1Thess #48

Full knowledge of God’s grace gives way to stronger faith-rest.

As we look at the faith-rest, one of the strengths behind the technique is what you know about God’s plan and God’s integrity.

Just rattling off promises or throwing random scripture out when adversity strikes is not enough.

Because of that, I feel I am being led by God the HS to dig another layer deeper in relation to understanding the grace plan of God the Father.

So, this may well end up being a 3 or 4 part series…possibly longer, depending upon where the study leads me.

We will begin by noting the four concepts or details to the grace plan itself.

/1. Salvation Grace, 2. Living (logistical) Grace, 3. Greater Grace (maturity) 4. Surpassing Grace.

Keeping in mind - Under grace God does the work and man is the beneficiary, grace means we do not earn or deserve what HE freely does for us. HE is free to give grace in abundance because of the Cross of Christ.\

This is all basic and simple concepts when you break them down and this is the Doctrine of Grace we are embarking on.

/Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross. Because the cross was decided and complete, the justice system of God allowed freedom for God’s abundance. God was then free to express His love through grace and He does this without compromising His own essence (nature). God could not ignore HIS own righteousness, purity and justice or protocols just because HE loved us.\

The commitment from TLJC in eternity past was needed to satisfy the justice of God.

Grace in any shape or form must come from true freedom with no lingering ties or payback in the future.

No one can truly give apart from freedom and God gives to mankind out of total freedom because of the cross.

Grace is the work and the plan of God on behalf of man beginning at the cross. God the Father’s perfect plan is founded in HIS grace.

 REPEAT

/God’s grace and love, mercy and compassion that we all adore and want so much to remain in, is subject to HIS justice and righteousness. Before HIS plan could come to completion there was a roadblock in God’s justice system. A legal blockade, which rightly recognized and charged fallen man with a debt that could not be paid. God never overlooked sin or ignored evil – HE had to account for it and bring it to justice.\

God’s justice system never fails!

It is never wrong and it never has a re-trial – it is one and done…done right the first time!

Once you start to realize these principles your faith can grow stronger.

Bels that are emotionally taught or emotionally driven - have no stability because they never acknowledge the justice system of God.

The old saying that freedom is not free is true – therefore neither is divine grace free! Because God’s grace is the basis for real freedom. God’s grace plan came at a cost and Jesus Christ paid that cost.

Because that debt was paid God was then free to open up the grace plan for all mankind.

 REPEAT

/True grace depends upon the essence of God; therefore, grace depends on who and what God is. Grace is what God can do for man and still be consistent with His own character. God’s grace plan opens up HIS love, mercy and compassion without compromising God’s pure righteous nature. \

This begins to give the Bel a serious view to the Cross of Christ, as to never put into question and never to be added too or taken away from.

This is why religion and arrogance, especially legalism is such any enemy to true Christianity.

The Believer must understand the difference between grace and legalism.

/Legalism is man’s ability and works intruding upon the plan of God. Man’s works cannot coexist or add to the work of God. Attempting to have sinful flesh coexistence with the perfect GOD is blasphemy. Grace excludes any human works. Legalism is the satanic lie that mankind has some spiritual power on their own works or intelligence that can assist God or add something into God’s plan.\

Let us look at the 4 stages of grace in the proper order God ordained it in eternity past;

/Jhn 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

1)Salvation grace, which is all the Trinity has accomplished to save fallen man. It involves not only eternal security but the strategic victory of the angelic conflict. \

It took the participation of the Trinity working with fallen mankind in a non-meritorious volition expressed by faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

There is no divine power in mankind’s faith it is only when God the HS aligns with the right faith – faith in Christ, that divine power ignites.

That is GOD power not man’s power.

God the Father laid the plan out in eternity past – Jesus Christ fulfilled the work upon the cross.

God the HS through common and efficacious grace brought a spiritually dead person into a new birth which qualified them to be in union with Christ forever.

Jump over to James chapter four RF.

/2. Living grace (logistical), everything the Trinity must do to keep us alive in the devil’s world. We are in hostile territory; therefore, we have spiritual and physical protection.

Jer 29:11 ‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. \

This includes dying grace as well.

God supplies everything even protection we do not see every day!

Satan would like to make a JOB story out of every Bel.

But in God’s grace plan the army of Satan is only allowed certain points of time or angles of attack. Bels have to be in positions of maturity to receive greater attention from satanic forces.

Even then Satan has to get clearance from God!

/3. Greater grace (Supergrace), is a level of maturity where you surpass the average growing Believer. This means the Bel is reaching maturity beyond spiritual self esteem and spiritual autonomy. James 4:6-8, teaches us that this level of maturity means a deeper relationship with God.\

The Bel can never achieve higher levels of SM away from the two power options which means they will never reach a level of great success with Faith-rest.

Remember something problem solving devices are only as strong as the Bel who is applying them.

/Jas 4:6 But He gives a **greater grace** (*megas charis*). Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

Greater or vast amounts of God’s favor or power from God’s loving kindness.\

MEG-US CHAR-US – where we get our word MEGA from in the English.

