

GRACE AND FAITH LEAD TO KINGDOM LIVING

A CALEB'S PROMISE MINISTRY TEACHING

As we now began to push into the deeper teachings of Caleb's Promise, it is important we finalize our understanding of the very foundation of the New Covenant: God's grace to us and our positive response to His grace through faith.

GRACE GIVEN TO US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

God loves us dearly and always has, even before the foundation of the world. Because of God's omniscience [having universal knowledge or knowledge of all things; infinitely knowing; all-seeing], He knew mankind would fall and be under the curse. Knowing this, He put a plan into place. A plan called "grace."

Acts 2:23

Him [Jesus], being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Peter is letting us know, through God's divine inspiration, the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost ["determinate counsel"] all determined before the foundation of the world, God the Son would be the sacrifice for the redemption of mankind. Praise God for His incredible and longsuffering love of us!!

The "determinate counsel" of Jesus' sacrifice for us is "grace." Grace is the "unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor of God." God extended grace to mankind before He ever created the earth and heavens. Think about this for a second. We all tend to think God extended grace after the fall. But, His Word is clear in Acts 2:23 He extended grace to man before the Godhead created one thing. Awesome!!

Jesus' death and resurrection, completed the redemptive [the purchase of God's favor by the death and sufferings of Christ; the ransom or deliverance of sinners from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law by the atonement of Christ] act of grace. Prior to Jesus' death and resurrection, mankind was covered by an atoning [agreement; concord; reconciliation] sacrifice of animal blood. Essentially, the blood of the animal sacrifices "covered" the sin, but it didn't wash away the sin as done by Jesus' sacrifice. We are washed in Jesus' holiness, righteousness, and perfection.

God's grace to us is what God does for us, independent of us. It's His part. God's grace is the same toward everyone. It is not based on, or tied to, anything we do. God's grace has brought salvation to everyone on this earth. **This is so important.** Jesus' death paid for all mankind's sins, past, present, and future. Yes, even Adolf Hitler, Genghis Khan, Caesar Augustus, Nero, Son of Sam, and the most heinous of persons that have lived, that are living, or that will live. Christ's death didn't just pay for the sins, past, present, and future, of Believers only.

A person is sent to hell, upon death, if they haven't accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Their sins are forgiven with exception of the "unforgivable sin," "the unpardonable sin" – the rejection of Jesus Christ as a person's Savior. In essence, what a person is saying when they reject Jesus Christ is their works, their performance, or their goodness is enough to enter Heaven. Can you think of anything more prideful, more self-centered, more arrogant than to think we can save ourselves? No, and neither does God.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

However, it's important to understand grace alone will not save you. Our faith must be exercised to accept God's grace. Faith is our positive response to God's grace. Our faith appropriates God's grace and all of its blessings.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

So without God extending His grace to us, we wouldn't stand a chance. However, if we don't respond positively to God's grace, by faith, we still don't stand a chance. Grace alone can't save us. Neither can faith, alone, save us. It is the mixture of the two that releases the power of God in our lives.

FAITH –THE CURRENCY OF HEAVEN

FAITH DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, AND, IF IT MAKES SENSE, IT'S NOT FAITH

Ok, we have a good understanding of grace. Now, let's focus on the positive response to God's grace – our faith. What is faith according to God's Word?

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance [foundation] of things hoped for, the evidence [conviction, assurance, title deed] of things not seen.

This trust, this full measure of faith, is alive and works within a Believer's relationship with God. Remember, God tells us in Romans 12:3, all Believers are given "the measure of faith." All Believers receive the same measure of faith – no more, no less than any other. What you do with it determines whether you have no faith, little faith, or great faith.

Hebrews 11:1 could be restated, without erring from God's meaning, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for, certain of what we do not see." The Believer is convinced the things he cannot see regarding God are real, and so, from that perspective, he will act in fullness of hope. Many claim to believe God, but what influence does this belief have on their behavior? If it wields little or no influence, they are unconvinced Believers, Believers without conviction who end up with only an intellectual righteousness. Because this belief is not grounded in God's truth, the Believer gradually retreats instead of growing in faith. This was the case with the Hebrews and the reason for Paul writing this verse and much of the book of Hebrews – to remind them of the faith they once had and that what was offered by Christ is so much better than anything offered previously to mankind – such as the Law or the wisdom of man.

