimension.

Don't let the Bible Belt mentality rob you of being equipped to walk in your full potential.

Tuesday:

The only way you can qualify is if all your resources, all the other opportunities to fix your situation, must have dried up. It leaves you in a place where only God can fix it. When this happens, you are a perfect candidate for a miracle, for signs and wonders.

As kingdom people, when you have a problem and you begin to contend with the Lord to fix that problem, one of only two things can happen. God either fixes your situation, or two, He's going to give you all the grace that you need to endure it till it gets fixed.

Paul had a thorn in his flesh, and he prayed three times that God would remove it, but God didn't do that. Paul found out in the middle of that, that in his weakness, the power and strength of God was made manifest.

A fair definition of grace: God's unmerited, unearned favor. But you are going to find out that that definition kind of falls short with what you're experiencing in your own life.

You have to experience grace to even start the process of understanding it.

Please read Ephesians 2:1-10. This scripture will set the stage for the rest of this message.

Where the world is today is probably worse now than it has ever been, because we're seeing things every day that we never, ever thought we would ever see in our lifetime.

Anytime you say amen to the reading of the Word, it goes into your spiritual bank account as truth. Because you agreed with it, the Spirit of God now will bring that to life in you, and He'll show you what that means, and something significant spiritually happens with you, whether you understand it or not.

For by grace, you have been saved through faith, not of yourself. It's the gift of God, unmerited and unearned.

Wednesday:

It takes someone like you, who's obedient and sensitive to the moving of the spirit in your life. When you engage, and when you get into one of those situations that require one of the works of God, He doesn't do it because you're qualified. He loves to use the unqualified to do the impossible.

A lot of people think that the church is going to get weaker and weaker, and Jesus is going to come and rescue us out. I don't believe that at all. I believe that there's supposed to be a glorious church, but you have to look with spiritual eyes to see what's happening.

Heads up. As kingdom people, when someone starts to mess with you and torment you, they're not just messing with you. They're messing with God.

You need to have some encounters with God. If you don't have an encounter, or some encounters, with God, you're going to just live a normal, uneventful, not exciting, not adventurous, benign spiritual life.

Paul had that encounter with the Lord, and he came out of that with an understanding of grace. He learned grace through all the things that he went through. He not only got struck blind by Jesus, but was beaten up several times, once left for dead. He was shipwrecked. He was snake-bit and was ostracized by his Jewish friends.

The church today needs to get out of its religious traditional mindset which keeps it from being what it's supposed to be. That's not just a bad thing, it's the most evil thing there is.

Thursday:

People who are captured and imprisoned by religious traditions are the most vile critics and detractors of what God is doing now.

The people who are the greatest problem, really, are the people who God moved in the last time. They still want it to be like it was the last time.

God can do different things, and what He's doing is different, so look for Him to move in unorthodox ways. It's not unorthodox for Him. It's unorthodox according to religious tradition.

It would be very good to read "Pure Grace" by Clark Whitten, and "Unfiltered Grace" by Joe Langley. Also, a book by Dallas Willard called, "Hearing God – Developing a Conversational Relationship with God". All three of these are great books on grace.

Do you want to be as free as Jesus died for you to be? You will never experience and enjoy your life to the fullest until you start the process of understanding God's grace.

How good do you want your life to be? It only comes through consistent communication and interaction with the Father.

Two of the ways that you don't get deceived is to know what the Bible says, to be in it some, and not wait until Sunday when I talk about it. And you have the Holy Spirit to show you, and quicken your heart, to what those things mean.

Deception is at an all time high, and you haven't seen anything yet. Get in the Word, pay attention to what the Word says, and then the Holy Spirit of God will bring that to light.

Friday:

It doesn't have to be a tragedy for grace to appear, whenever, however and for whatever grace is needed. It's always there, and there's always enough of it. The Father knows what you need and He won't keep you waiting, whatever you are going through right now. And whatever you need right now, there's grace for that.

Anytime you see God's people overcoming, getting blessed, seeing them triumphing or seeing them protected in any way, that's the grace of God being displayed.

An accurate understanding of grace always leads to less sin, never more sin. Criticizers of grace think it's about compromising right from wrong. Not so at all. And you discover in that atmosphere of you and Him communicating and interacting with one another. You'll find yourself along the way not wanting to compromise and not wanting to sin.

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He'll give you the desires of your heart, where you don't want to sin. He gives you grace not to sin.

Paul said it this way, "*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty. Only don't use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, serve one another*". So stand fast, brace up, hold your ground in the liberty where Christ has made you free, and don't be entangled again in a yoke of bondage.

Religious tradition is so strong in the Bible Belt. It makes it hard for God to do anything outside their religious tradition, just like in the first century and in about every denomination, or non-denomination has been preaching and teaching a mixture of law and grace. Here's what I say, "*Anybody preaching a mixture of law and grace, isn't preaching grace at all*".

Saturday:

Therefore, the liberty with Christ has made you free. And don't let some of these religious perverts drag you back in and put you under law and legalism.

You are not under the law anymore. When I tell people that they ARE NOT under the 10 commandments anymore, they think I'm preaching heresy. You're not under the 10 commandments anymore, because the keeper of the commandments lives in you.

Because you read your Bible and go to church every week, that doesn't make you righteous. Righteous people do those things, but that isn't what makes you righteous. You are made righteous because of what He did.

Jesus became sin that you might become the righteousness of God in Christ. You are righteous whether you do anything righteous or not. If you understand grace, your life will be an example all the time, by doing things that are righteous.

It takes people like you, who roll their sleeves up and start the process of understanding grace, to tell the rest of the world out there that God is not mad at them.

Please don't make the mistake of thinking that grace is only for the times when you're going through trials, because that's not true. It's there and sufficient all the time.

Grace must be experienced to be understood. You can't earn it. You can't read your Bible enough. You can't go to church enough. It's the gift of God, and all you have to do with a gift is receive it, the gift of grace.