1Thess # 50

Grow in God’s grace and knowledge

Let us open today in Ephesians chapter one. Today I think we will close out the study on Faith-rest.

We had to embark on a deeper look at the grace plan of God because that information can give the Bel security to step forward and apply faith rest techniques.

Ephesians was one of the four prison epistles the Apostle Paul wrote and this one has a strong emphasis on the pre-designed plan of God.

It was not originally just addressed to the church at Ephesus in fact in the original manuscript – Ephesians is not mentioned as it is here in verse one.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the
saints who are at Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

/[Eph 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/2/s_1098002) **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All Bels should wish other Bels maturity. Favor and graciousness in God as well as serenity and comfort.\

The Apostle Paul is reminding Bels that we are all given gracious gifts and peace – because we are all called into SM.

The greeting is actually saying –

*Hello or welcome fellow Bels, those who partake of the grace plan of God the Father*.

/[Eph 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/3/s_1098003) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has** **blessed us** (*eulogeō*) **with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly *places* **in Christ**,

*Has blessed us* (aorist tense), points us to no specific time but that it was already done – eternity past.\

YOU-LA-GAYO, is in the aorist tense. God gave you prosperity, power and consecrated you long before you were ever born.

In eternity past God the Father provided benefits for us, grace benefits which we could neither earn nor deserve nor gain by our own effort in time.

Teaching us that God blesses even before HE creates mankind.

You cannot earn what was already given to before you were even born.

You can learn to grow into a gift or blessing, not earn it.

But if it was already given to you a million years before you were created – you are not working for it.

It also means you did nothing to earn or deserve it!

/[Eph 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/4/s_1098004) just **as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Meaning God knew who would be in union with Christ millions of years ago. HE did not interfere with free will.\

If you have been with me the past few months you will now be able to put together the Doctrine of the Divine Decree and the Doctrine of Lapsarianism we covered over the past 3 to 5 weeks.

/[Eph 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/5/s_1098005) **He predestined us to adoption** as sons *and daughters* **through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Pointing back to verse 4 – GOD knew who would be positive toward Christ and those would become HIS Royal Family (children).\

Again, I remind you that your theology behind what you believe God did in eternity past determines many core doctrines you will accept as truth.

If God chose some to be saved and ignored others so that they were destined to the Lake of Fire – free will means nothing.

If free will means nothing, spiritual growth means nothing and the angelic conflict makes no sense at all.

That is just the beginning of a spiral downward that unravels many doctrines.

 REPEAT

God provides benefits for you on the basis of who and what He is and who and what He was in eternity past, and He is the same today as He ever was, there never was a time when He was different.

This blessing only becomes a reality to us by inculcation of BD and application while in the new nature.

After a period of time these blessings and greater grace open up to us that were sitting there all along.

/Every human being was elected to have the opportunity for salvation – Christ died for the sins of the whole world (Jhn 3:16, 1Jhn 2:2). Only Bels are predestined inside the plan of God – Unbels have chosen to reject the person and work of TLJC. The legal consequence for the sin of unbelief was determined in eternity past – separation from God.\

The sin of unbelief was the only sin never adjusted to the justice system of God in eternity past – the unpardonable sin became the legal standard for separation from GOD.

[Eph 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/6/s_1098006) to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

It is HIS grace in abundance that Bels are the recipients of, we can receive the escrow blessings given in eternity past.

/[Eph 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/7/s_1098007) In Him **we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, **according to the riches of His grace**

Phase one of the grace plan is salvation. Salvation and all the doctrines and promises accompanied with that gift.\

[Eph 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/8/s_1098008) which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Now we see phase two of God’s grace plan to guide us into grace and knowledge.

/[Eph 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/9/s_1098009) **He made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him,

Phase two of the grace plan is that we continue in positive motion in our free will responding to God’s word.\

For the CA Bel as they grow beyond the basic, core doctrines, they get deeper into Mystery Doctrine of the CA. This enables the spiritual IQ to sky rocket.

Greater grace begins to develop with greater knowledge.

[Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) regarding *His* plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

Everything and everyone is Christ dependent!

There is only one way into salvation and one way into spiritual growth, it is through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The study of faith rest has to touch into the essence and plan of God because the whole plan and the essence of God is also pointing us directly to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

/Stage one of God’s grace plan: By the baptism of the Holy Spirit every Believer is entered into union with Christ, every Bel became positionally higher than angels. (Hebrews chapters 1 & 2)

Heb 2:7 “YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN ANGELS;
YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR; \

In phase one of the grace plan we receive at least 40 grace gifts.

/Stage two of God’s grace plan: Because of stage one, the entrance into the super-grace life of maturity becomes available (experiential sanctification).