How much faith are we given? Do some receive more than others? All Believers are given the exact same measure of faith. Billy Graham, Dwight Moody, Andrew Wommack, and other great men and women of God were given no more faith than you were given at your salvation. The difference is how much of God's faith, in you, do you use. We'll cover this today as well.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

Every Believer is given “the measure of faith.” “The” is a definite article meaning a specific measure is given; not “a measure,” which would mean a varying amount to different Believers. God’s truth tell us in James 1:17 there is no variableness in God, and God has no respect of persons (Romans 2:11).

What kind of faith must we have to accept God’s grace to us? Jesus tells us very clearly, with absolutely no ambiguity, we must have “child-like” faith. You’ve heard me say before God does not have adults, He has children.

Mark 10:14-15

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: **for of such is the kingdom of God.**

¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Why does Jesus say one must have the faith of a child? It is because a child’s faith is innocent and pure. A child believes their father without reservation. If the father said it, it is the gospel. It will happen. Sadly, because of the fallen nature of this world, because parents are unsaved, or parents are saved and carnal, the faith of a child is dashed many times with lies until skepticism, doubt, fear, etc., sets in and blossoms in their soul. Satan loves this because it provides him and his demonic minions a fertile breeding ground to combat God’s truths and the power, authority, and inheritance God has given to all Believers. I have a question for you: **is your faith childlike?** God doesn’t lie (Titus 1:2), and God would never back out of a promise He has made to us. (II Peter 3:9). We, His children, can trust Him.

Where does faith come from in us? Does it come from our mind? No, it couldn’t. Our mind cannot wrap around the things of the spiritual realm because it is of the natural man. It is simply illogical to us (I Corinthians 2:14). It has to come from our heart as God’s Word tells us.

Romans 10:10

For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;** and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

God’s Word teaches us that He looks on the heart, not on the outward appearance or actions of man.

I Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

A Believer whose actions are not right but who trusts the Lord is more pleasing to God than an individual who is doing the right things but has no faith in God. It’s not a case of those who act the best will get accepted, and those who act the worst get rejected. This would put some of the followers of other religions ahead of many Christians, but this is not what the Bible teaches.

Does Satan accuse you and say, “What makes you think God will use you?” He certainly has told me this many times and still tries to do so now, but I have no problem in telling Satan where to go and what to do. The truth is no Believer is perfect, and we don’t deserve the blessings of God. However, we put our faith

in Jesus. It has been ingrained in us that if we aren't holy, God won't bless us. When God looks at you, He doesn't see your goodness — He sees Jesus.

Hebrews 11:6

But **without faith it is impossible to please Him** [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that He [God] is, and that He [God] is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him [God].

If you're walking in faith, you use faith as the currency of Heaven to appropriate from God's blessings for you. God is pleased with you even though your actions don't measure up. Your life may be a wreck, but God is still pleased with you. Religion says this is hypocrisy. On the contrary, the worst sin is self-righteousness — the attitude that God owes it to you because you've been good. This is why Jesus had such disdain for the Pharisees during His earthly ministry.

Most Believers accept this level of grace when it pertains to salvation. However, many believe after one is born again, God expects them to pray and study; and if one doesn't do these things, God won't bless them. **Wrong!** After one is born again, it doesn't change! Paul teaches we should appropriate **EVERYTHING** God has for us with the same faith and the same measure of faith we used when accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior and our Redeemer. Did you do any works prior to asking Christ into your life, did you have to confess sin before asking Christ into your life, did you have to read the Bible before asking Christ into your life, did you have to attend church before asking Christ into your life, did you have to take communion before asking Christ into your life? **NO! Jesus Christ accepted you just as you were when you asked Him to become Lord of your life. So, why do you try to qualify yourself today before appropriating from Christ in faith? You have nothing acceptable to offer God other than Jesus Christ in you.**

Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:

I can't emphasize the point, enough, that "we don't have to perform or we don't have to measure up" to all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus. When it comes to receiving the blessings of our Father, healing, deliverance, or prosperity, we just have to receive them with the same faith we accepted our Savior Jesus Christ with at the start of our walk with Christ. Anything else is a double standard. It would be saying the way you approach God after you're born again is different. Your actions may not please God today, but you can be healed, delivered, or prospered in spite of it. You can be blessed in spite of your actions. Someone look around and make sure the religious police aren't listening. We'll be arrested for believing God's truth.

