

Grace Living

Living Open Handed (*Tender Hearted*) In a tight fisted (*hard-hearted*) world!

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 7th

Reflection: Last week we discussed how God's Grace works in our hearts, (2 Cor 4:6) so it (He) can work through our lives to accomplish His purposes. (Eph. 2:8-10; Ph 2:13-16)

When we're exposed to God's Grace, our choices will determine whether we'll Fulfil or frustrate it. (Gal. 2:20,21)

1. Resisting (frustrating) God's Grace results in:

- A. Worry (*Frustration*) (Mt 6:22-32; Ro. 7)
- B. Withering (*Fruitlessness*) (Jn 15:2,6)
- C. Waste (*Failure*) 1 Cor 3:15; Phil. 3:19

2. Responding to (Fulfilling) God's Grace results in:

- A. God's Peace (Ro. 5:1,2)
- B. God's Power (Phil 4:13,19; 2 Peter 1:2-4)
- C. God's Partnership (2 Peter 1:4) *"that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,..."*
(*Koinōnos: a partner, companion*) (See also 1 Cor 3:9; 1 Jn 1:5-10)
- D. God's "perfecting" process. Eph. 4:11-13 *"And he gave, apostles; ... prophets; ..., evangelists; pastors and teachers; For the perfecting (katartismos: complete equipping/repair) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, (teleios: complete, mature) unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"*

3. Transitioning from frustrating to fulfilling Grace requires:

- A. Recognition. Col 3:1-4 *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Set your affections (phroneo: mind, interests, regard, value) on things above..."* (See Mt. 6:19-21)
For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." In light of this amazing truth we should practice:

- B. Replacement. Col. 3:5-10 *"For which things sake the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience."*
(*apeitheia: unbelieving, rebellious* {From alpha: not and peitho: persuaded, trusting, yielding})

This leads us to a practical:

C. Re-Dedication. Col. 3:9-17

- 1) To "look like" (Follow) Jesus 10b *"after the image of him that created him:... 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"*
- 2) To "let go" (Forgive) like Jesus 13 *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."* (See Luke 23:34; Eph. 4:32)

- 3) To love like Jesus Col. 3:14 *"above all these things put on charity which is the bond of perfectness."*
 (teleiōtēs: complete and mature mental/moral character) (see Jn 13:35; 1 Cor 13)
 Mother Teresa *"Not all of us can do Great things. But we can all do small things, With Great Love!"*
- 4) To "lower" (Submit) like Jesus 15 *"let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."* (Jn 8:29)
- 5) To "learn/lean/listen" like Jesus 16 *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another... singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*
 a) Jesus is called *"The Word of God"* (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13)
- 6) To Live Like Jesus vs 17 *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (Onoma: authority, character)"*
 a) What we do is a reflection of Jesus. (As if we were Jesus Christ!)
 b) This is what "Christian" means! (2 Cor 5:20; Mt 11:28,29; Jn 14:21-23; 1 Pt 2:21)
 Charles Sheldon's 1896 book "In His Steps" was based on this principle!
- 7) To "look for" Jesus (in disguise) Vs 22-24 23 *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*
 a) Grace enables me to serve others, as if I were serving Jesus Christ! Mt 25:37-45
 Mother Teresa *"I see God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?"*

Conclusion

*"When I stand before the throne, Dressed in beauty not my own,
 When I see thee as thou art, Love thee with un-sinning heart,
 Then, Lord, shall I fully know—Not till then—how much I owe.
 Chosen not for good in me, Wakened up from wrath to flee,
 Hidden in the Savior's side, By the Spirit sanctified.
 Teach me, Lord, on earth to show, By my love, how much I owe.
 Often I walk beneath the cloud, Dark as midnight's gloomy shroud;
 But, when fear is at the height, Jesus comes, and all is light;
 Blessed Jesus! let me show, Doubting saints how much I owe."*

Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843)

Application

- How much do you "Owe" to God's Amazing Grace?
 (Ro. 8:12)
- How much are you willing to "Grow" in God's Amazing Grace?
 (2 Peter 3:18)
- How much are you willing to "Show" God's amazing Grace?
 (Mt 5:16; Phil. 2:13-15)