1Thess 49

God’s grace plan

Let us keep Rob & Marla in prayer as Marla’s father is dealing with cancer and needs our prayers.

As we dig deeper into the application of Faith-Rest we need to not only have promises of God and scriptures we lean upon, but a deeper understanding of God’s grace plan.

The one principle I feel pressed by God the HS to emphasize – is you can not trust someone you do not know and you can not follow a plan you have no knowledge about.

/Knowing the essence of God and HIS grace plan will build up the scriptures and promises of God. This is what the Bel uses in application of Faith-rest techniques.

God’s nature (essence);

Sovereignty Righteousness

Justice Love

Eternal life Omniscience

Omnipresence Omnipotence

Immutability Veracity \

These attributes of God are listed like this within most theologians’ writings.

Each one may have sub categories you can dive deeper into yet the important part is, as a Bel you understand these core personality traits of God.

Our Triune God cannot change who HE is nor can HE deny or live outside of any of these attributes. Each one of these traits can never contradict or cancel out another, because GOD is perfect and unchangeable (immutable).

 REPEAT

/Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ *is* the **same yesterday and today, and forever**.

Mal 3:6 “For I, **the LORD, do not change**; therefore you, the sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. \

God’s veracity points to the fact that HE cannot lie and HE has to remain in truth therefore any promise from GOD can never be questioned.

Learning these attributes will assist the Bel in having a faith that has muscle on it!

At the moment of salvation every Believer receives at least 40 grace gifts and he can never lose these things or have them taken away by God. That would go against the nature of God.

This grace package of salvation cannot be cancelled or destroyed either by God Himself, by angels, or by mankind.

/Among the 40 gifts received by grace at salvation we have the principle of propitiation in whereby the Bel regardless of spiritual status is always under God’s love;

1Jhn 2:2 and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world. \

The justice system of God was satisfied by the person and work of Christ.

That legal satisfaction gave GOD freedom to apply abundant grace and love.

There is no barrier between God and man in relation to God having intimacy with fallen man. TLJC took care of that at the cross.

The problem or barrier only exists when sin or evil is present. For the Bel it is simply a matter of turning to the justice system of GOD – meaning, looking to the power of the Cross of Christ.

We acknowledge we have stepped outside of God’s divine system and we enter right back in it by naming and citing any known sin.

That is a grace gift from GOD – eternal security can never be lost. Only momentary, temporal fellowship can be interfered with - yet never lost.

For the Unbel they have not accepted Jesus Christ as the only savior and that blocks intimacy with GOD.

All intimacy with God is dependent upon the righteousness of Christ.

There is no self-help program, book, meditation or teacher who can lead you into intimacy with God.

It is completely Christ-dependent.

Go to Galatians chapter five RF.

God’s grace is given in abundance but it must have a place to dwell for it to make a difference for the Bel.

/God’s grace can only find a place to dwell (comfort) where there is capacity for grace and capacity for grace only comes through the spiritual life. The spiritual life is only active within the application of the WORD by a spirit filled Bel. The greater the application in the new nature the greater the spiritual life becomes – which in turn opens up capacity for God’s grace.\

The true hazard for Believers is disorientation to grace. Bels who do not fully understand grace can fall into reversionism. They accept a substitute or counterfeit form of grace.

Religion often presents counterfeit forms of grace.

People with arrogance, bitterness or judgmental attitudes or any form of legalism struggle to accept the grace of God – they will speak about grace but it will be lacking in their lifestyle.

/Heb 12:15 See to it that no one **comes short of the grace of God**; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

That which your soul is filled with, will dictate the comfort or dwelling place for grace.\

Now in Galatians chapter five the Apostle Paul has concerns for these Bels who have been listening to false doctrine and are being led astray.

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

This is written in the present, active imperative – *keep standing firm!*

He is commanding them to keep doing what has gotten them to the level of spiritual maturity that they were already headed toward.

Do not go backward…the Apostle Paul is pressing them into forward motion in God’s plan.

/The basis of all freedom is grace. Legalism is never the basis for freedom. We are saved by grace; therefore, we should live by grace and die by grace. The power of God the HS was given in the abundance of grace (40 gifts), we are called to live in God’s grace plan. The Galatians had stepped backward toward religion – circumcision.\

The emphasis in Galatians chapter five is living by grace.

