



# AUTHORITY IN IDENTITY: PLAYTIME IS OVER

Part 2: Leveling Up in Grace: Milk to Meat

Silly Rabbit: Trix are for Kids!

# WHO IS JESUS? (HINT: WHO HE SAYS HE IS)

- John 1:1 is clear that the Gospel and Jesus are one
- If you change who Jesus is, you change the Gospel itself
  - Prosperity jesus
  - Prophet jesus
  - Only-Human jesus
  - Enlightened jesus
  - Gnostic jesus
  - Calvinistic jesus
  - Crazy liar jesus
  - Transexual jesus
  - Alien jesus



# COMING UP...

- ~~Who, really, is Jesus?~~
- The Multiple Layers of True Grace (Maturing in Christ)
- Dreaming: Letting the Creator redeem our Imaginations
- The Current War & What's Coming
- Understanding the Spiritual Realm
- What authority do we really have? How do we exercise it?
- The Voice of God: Seeking, Hearing, & Obeying

# TRANSFORM WITH BOLDNESS

Therefore having such a hope, **we use great boldness**, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the consequence of what was being brought to an end.

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is brought to an end in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart,

**but WHENEVER a person TURNS TO THE LORD, THE VEIL IS TAKEN AWAY.**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:12–18 LSB



# Time to Grow in Grace



# GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY (ARE YOU GROWING?)



And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshly men, as to infants in Christ. **I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are still not able, for you are still fleshly.**

For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking blike mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's bfield, God's building. According to the **grace** of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

1 Corinthians 3:1–10 LSB

# CHEAP GRACE VS. COSTLY GRACE

- “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without Church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without contrition. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate”
- “Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church. We are fighting today for costly grace...”
- “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# ABUNDANT GRACE!

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of **all** grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:10 NASB

- ***Pas (Gk)***: All levels, total, complete by the assembling of all the pieces; total in all; lacking nothing; having achieved each level.
- Gestalt: An organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts.
- Shalom: **Psychological Wholeness**, True Peace





# HEN

*(c)Hen – Hebrew*

Buffer or Hedge; Favor; acts of compassion for another; adornment

Private place or refuge; sanctuary; fenced off; protected from destruction

Nun, Chet

Fish/Life, Fence/Tent Wall

God gives life and protects it



חסד  
grace

## HESED

*(c)Hesed – Hebrew*

There is no English  
equivalent word for this

Lovingkindness

Active Love

Steadfast Loyalty

Mercy

Covenant

*Dalet, Samech, Chet*

Doorway, Thorn/Pierce, Tent Wall

~

“your lovingkindness”

Kaph: Open palm, welcome, allow

# THY LOVINGKINDNESS IS BETTER THAN LIFE

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You **earnestly**; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land without water. Thus I have beheld You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.

Because Your **lovingkindness** is better than life, My lips will laud You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

My soul is satisfied as with fatness and richness, And my mouth offers praises with lips of joyful songs.

Ps 63:1–5 LSB

*Hesed: “The consistent, ever-faithful, **relentless**, constantly-pursuing, lavish, extravagant, furious love of our Father God”*



SPECIAL DELIVERY





# GRACE (CHARIS) AS USED BY PAUL

## Mercy, Kindness, Power

- God's Presence (Joy, Fullness of Life, Favor) Rom 5:1-2
  - God opened a doorway to peace
- God's Calling (Set apart for Purpose) Gal 1:15/Eph 3:2
  - He freely gave and we are expected to do the same
- God's Power (Charismata; power to fulfill) 1 Cor 12
  - Free gifts of power to accomplish the work as His witnesses

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do because I go to the Father.”

John 14:12 LSB





# GRACE (CHARIS) AS USED BY JESUS

“Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. And treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

And if you love those who love you, what **credit** is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what **credit** is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what **credit** is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.

**But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”**

Luke 6:30–36 LSB

# GRACE (ELEOS), MERCY

- **Acts** of kindness toward the sick and afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
- Implies **action**
- God towards us, and us toward others
- A state of clemency whereas gifts are given, though not deserved

*Therefore let's approach the throne of **grace** with confidence, so that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** for help at the time of our need.*

Hebrews 4:16 NASB

## Unmerited Favor

- (God's commitment to redemption: A chance at life; protection—a buffer)

## Saving Grace

- (Adam & Eve's stay of execution and a promise of a Redeemer)

## Transforming Grace

- (Jacob's wrestling with God!)

