

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE – Part VIII Godly Warfare



It was either May or June when I sensed the Lord give me our current subject matter. Even though it is a subject I don't teach a lot on, it made sense to talk about it after our last subject matter, which was the subject of love. It really is totally impossible to discuss any kind of Godly warfare without a true understanding of what God means by love. I really don't like to publicly discuss certain subjects, not because I am a coward or squeamish, but sometimes I think we act like we know everything about a topic, and frankly I always feel like I'm in a never-ending learning curve. I tried getting out of writing this month, but alas, my excuse of even more hurricane damage is not cutting it

with the Lord. I was prepared this month to talk about all the usual subtopics that come with a discussion on spiritual warfare when the Lord dropped a word in my spirit that I never even considered when we as Christians discuss this subject. As a preface I will say that repentance and obedience will go much farther when the Lord places you in an atmosphere of spiritual warfare than any prayer vigil, church attendance or worship meeting you could attend. Had Saul acted in obedience his enemies would have been silenced and the kingdom would have been his. Had David walked in obedience when it came to Bathsheba, his kingship would have remained peaceful. What got David out of hot water was repentance. We as the Christian church must also repent for quite a few things. The present plight that we find ourselves in America, I believe is due to many Christians praying amiss and not obeying the Lord in other areas. Please don't think I'm pointing fingers at anybody. I could point as many in my own direction, if that were the case. What I am saying is that when we find ourselves in warfare and we suspect disobedience as the culprit, repentance and humbling ourselves before the Almighty will go a long way to restoring our peace and putting us back on God's track, no matter how bad things have gotten. All other conditions surrounding spiritual warfare such as fasting, prayer, worship, praise, thanksgiving and proclamations of faith and the word of God are really acts of obedience and should always be done whenever the Holy Spirit gives us the opportunity.

So I wasn't quite sure I could add any blessing to the body of Christ by writing on this subject this month. It was really one word from the Lord that made me realize I had temporarily disregarded one of the most crucial aspects of spiritual warfare that the world receives blessings from everyday. Most discussions on the subject focus on what we do that will have God move on our behalf in order to warfare for us. Obviously there is nothing wrong with this. But it was this one word that made me realize how futile all our efforts are if we don't have this one prerequisite from heaven. What's that one word? GRACE!!! Let's face it, without the grace of the Almighty we would certainly have been overrun long ago in America and Christians worldwide would have been extinguished. The grace of God has kept us and provides for us. The Bible translates grace as favor, thanks, pleasure, acceptance and elegance. Many have defined it as the divine enablement of God. There are four main words translated as grace or favor in our Bibles. They occur roughly 243 times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Over and over we see that grace is given to those who live right before God, no matter how hard their struggles are. We can lose the grace of God through bitterness (Hebrews 12:15) and a lack of faith (Galatians 1:6). We can frustrate God's grace by trying to do things ourselves, or through following some religious principles perfectly, but ignoring what God has done through Jesus Christ and His desire to have a relationship with us (Galatians 2:21; 5:4).

“As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, ‘In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” (2 Corinthians 6:1-10) It seems from this portion of Scripture that because of the difficulties that Paul went through, and he lists them here, the believers in Corinth were able to receive God’s grace in abundance and were on the verge of losing it because of not following his example of holy living---as well as not receiving it by faith. It seems also that the warfare Paul talks about in building up the Corinthian church is also accomplished because of the grace that God had on Paul’s life.

Let me close this month with writing out references of Scripture for you where grace

accomplished the impossible. Jesus, Joseph, Abraham, Sarah, Noah, Esther and every hero of faith made it through because of God’s grace. “The Law was given by Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17) We have received redemption and forgiveness because of God’s grace (Ephesians 1:7). We are saved because of grace (Acts 15:11). We have acceptance from God because of His grace (Ephesians 1:6). We are justified because of grace (Romans 3:24). Signs and wonders are possible only through God’s grace (Acts 14:3). Our calling from God is only possible because of God’s grace (2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 1:5; Galatians 1:15 and Ephesians 3:7). Faith produces God’s grace in our lives and we are able to believe and have faith because of His grace (Romans 4:16; 5:2 and Ephesians 2:8). We are children of God, heirs, if you will, because of God’s grace (Titus 3:7). We are given strength when we need it because of grace (2 Timothy 2:1). We are righteous and righteousness is imputed to us because of grace (Romans 5:17). Our spiritual gifts are given because of grace (Romans 12:6). Grace helps us to labor for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:10). We can preach only because of grace (Ephesians 3:8). We can sing because of grace (Colossians 3:16). It’s only because of grace that we can talk, utter a prayer or say a word (Colossians 4:6). Christ is glorified in us through grace (2 Thessalonians 1:12). We have hope and can receive consolation only because of grace (2 Thessalonians 2:16). After sorrow grace is given us to survive (Jeremiah 31:2). God gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34). For those who walk

blameless, who try with all their heart to walk circumspectly before the Lord, grace is given (Psalm 84:11). Sometimes when we talk about Godly warfare we overlook the grace that is on our lives because Jesus helps us to live holy. That grace protects you and me from unseen forces that might cause harm. It keeps us safe when no one else can. It provides for us when the bills are more abundant than the money to pay for them. That grace establishes churches and reveals to the leadership the plots of the enemy and the plans of God to further His kingdom in their area. Sometimes we all overlook the grace of God when we talk about Godly warfare, but if you’re like me, I count on His grace to get me through each trial and victory, each defeat and every successful conquest. I have much to give thanks to the Lord for this month. We just came out of a life threatening situation and we are all alive. PRAISE GOD! It was the grace of God that brought us through. We may not have stopped praying, but it was the grace of God that kept us.

For those of you that are going through a spiritual hell this month, and for others that are praying through out of obedience to the Lord concerning events that are taking place in our world around us, remember that the grace of God will accomplish for you what you could never do, even after a lifetime on your knees in prayer. DON’T STOP PRAYING----but trust the Lord for His grace to answer prayer and win the battle. He has already won the war!! Log on next month for more.....

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