Many times you don't know God has answered your prayer because you can't perceive it in the physical. You have to believe something is happening beyond your five senses. If you don't believe it until you see it, you won't receive from God. God's Word says you have to believe when you decree or pray.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I [Jesus] say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

This is where most Believers stumble. God's Word says to "believe" when you pray that you have received.

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING ABOUT GOD'S WILL

WHAT DOES GRACE PROVIDE US AND FAITH APPROPRIATE FOR US?

Grace is often misunderstood in the Body of Christ. Remember, grace is unmerited, unearned, and undeserved favor from God. One very important aspect of grace, not traditionally taught in most churches, is God has already provided everything for us before we ever need it. What is everything? **EVERYTHING – all spiritual and earthly blessings – everything we'll ever need in this life.** This is forgiveness of sins, eternal life, healing, deliverance, and prosperity. They are already in us in Christ's Spirit. God anticipated every need we could ever have, and He met those needs through Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. Regretfully, many churches stop at forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with **all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places.

This provision of "all spiritual blessings" is not based on your accomplishments or your performance - whether you are reading the Bible enough, praying enough, going to church, or even paying your tithes. Before you ever had a financial need, God through grace, created the provision (I Peter 1:3-4). Before you were sick, God, through grace, provided your healing (1 Peter 2:24). Before you ever became discouraged, God blessed you with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). God anticipated every need you could ever have, and He met those needs through Jesus before you existed. That's grace.

Jesus hasn't saved, healed, delivered, or prospered a single person in the last 2,000 years. What God provided by grace 2,000 years ago now becomes a reality when mixed with faith. Faith appropriates what God has already provided. Faith doesn't move God. Faith doesn't make God do anything. Grace and faith work together, and **our part is to accept what God has already done.** Grace must be balanced with faith.

Quit Asking God for What You Already Possess

This is going to be tough love, but you will thank God for it when your heart is enlightened through the revelation of God's Word from the Holy Spirit. **The problem is we lack knowledge.** And, this lack of knowledge is literally killing Believers: wrecking them financially, wrecking relationships, wrecking homes, wrecking businesses, keeping them in negative situations or suffering effects from it, etc. Believers should not be experiencing these results. Yes, there will be tribulation. But, it's not from God. It's from Satan and his forces – our enemy, the enemy of Christ. Christ warned us of this, but He also told us "DON'T WORRY. I HAVE OVERCOME SATAN, HIS SYSTEM, HIS CULTURE, AND THE CURSE."

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: **but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

You have the power in you that God used to raise Jesus Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20). Jesus said you can do everything He did and greater things (John 14:12). And, we can do anything, in Christ, according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20).

Because Believers are not taught, or reject, what God tells us to do to combat the enemy, Believers needlessly suffer, even die much earlier than God ever intended for them to die. Again, as mentioned previously, it is a lack of knowledge.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

II Peter 1:3

According as His divine power **hath given unto us all things** that pertain unto life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

We control God's ability in our lives. God doesn't. It is God's power and His ability, but it's up to you.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

The key is the last part of this verse. If there's no power in you, you can stop God's intervention in your life. God has chosen to never violate your will. God has chosen to flow through you. Satan can't stop God's power, but you can. **STOP LIMITING THE POWER!!**

The power comes from faith. Faith comes by hearing. Hearing what? God's Word is what we must hear constantly. This means we must meditate (Joshua 1:8) on God's Word in order for it to renew our minds and transform us (Romans 12:2). You can't meditate on God's Word if you don't spend time in it.

Most Believers interpret God's Word by their own experiences. God's Word says one thing, but here is what happened. Believers then make their own theology based on their experiences. This leads to "ineffectual" or "ineffective" faith and limits the revelation, the growth, and the blessings for the Believer. The Believer never fulfills God's mission for them.

WE MUST LEARN TO INTERPRET OUR CIRCUMSTANCES BY GOD'S WORD – NOT GOD'S WORD BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

There is a physical and a spiritual world. The spiritual world created the physical world. There is a spiritual reality for everything physical. God's Word is spiritual truth, and it creates (Genesis 1).