2Pet 3:18 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. \

You were sanctified and set apart at salvation it is up to you to grow in that.

You can become experientially higher than angels right now in time.

There is nothing that upsets the fallen angels more than for some Bel to reach levels of maturity especially the highest…super-grace life. Because positionally Satan and his army can’t do anything about that!

 They know what position they lost in eternity past – this temporal warfare is now their only hope.

 REPEAT

/Stage three of God’s grace plan: Is called ultimate sanctification, when CA Bels receives their resurrection bodies after the Rapture. We are then solidified as the bride of Christ - a position never held by any angel.

Rev 19:7 “Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because **the marriage of the Lamb has come**, and **His bride** has prepared herself.” \

When Church Age Bels receive the resurrection body at the Rapture this is ultimate sanctification, and at that point the Believer in Jesus Christ is physically superior to the angels.

The glorification of Christ by resurrection, ascension and session is the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.

When the humanity of Christ sat down at the right hand of the throne it was a victory completion that was already strategically won in eternity past. But the session of Jesus Christ was the reality and can never be denied or put into question.

When our Lord was brought back from the dead and ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father, that point is the strategic victory of the angelic conflict and the reality of that victory came into fruition forever.

 REPEAT

/Stage one is saving grace, stage two is living grace and stage three is super-grace. Everything after stage one is a call to move forward from the salvation gate. To take the abundant blessings and gifts and learn to use them. This takes the free will of mankind allowing God the HS and the WORD to work in their daily life. Working in our union with Christ opening up a greater grace which means the Fruit of the Spirit is fully manifested. \

The fruition of the grace plan of God was the new contract for CA Bels.

A new covenant for CA Bels.

/Church Age Bels are unique in that we live in a time (after the Cross) where a new standard for spiritual growth is our contract – The Grace Plan of God. Our dispensation is the accumulation and fruition of the MESSIAH of the world spoken about, anticipated from the O.T. and we live in union with HIM. Our Royal priesthood, Royal family membership and indwelling of the Trinity as well as filling power of the Spirit are all unique for this dispensation.\

God’s grace plan for the CA therefore is only lived in, through Christ.

Not rituals or human effort, not laws or regulations, only by walking in the new nature applying the mind of Christ do we fulfill the calling.

/The Bel can even have dying grace as a final stage in the temporal life as they transition over to their eternal position of divine perfection, physically living with Christ forever.

Phlp 1:20 according to my **eager expectation and hope**, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, **be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death**. \

The fact is God’s grace plan has us covered in every aspect of what we need right now in time and our future.

The problem resides in the fact that most Bels will not grow into the capacity to be able take advantage of what God graciously gives us in eternity past.

/2Jhn 1:3 **Grace, mercy, *and* peace** will be **with us**, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **truth and love**.

Faith rest and the serenity it can bring comes through the perfect plan of God and the TRUTH of the WORD.\

God is the author of abundant grace mercy and peace.

Therefore, if you do not understand who God is and what HIS plan encompasses you may not be a Bel walking in that abundance.

/2Pet 1:2 **Grace and peace** be multiplied to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.\

Grace and peace are found in the knowledge – Bible Doctrine, of God’s plan and the mind of Christ.

Everything pertaining to life and godliness is already given to us.

Let me close this series out with principles related to the techniques of Faith-rest.

/2Tim 1:8 Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord** or of me His prisoner, but **join with *me* in suffering** for the gospel according to the power of God,

First is related to your walk with Christ – closet Christians don’t often grow into maturity. Second is recognition that adversity and attacks occur for ALL Bels!\

If you are ashamed of Christ and only live your Christian walk when it is comfortable for you - that may be holding you back!

Also - never fall into shock when adversity hits, we all are called to pick up our own cross daily.

**/**[2Ti 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/1/9/s_1126009) who saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to **His own purpose and grace**, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Stop walking by means of the flesh and what you see or what the world tells you. Study and understand the plan of God and allow grace to find a home in your soul.\

/Faith-rest is a technique whereby the Bel who is growing will have greater success or strength. It is reliant upon our union with Christ, promises of God and deeper understanding of HIS plan. Bible Doctrine must become the norms and standards therefore the viewpoint of the Bel as well, so that application becomes prevalent and successful.\

Your soul saturated with BD is what guides your faith rest techniques and the strength of the application.

/Faith-rest is applied only in the new nature with God’s word as the driving force behind it. The Bel takes the step back and gains balance and serenity after the initial adversity through prayer first and application second. Ultimately God is always in control and operating from one of HIS 3 will’s from eternity past. Whether it is a test, a growth challenge or a demonic attack the avenue forward is reliant upon the WORD and the new nature to carry you forward.\