

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#9 The *Mystery of Grace*

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

The Mystery of Grace

Session Nine

~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~ **BELONG** ~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~

This session will take a fresh look at Grace. Often quotes but seldom taught in the full context of the New Testament. In this session we will explore three questions.

1. What is Grace?
2. How do we get it?
3. What do we do with it?

The Mystery of Grace

John 1:16 The Apostle John writes, ‘And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace’ (John 1:16). Here is the point that so many miss today due to incomplete teaching: John connects receiving the *Fullness of God’s nature* with *Grace*. Grace is God’s unmerited gift that not only saved us from eternal damnation but also gave us His characteristics. One aspect of grace is just as real as the other, and it was all provided the moment we were saved.

—John Bevere

I. What is Grace?

Do you see yourself as just a sinner saved by grace or a son or daughter of the most high God who is forgiven because of grace and made a part of God’s family? Is grace just a cover up for your defiled state? Just a thin veneer that does nothing to change the inside? Traditionally, the church has taught us:

Grace is when we get, what we don’t deserve

Mercy is when we don't get, what we do deserve

A. Grace and Mercy are very different.

We don't play Basketball by football rules

We don't apply Grace to Mercy's Rules or Mercy to Grace's Rules

Heb 4:16

Let us then approach the Throne of Grace with confidence, so that we may receive Mercy and find Grace to help us in our time of need.

Mercy covers up failure,

Grace gives us power not to fail!

Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.

Ephesians 3:3

that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

Ephesians 3:4

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Ephesians 3:9

and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Colossians 2:2

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Colossians 4:3

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

1 Peter 1:3,4

3His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

1 John 4:7 As He is So are we in this world

Ephesians 3:19 *and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Psalm 84:7 *They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.*

Ephesians 1:23 *which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

Ephesians 4:13 *until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become *mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. *(Mature, Whole, Perfect)*

Colossians 1:19 *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,*

Colossians 2:9 *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form*

Ephesians 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Commands of God

Old Testament	New Testament
<i>LAW</i> Proved Sin Expected to fail Not Able to be perfected	<i>SPIRIT</i> Defeats Sin Expected to live it Able to be perfected

II. How do we get it?

New Testament Grace is stricter, accuses more severely, because Grace EMPOWERS!

YOU HEARD but I SAY!

Law brings Judgment against the The ACT

Grace brings freedom from THE DESIRE that produces THE ACT

Compare the Act under the Old Testament Law, to the DESIRE that creates the GUILT under the Commands of Christ the Lamb of God, apart from His GRACE

The Act _____ **The desire** _____

Murder

Matt 5:21-22

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone

who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

The Act _____ **The desire** _____

Adultery

Matt 5: 27-28

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery. 28. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The Act _____ **The desire** _____

Marriage

Matt 5:31-33

31. "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. 32. But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

The Act _____ **The desire** _____

Oaths

Matt 5:33-34

33. "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34. But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35. or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

The Act _____ **The desire** _____

Love for Enemies

Matt 5 43-45

43. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45. that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47. And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”

PERFECTION Provided for!

Perfection means to be made complete or mature. The scripture tells us we are to achieve this in this life. We would know there was something wrong with a child who never turned into an adult. It is the same for an Christian who never reaches maturity. And more than this. The scripture compares our perfection to God’s.

Matt 5:48

48. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

III. What do we do with it?

You are wise to do the “should be”,

You are foolish if you don’t **do the** “Must be”!

Words are Seeds!

Grace’s empowerment is transferred through words!

Mark 7:13

Thus you **nullify** (*cancel, making void, invalidating, destroying*) the

word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Authority in the Word

Romans 6:14

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

(Message Bible- "Sin can't tell you how to live")

Stubbornness, insubordination, selfishness, hatred, bitterness, addictions, ALL SIN has lost its power over you!

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

NO FALSE FLATTERY JUST TRUTH!

Since our words are connected to how we are able to be freed from sin's grasp, it is vital that we understand that our words must never be used to "cover up" sin and its vile depravity!

Flattery must never be part of our manner. We should not serve the fear of man, but rather the fear of God, both for their sake and our own.

1 Corinthians 2:13

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Ephesians 6:13-15

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

When the apostle Paul describes the armor of God, he is talking about more than a simple set of helpful tips. He is talking about the impregnable defenses of the Almighty God. These are keys to withstanding the attacks and onslaughts of the great dragon of old, Satan the devil. They are ultimate and infinitely powerful tools available to us as Christians.

And he chooses to begin describing that set of armor by talking about...a belt?

Why, of all things, a belt? He could have started with the mighty sword of the Spirit, the towering shield of faith, the shining breastplate of righteousness—anything but some measly old belt. But he didn't. So that begs the question—why?

What was the belt used for in the Roman army?

The belt—known as the *cingulum* or *balteus*—played a crucial role in the effectiveness of a soldier's armor. It was the belt that held the scabbard, without which there would be no place to put a sword. Imagine an overzealous soldier, fired up and charging out into battle—but without his belt, and consequently without a weapon!

In addition, the Nelson Study Bible says from the belt "hung strips of leather to protect the lower body."

The Matthew Henry Commentary says the belt "girds on [secures] all the other pieces of our armor."

Truth should cleave to us as a belt cleaves to our body!

God desire is for us to SPEAK His TRUTH empowered by His GRACE so that others might also come to know the power of this GRACE!

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Revelation 1-3

*Use the **Study tool** as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:*

This Portion of the Book of Revelation is a “Report-card” of the seven churches. Christ is reviewing their Spiritual posture and letting them know their strengths and weaknesses. Each review offers a PRESENTATION of Christ that reveals PROVISION acquired by Faith that will help them overcome their PROBLEMS they were having and obtain the PROMISED REWARD. Prayerfully review each. What personal Faith was needed to strengthen the whole church.