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

We are limited when we only think in the physical realm using just our five senses. This is man's wisdom, and it will ultimately fail. There may be initial success, but it will fail in time (Proverbs 14:12).

KINGDOM LIVING

Adam and Eve, mankind, was given all power and authority over this earth (Genesis 1:26) and were placed in the Garden of Eden, Heaven on earth, to spread Heaven and the Kingdom of God all over the earth. Eden, a Hebrew word, means "live voluptuously, a place of pleasure, or a place of delight." This is what Heaven is like, the dwelling place of the King and His Father, our King and Father. Why do you think Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven." This is proof God never changed His mind about planet earth being like Heaven, having the same atmosphere and the same abundance [Bill Winston].

Jesus Christ came to this earth as the “last Adam.” He came to reestablish, teach, and demonstrate the Kingdom that God originally intended for mankind and the earth. This is a kingdom of peace, prosperity, deliverance, purpose, security, healing, and everything else necessary for an abundant life.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

Jesus reconnected mankind to the original power and provision it had, in Adam, before the Fall. The Kingdom of God starts first in the heart and eventually flows outward to the world around the heart.

The Kingdom of God is ruled by the King Jesus Christ. All authority for this kingdom is from Jesus, and it is given to all Believers. God’s Word expresses the will and the laws of the King as well as the benefits and privileges of its citizens. This Kingdom was created by God for His children before the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King [Jesus] say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Kingdom living is meant to be one of prosperity, healing, and deliverance. It is the covenant birthright of every child of God called “**The Promise,**” or “**The Blessing,**” found in Genesis 12:2-3 and Galatians 3:29. Every child of God has what Jesus was given in Revelation 5:12 (power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing). Regretfully, most Believers live under the Babylonian system, the kingdom of satan – one of scarcity, struggle, illness, oppression, fear, doubt, weakness, anger, lack, depression, terror, unbelief, death, decay, and rottenness. **They accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, received forgiveness of their sins and eternal life, and proceeded to turn around and walk right back into the prison cell from which Jesus Christ delivered them.**

Example – Children of Israel in the Exodus rebelling against God (Numbers 13).

Whatever you gain in the Kingdom must be received – not achieved. The Believer doesn’t earn anything in the Kingdom: from God’s love to one’s daily living, from one’s salvation and through the rest of their Christian walk – it’s all by grace – all about receiving (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Example – Peter and the draught of fish (Luke 5).

THE BABYLONIAN SYSTEM – ECONOMY OF DARKNESS

The Fall of Adam and Eve, brought about by the deception and temptation of satan, introduced the Babylonian System, satan’s economy in his role as the “god of this world.” This kingdom of darkness enslaves mankind and sentences them to a life of toil, struggle, lack, hard labor, sickness, failure, etc. through his use of condemnation, deception, and temptation which manifests fear and unbelief. This dark economy is one in which people try to meet their needs without God. Instead of speaking God’s truth over a situation, the people’s decisions are filtered through the limited supply of this earthly provision: “Do I have enough to retire?” “How much does it cost?” “When do I get paid?” “Can we afford to send our kids to this college?” “I can’t afford this.” People in this economy view their job as their security, instead of God.

The Babylonian economy is based on Demand and Supply. Yes, we all remember being taught this in high school and college. This is a “toil-based” economy with satan driving false balances, deception,

thievery, conniving, guile, enslavement, destruction, ill health, murder, etc. through it. Now, many of the principles of Demand and Supply are from God's Word. Remember, in an earlier lesson we learned satan cannot create anything because he is death; he can only take God's creation and pervert it. satan removed some of the essential ingredients of God's Word such as love, faith, justice, integrity, and being led by the Holy Spirit to create Demand and Supply, a fear-based, inferior principled system based on buying and selling.

What is one of the biggest fears the world faces daily? Why of course, financial security. We all know this because we were raised and we operate in a culture that teaches, preaches, and reinforces the pursuit of security through money. Our job is our security. And satan keeps all under his economy on a fast-moving treadmill. No matter how hard we try, it seems we never get there, or we get there, and then it's gone. Or, we get there and we now have financial security, but our family falls apart, our health deteriorates, we face other battles daily that begins to drain our wealth. There is no peace, no joy, no love, no patience, etc. How many rich people do you know that are unsaved or carnal Believers? I can guarantee you they are not at peace, not full of joy, not loving and caring, not patient. They cannot be because they are under the Babylonian System, an inferior system of darkness, decay, death.