## Empowering Grace

- (Zerubbabel & Cornerstone - Grace, Grace)
- First to begin the work; second to complete the work

## Enduring Grace

- (Paul's thorn in the flesh)

# THE 5 ASPECTS OF COSTLY GRACE



# PARTING WORDS FROM PETER

Therefore, beloved, since you are looking for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and **consider the patience of our Lord as salvation**, just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard** lest you, having been carried away by the error of unprincipled men, fall from your own steadfastness, but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3:14–18 LSB



## STAY HUNGRY FOR THE MEAT OF HIS WORD!



# ABUNDANT GRACE!

And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **abundant grace** was upon them all.

Acts 4:33 NASB

Oh, that we might take this **abundant grace** of God, revel in the Word of God, and be **so full of expectancy** that we will have this “much more” manifested as fruit in our lives.

Smith Wigglesworth





Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

2 Corinthians 13:5 MSG

## PREP TIME!

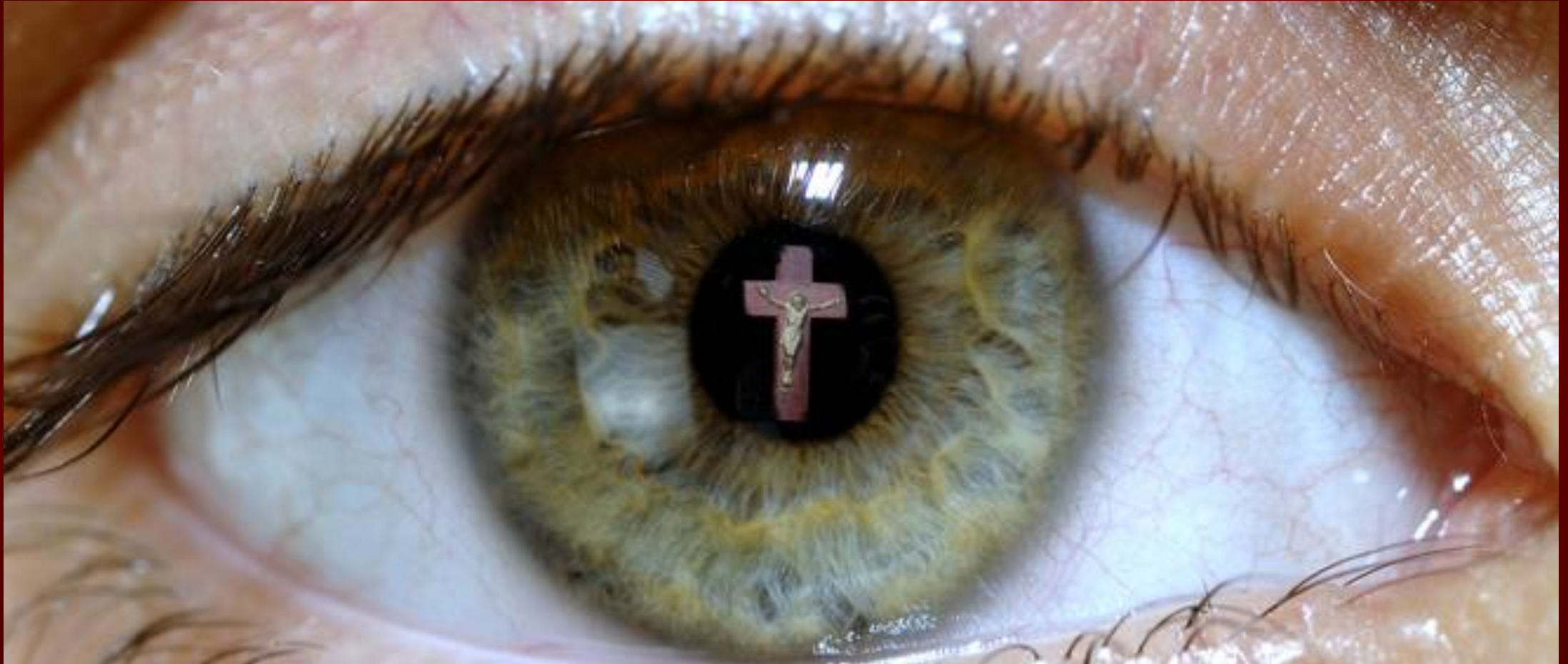
- **Grace** is the invitation
- **Faith** is our Acceptance
- **Love** is the Fruit
- **Work** is the Output

**We are His Workmanship!**

**His Poetry**



**THIS WEEK: BE ON YOUR GUARD**



**DETERMINE TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!**