

## The Whole Church #24 – Grace #9 (Communion)

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### Monday:

The Kingdom Cowboy podcast is an interview-type format, and we're putting out some really good stuff. I highly encourage you to join us on the podcast. It's all practical stuff that will help you.

In my time with the Lord this week, I found myself not discouraged, but just in a little bit of what you'd call... just a little bit of a funk, and I think this was one of those times the Lord revealed to me that a lot of people are going through this right now.

We are in a spiritual battle, and the stakes are really, really high. It just makes sense that the enemy tries to get in your way. He's a formidable foe, but he's already defeated, so you have to walk in your victory now.

It's not full blown discouragement, but it's in the neighborhood of it. It can kind of feel like you're on a downer a little bit. Galatians 6:9 says, "*Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season, we shall reap if we don't lose heart*".

Here's what's happening. God is testing your faith, which is a very important part of our walk with the Lord. God allows us to go through times of testing because He knows that it is good for us. James said, "*Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*". **God doesn't test your faith so He can find out where you are in it. He tests your faith so you can find out where you are in it.**

He's taking you through the fire in your lives. Even though it doesn't feel good, it's extremely good for you, because what happens when you go through the fire is that the impurities rise up to the surface. So, heads up and pay attention to the things that come to the surface that are not like Jesus.

He's strengthening your faith, and actually revealing to you what kind of faith you really have. That's why some of these tests feel so intense, like there's no way out of them. And again, that may not be a fun place to be, but it's a great time to turn more of your life over to the Lord. That's kind of what this whole thing is about.

### Tuesday:

You're being conformed through all these things-- good things, bad things, mountains and valleys, you're being conformed into the image of Jesus... to think like Him, to act like Him, and be like Him. He's showing you that your faith is a lot stronger and more powerful than you think it is.

There are two things that can happen with Kingdom people when they are going through a trial of any kind. God either fixes it right away (in a supernatural way) or He gives you the grace to

endure it and walk through it. He won't leave you, and He will remove you from every evil thing.

If you've done everything you know to do, the Bible says, "*After having done all, stand*". Brace up, stand, stay in your position in the Lord. After you have done all those things, and you're still in that situation, you have to know that God is doing something of extreme, redeeming, spiritual value in you during that time.

A lot of you are going through such intense testing and trial that exercising your faith is not just an option, it's mandatory. You have to exercise your faith to make it through this thing that you are going through right now.

Resilience means: when you get knocked down, you get right back up. He's building resilience in you so that you can stand the tests that are coming at you.

The enemy let the dogs out after us! It's coming against individuals and coming against the body of Christ and the church to discredit, to distract, and to take away our light and power.

### **Wednesday:**

If you look at it this way, it's intense training, not for some time in the future, but it's training for you now. It's about waking up to the things that God's doing, to be even more dependent on Him, and getting your focus on being obedient and anticipating a supernatural breakthrough.

The Lord said to me, "*If you could see what's just on the other side of this thing where you are at right now, you'd be so ecstatic, you wouldn't be able to stand still*".

Luke 22:14-15 says, *When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "with fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer"*.

In Exodus 12, God gave instructions to the Israelites because they were under bondage in Egypt. So, the Passover was that every family would take a lamb without spot or blemish and they would bring it into their household to slay it, to roast it, and to eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Unleavened is symbolic of purity, the absence of sin or compromise. The bitter herbs are symbolic of the reminder of the Israelite's oppression under Egyptian rule. Today, it's a reminder of the hardships of life that we experienced before we were born again.

They applied the blood of the lamb that they killed on the door posts of their houses, so the death angel wouldn't take the first born in that household, like what happened with the Egyptians.

The Passover is a prophetic foreshadowing of Christ's sacrificial death, delivering believers from the bondage of sin and ushering them into freedom and the abundant life of the new covenant. The new covenant was, and is, a covenant of grace.

### **Thursday:**

No man could keep the law. The Bible says that if you failed in one little facet of the law, you're guilty of the whole law. Wouldn't you rather walk in His grace, which should lead you to a deeper walk with the Lord, and cause you to give other people grace as well? If we don't give our fellow man grace, it contaminates a beautiful message.

Jesus came to fulfill the law. Everybody who will receive grace is freed from sin. If you can't quickly see that you have such a better deal under grace than you would have had under law, you're not looking. It's a monumental difference between law and grace.

It's sad that so many people in this day and time still choose to live under the law. They do all the righteous stuff, all the good things, hoping that they'll have a better, more healthy relationship with God, and it doesn't work that way.

You cannot have a better relationship with the Father than you have right now, but you have to walk it out, and you have to experience it. There's nothing that you can do to make God love you any more than He already does. That's grace!

**Paul wrote, "you are not under the law, you are under grace". You aren't under the law, not under the law, not under the law. He said it a lot of times, so people would get it. I'm surprised at how many people in the Bible Belt in America don't get it. They don't understand that they've already been freed up from the law.**

It means now that the law giver, the law keeper, the Spirit of God, Who lives in you now, keeps it through you, and you're not under the legalistic requirement of it.

When we observe the Lord's Supper, it is a celebration of the New Covenant...a covenant of grace.

Communion helps us to remember;

- Jesus's sacrificial death
- It's a declaration of faith to live our new life under grace and freedom from the law.
- It fosters coming into unity with one another and setting aside our differences (you can still have unity, though you don't agree on everything).
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- **Friday:**
- Where there is unity in a body, it's extremely, extremely powerful. When we come together and we drop our agenda, and walk in God's agenda and are committed, that's where the power, the favor, the grace of God, and the signs and wonders come. **When it stops being about you, you'll start to experience unity.**

**Communion reminds us of what Jesus went through on His way to the cross and in His death on the cross for only one reason, so that you and I could have the kind of relationship with the Father that Jesus has. Wow!!! If that doesn't do something in you, there's something really wrong with you.**

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 says, *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread and when He had given*

*thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me". In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me". For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

I'm like Paul in this way. I have such a love and belief for the body of Christ, and I believe so much that the church is going to be the Church. I just believe it. I can't shake it. I can't talk about it very long without choking up, breaking down, because of what God wants it to be. It's those who are walking in truth, in revelation, and in what God is saying today. That's the church I'm talking about.

My goal has always been to listen and hear what God is saying, and tell you what I believe I've heard from God. **That's what you need to do in your household. You need to get the lamb, kill it, and get the blood on your family. Dads, I'm talking to you. You need to step up in your household, and be the man that God has called you to be. You serve your household, dads. This will give you something to do for the rest of your life.**

### **Saturday:**

Before taking communion:

- Get your attitude right.
- Get your focus off yourself and onto Jesus.
- If you have "ought"(or, "issues") against a brother, straighten that thing out.
- Examine yourself. It's like personal self introspection. You look inside. You look at yourself and get honest with yourself. If you see things that need to be adjusted, you adjust them.
- See if you still have some residue of the law. See if you're just going through the motions.
- Are you really interacting with God? Are you really deepening in your relationship with the Lord? Because if you are not, you are taking the communion in an unworthy manner.

Examine yourself and see if you are in relationship with the Lord and you are walking this thing out relationally, like you're supposed to be, or are you just going through the motions and doing righteous stuff, trying to prove your righteousness?

If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.