Large amount of God’s blessing in the area of knowledge and mercy or gratitude.

James is teaching a principle related to spiritual growth and God’s grace plan in action.

[Jas 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/7/s_1150007) Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The Bel who struggles with legalism, pride or arrogant disobedience will never succeed in this level of maturity.

You have to submit yourself fully to the plan of God.

You can not submit to something you do not understand or do not trust!

/[Jas 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/8/s_1150008) **Come close to God** and He will come close to you. **Cleanse *your* hands**, you sinners; and **purify *your* hearts**, you double-minded.

The first step is complete submission and then an open heart seeking HIM first!\

Cleanse your hands speaks to rebound consistently.

Purify your heart means getting the garbage out of your soul by cleansing with the WORD – this is an instruction on the two power options.

This is maximum growth resulting in occupation with Christ. Occupation with Christ through Bible doctrine and HIS divine nature in your life consistently. This is what leads to super-grace blessings.

This is the tactical victory of the angelic conflict in contrast to categories #1 & #2 of the grace plan. Which points to salvation and logistical grace support, which is the strategical victory of the angelic conflict. SM Bels are able to perform tactically on the spiritual battlefield.

 REPEAT

This is only accomplished by Bels who are not only positive toward the WORD.

They have also made commitments with their time, talent and treasure and moved forward consistently.

Go over to Ephesians chapter two.

/4. Surpassing grace. This is all that God can and will do for HIS children in relation to spiritual warfare. As seen in Ephesians 2:4-7. God’s grace surpasses anything mankind could fathom or work for in our flesh. HIS grace plan is the power we need to rely upon in the devil’s world.\

The Apostle Paul is speaking to God’s grace plan in Eph chapter two;

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Remember – in order for God’s love to be free to touch all of us – HIS justice system had to be satisfied first.

/[Eph 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/5/s_1099005) **even when we were dead in our wrongdoings**, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

God’s grace plan was designed for everyone – (Bel or Unbel) it is dependent upon Christ and what you think of HIM.\

[Eph 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/6/s_1099006) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

God placed blessings and rewards in escrow accounts in eternity past – in HIS grace plan it was not dependent upon human effort.

The escrow accounts were given through God’s abundant grace and the release was dependent upon a non-meritorious decision to recognize Christ as the true Savior.

TLJC did the work we reap the benefit. All that is needed is a recognition of the work on the cross which is a positive nod to the justice system of God.

/Eph 2:7so that in the ages to come **He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus.

God can not show HIS grace without the free will of mankind in action which is part of the grace plan. \

*Boundless riches of HIS grace-* is surpassing grace that GOD abundantly laid out for everyone in eternity past.

Even our free will was part of God’s grace plan – a surpassing grace.

[Eph 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/8/s_1099008) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

[Eph 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/9/s_1099009) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

/Free will is completely grace because God refused to force anyone to agree with HIM or create a race of obedient slaves. Yet within that grace gift of free will, HE enabled a trigger mechanism that at a brief moment, of faith alone in Christ alone within that human free will, would be enough to spark Efficacious Grace from the ministry of God the HS.\

Meaning God the HS takes a brief moment of positive volition, toward the Cross of Christ.

HE enables that spiritual dead person to be given a new, supernatural birth.

/Efficacious Grace - is the exhale of faith in Christ through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. We are completely dead and depraved, so no matter what we said or believed as an Unbel, it had no spiritual power without the divine power of God the HS.\

We will close toady reading the struggles for the Apostle Paul in 2Cornithians chapter twelve.

The Holy Spirit gave you the ability to believe, because under the doctrine of total depravity we don’t have that ability on our own.

All we can do in a moment of weakness is throw up a positive signal toward TLJC. That positive volition is converted into faith in Christ through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

Even the fact that a person can hear or be exposed to the gospel of Christ is called Common Grace from the ministry of God the HS.

/Common Grace – is also the ministry of God the HS, meaning HE is always working in and around Unbels to wake them up to the gospel of Christ. It means the Spirit is making the gospel available and understandable to a lost and dying world.\

In 2Cor 12 – it is believed that the Apostle Paul is talking about one of his medical problems. Or even possibly, an issue within his OSN like arrogance - that may have been hounding him.

/2Cor 12:7 Because of the extraordinary *greatness* of the revelations, for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself**, there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan** to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

God allowed some type of mental or physical distraction so as to keep Paul humble.\

This is also part of God’s grace plan.

[2Co 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/8/s_1090008) Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me.

A good rule of thumb for prayer – after 3 serious times of prayer or requests, step back and give it over to God and wait for an answer.

**/**[2Co 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/9/s_1090009) And He has said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

The Apostle Paul knew even during the discomfort that God’s grace plan was working in his favor to bring him closer to becoming Christ-like.\

[2Co 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/12/10/s_1090010) Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we are too busy problem solving in our flesh we are not allowing the new nature to work in our favor.

A large portion of God’s grace plan is that we grow up in HIS grace and knowledge. That means the flesh and cosmic system have to be removed from our problem-solving skills.