We all bought into it the world's economy and beliefs at one time – or maybe you are still buying into it. Don't feel bad, we all have done it. But, praise God, you don't have to do it any longer! The rest of this lesson and coming lessons are going to dive headlong into how to have all the fruits of the spirit manifested in you every single day and living an abundant, healthy, blessed life – not just one of spoken, but empty, hopeful words of increase and happiness.

KINGDOM OF GOD – ECONOMY OF ABUNDANCE IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE

Our Father has called us to DO GREAT THINGS - great things for His Kingdom. Every single Believer has an assignment, written in the volume of life for that Believer. This means you. And, our Father never calls us to do anything for Him that He doesn't supply us with everything we will ever need for the assignment: money, health, ideas, strategies, business insights, relationships, wisdom, new inventions, good marriages, body parts, children, understanding, knowledge, land, accounts, contracts, favor, protection, longevity, financial breakthroughs, deliverance, and on and on. NOTHING is left out. And, there is a never-ending supply (I Peter 1:4). Our Father is Jehovah-Jireh, the God who sees and provides and El-Shaddai, the All Sufficient One.

The Kingdom Economy guarantees each Believer equal access to an eternity of abundance. And it starts the moment you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. Salvation frees us from the Economy of Darkness, from Demand and Supply. The Kingdom Economy operates from "The Promise," "The Blessing" given to us in Genesis 12:2-3. This Blessing of the Father supernaturally empowers us for success. God never intended for us to depend upon the world's economic system to provide for us. Our Father planted the Garden of Eden with everything Adam and Eve would need for eternity, and He has done the same for us. His Kingdom is designed to provide everything we can ever need or want in mind-blowing portions – all done before the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:3

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: **although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

During Jesus' ministry on this earth, He taught and demonstrated how to live in the Kingdom Economy by operating according to His/our Father's Kingdom laws and principles to manifest supernatural healing, supernatural deliverance, supernatural prosperity, and supernatural peace, love, and joy. Jesus showed us we can do the very same things He did (John 14:12) – AND GREATER – if we believe. It doesn't matter

what the condition of the US or world economy is, the condition of the industry you operate in, where the geographical location is, the time of year or season, nothing. Our Father's spiritual laws and principles are superior to the inferior physical laws and principles. Time and space have no bearing on us. If we operate in the spirit, we operate outside of time and space. Praise God!!

Our Father wants you to do BIG things as His ambassador to this earth. Our Father didn't save us to just make it through to eternity – to fight the good fight with inferior equipment, inferior principles, inferior laws, and inferior power. We are to display God's wealth on this earth. We are supposed to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the orphaned and widowed, see to the needs of the poor. This is why our Father has made it very clear abundance is our birthright and wealth is our heritage:

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

"I was told about a sign that Oral Roberts had in his office at Oral Roberts University. It said, "No Small Plans Made Here." That's why He gives us, what I call, "Blank Check" scriptures such as "...whatsoever things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Or, "...ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Mark 11:24; Matthew 17:20)" It is obvious God wants us to think BIG. Why? There is a big job ahead, and He is a "more than enough" God. With Him, the more you can desire, the more you have. His way, however, is for you to depend on Him and not on your performance. Think "No More Limits." His plan is for there to be a clear difference between you and the rest of the world" [Bill Winston].

Genesis 12:2-3 is God's covenant with us, with Believers. We have the "Promise," the covenant, and the Promise's "Blessing," through Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:29). A covenant is a "contract" between God and man. God makes it perfectly clear He keeps His end of the covenant, the contract.

Psalms 89:34

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

In order for the covenant to work for us, we must keep our end of the contract. We can see when Israel kept their end of the covenant, no country, no man, no army, nothing could stand before them. God kept His end of the covenant. However, if we do not lay hold on the covenant, then God does not commit Himself to us and our situation. In other words, God is NOT going to break His covenant or go against any of His laws, His principles, His Word. Not for you, not for anyone. Our Father will not break His Word.

Beginning in Lesson Four, we are going to dive headlong into the roles and responsibilities of the King and Priest, the Spiritual laws of the Kingdom of God, and how we use all of it to bring God's Kingdom to this earth and live at the best God has for us – which is phenomenal.