Circumcision is just another word for human effort or a works programs.

Religion.

[Gal 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/2/s_1096002) Look! I, Paul, tell you that if you have yourselves circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

Religion has no fellowship with grace and TLJC is the definition of grace.

/[Gal 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/3/s_1096003) And I testify again to every man who has himself circumcised, that he is **obligated to keep the whole Law**.

Grace is freedom from rituals and religion – yet if they want to live by religion then you have to follow that religion to the letter.\

Obligation points to a legal standard that you must fulfill something in direct authority under the law.

It speaks to very strict rituals or programming.

/[Gal 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/4/s_1096004) You have been severed from Christ, you **who are seeking to be justified by the Law**; **you have fallen from grace**.

We cut ourselves off from grace and fellowship when we are trying to justify ourself with works programs.\

*Seeking to be justified* - speaks to a continuation of repeatedly trying to become justified.

You are justified at the moment of salvation. It is faith that brings you into justification.

As you grow there are levels of your faith which lift you up in justification higher or closer to God but ultimately everything happens at the moment of salvation.

No matter what we look at in relation to spiritual growth or getting closer to GOD it is motivated by grace. If not it is wood, hay and stubble.

[Gal 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/5/s_1096005) For we, through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Notice the mechanics – through the filling power of God the HS, moving forward in faith (application) we seek to become more Christ-like (righteousness).

/[Gal 5:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/6/s_1096006) For **in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love.**

*Pistis* working through *agape’,* confident trust, conviction of the truth of Christ, working to bring you into impersonal, unconditional love.\

Your trust and faith is what drives you into GODLY love.

[Gal 5:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/7/s_1096007) You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

These Bels had heard the truth - many had begun to step forward in truth and yet a counterfeit of religion came in and confused them.

So reversionism is a great danger after a Bel has already begun on the right path toward maturity.

They had begun to apply faith-rest, they were beginning to step forward in grace.

Religion came in and now they were buying the lie and actually promoting the lie.

The lie is that some form of works needs to accompany salvation and then some form of works or human effort has to accompany spiritual growth.

 REPEAT

/How you came to salvation and how you understand salvation will carry great weight into your spiritual walk. If you used religious rituals (water baptism, tongues, denominational dogma, circumcision, any form of works or adding to the Cross) that will be the nature in which you will walk with God. There is only ONE way – faith alone in Christ alone, everything else is a counterfeit.\

There are other Bels we come into contact with and you will see how religious they are. Most of them may not even be born again.

They walk their Christian walk in human power – they rely upon works programs and self-righteousness to strive to please God.

The divine attitude in grace: God is constantly waiting to pour out His grace to every Believer —

/Isa 30:18 Therefore **the LORD longs to be gracious to you**, And therefore He
waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who long for Him. \

Grace in stage one points to our salvation and all the doctrines attached to that.

Grace in stage two is found in such passages as Psalm 103:8-12; Romans 3:23-24; Rom 4:4; Rom 5:20; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 2:9.

/Rom 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, **24 being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 5:20 The Law came in so that the offense would increase; but where sin increased, **grace abounded** all the more,

Psa 103:8-12, Eph 2:8-9, Heb 2:9 \

Grace in stage two is the Bel in time, the temporal battle we are called to fight. God’s grace is designed for our benefit.

/The prayer of the mature Bel especially the one in the super-grace life —

Heb 4:16 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. \

The grace is given in abundance but it cannot find a home in your soul until your doctrinal capacity is enlarged.

Grace in suffering — is seen as we noted last lesson in 2Corinthians 12:9-10. Super-grace suffering is designed for the greatest possible blessing.

/Grace is a mandate for growth —

2Pe 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.\

/Grace is needed for true stability —

Heb 13:9 Do not be misled by varied and strange teachings; for **it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace**, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

(1Pet 5:12) \

/Grace in the production of divine good -

1Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

2Cor 6:1 And working together *with Him,* we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—\

/Grace is needed in the area of giving — Phl 4:14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my difficulty. 15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first *preaching* of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* morethan once for my needs. \

/Grace is evident in the realm of forgiveness, giving, serving and dealing with those we don’t always agree with. It is evident as the Fruit of the Spirit begins to grow outward in a Believer’s life. God’s grace can be a powerful motivator behind good works (new nature) and any application of doctrine the life of a Bel.\