

GRACE PART 3 - GRACE TO JOURNEY

April 2023

Matthew Barnwell

PART ONE: RECAP

- We existed in God before creation - *Jer 1:5, Eph 1:4.*
- God brought us out from Himself into this physical world - *Eph 1:4.*
- We have been brought out as sons, designed to carry the image and likeness of our Heavenly Father - *Gen 1:26, Rom 8:29.*
- Our purpose is to bring God glory. Our lives are to reflect His character - *Eph 1:6.*
- In order to reflect glory, we need grace. Glory on the outside is the result of grace on the inside - *John 1:14.*
- Grace needs to be understood, not just experienced - *Col 1:6.*
- Salvation grace is our introduction to grace - *Rom 5:2.*
- We are encouraged to grow in grace - *1 Pet 3:18.*

PART TWO: RECAP

- God is Spirit - *John 4:24.*
 - God - Father, Son and Spirit - are full of Grace - *1 Pet 4:10, 1 Pet 5:10, Zec 12:10, Phil 4:23, John 1:16.*
 - Grace defined: Grace is the Divine substance by which God, as Spirit, is constituted. It is the compositional make-up of God as a Spirit being, that when imparted to His sons, enables and empowers us to put His glory on display.
 - Grace has two primary effects - *1 Cor 15:10, Gal 1:15-16.*
 - Grace restores our identity as the sons of God.
 - Grace empowers us to function - to execute God's purposes in whichever domain He has called us to.
 - Grace is not a "Sunday morning thing". Grace impacts every area of life.
 - We receive Grace on the platform of our spirits - *Phil 4:23.*
 - Grace comes to us primarily through the Word of God - *Acts 20:23, 1 Pet 1:13.*
-

1. JOURNEYING IN GOD

- Life in Christ is a journey - growing from strength to strength.
- There are three aspects of growth that we must understand:
 - Our personal growth journey
 - Our Spiritual Family's growth journey
 - The Corporate Church's growth journey (The Body of Christ)
- On all three levels, we need GRACE to journey, which propels us forward in God's purposes.

Colossians 1:13

*For He rescued us from the domain of **darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved **Son**.*

- What is contrasted with darkness here? - not light, but sonship - because the light of God can only be fully experienced within a restored identity as a son of God.

Romans 8:15

*For you have not received a **spirit of slavery** leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption** as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

- What is contrasted with slavery here? - not freedom, but sonship - because true freedom can only be fully experienced within a restored identity.

Grace is extremely important and crucial to our journey, because it restores our sonship identity (I am what I am by Grace - 1 Cor 15:10). As we receive grace and are gradually built up in our sonship identity, we experience more and more of the light and freedom of God.

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT TYPE

Hebrews 10:1a

*For the Law, since it has only a **shadow** of the **good things to come** and not the form of those things itself.*

Colossians 2:17

*things which are only a **shadow** of **what is to come**; but the **substance** belongs to **Christ**.*

- The Old Testament, with its laws, ceremonies and practices, provides us with a shadow of New Testament realities.
- We cannot just view the Old Testament as a historical account of events leading up to the birth of Christ. We must study the pictures, metaphors and symbols that provide us with a deeper understanding of New Testament principles.

| OLD TESTAMENT | NEW TESTAMENT |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tabernacle & Temple | The Body of Christ is the temple |
| Law written on stone tablets | Law written on our hearts |
| Physical circumcision | Spiritual circumcision: Removal of the carnal nature |
| Sacrifice: Blood of Animals | Sacrifice: Blood of Jesus |
| Natural Nation - Israel | A Holy Nation, a royal priesthood, the Body of Christ |

2. THE NATION OF ISRAEL AS A TYPE OF THE CHURCH

Acts 7:38 (KJV)

*This is he, that was in the **church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.*

Israel is a type and shadow of the church, God's 'Holy Nation' in the earth. We can study the natural nation to glean principles on how the spiritual, holy nation should function.

1 Peter 2:9

***But you are** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

THE EXODUS AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY: A SHADOW OF OUR PROCESS

| OLD TESTAMENT | NEW TESTAMENT |
|---|---|
| Brought out of Egypt <i>(Egypt = oppressors, house of slavery)</i> | Brought out of the kingdom of darkness <i>(Col 1:13)</i> |
| Moses as saviour | Christ as Saviour |
| Blood of a lamb on the doorpost | Blood of Christ that redeems |
| Cross the red sea | Born again by the water (Word of God) |
| Journey in the wilderness towards promise | Sanctification - journeying towards maturity |

3. GRACE AND MANNA

3.1 BREAD AS A SYMBOL OF THE WORD, CHRIST

Matthew 4:4

*But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON **BREAD** ALONE, BUT ON EVERY **WORD** THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"*

- Bread is a symbol of the Word of God that nourishes us.

John 6:48-51

48 *"I am the bread of life.*

49 *"Your fathers ate the **manna** in the wilderness, and they died.*

50 *"This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die.*

51 *"I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I will give for the life of the world also is My flesh."*

- Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the Bread of life.
- Here Jesus compares the Word to Manna, which Israel ate while journeying in the wilderness.

3.2 MANNA - BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Exodus 16:4a

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will **rain bread from heaven for you**; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day,*

Exodus 16:15

*When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "**What is it?**" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the **bread** which the LORD has given you to eat.*

- In order to strengthen Israel as they journeyed through the wilderness, God rained down bread from heaven daily.

3.3 MANNA IN THE DEW

Numbers 11:9

*And when the **dew** fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell **upon it**.*

Deuteronomy 32:2a

*My doctrine shall drop as the rain, **my speech shall distill as the dew**.*

- Dew is a picture of the proceeding Word of God - the word sounding forth from the throne of God to the earth.
- Manna is located in the dew - a picture of grace being located in the Word.
- **Manna is a symbol of the GRACE-FILLED Word of God.**

3.4 YESTERDAY'S MANNA – TODAY'S WORMS

Exodus 16:19-21

19 *Moses said to them, "Let no man leave any of it until morning."*

20 *But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them.*

21 *They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.*

Matthew 6:11

*Give us this day our **daily bread**.*

- We need grace daily. This does not necessarily mean hearing a new word each day, but speaks to us having a fresh engagement with the Word currently being released to us, and meditating on it daily.

3.5 MANNA COMES THROUGH FATHERS

John 6:31-32

31 *"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'"*

32 *Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is **not Moses** who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is **My Father** who gives you the true bread out of heaven.*

- The people thought that their fore-fathers were fed by Moses in the wilderness. However, Jesus corrects them by telling them that it was His Father that provided the heavenly bread, not Moses.
- However, there needed to be a Moses in place to facilitate this transaction.
- Manna (Grace) comes from God, but is delivered through God-ordained, fatherly leadership.

Exodus 16:16-17

16 *"This is what the LORD has commanded, 'Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer apiece **according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.**'"*

17 *The sons of Israel did so, and **some gathered much and some little.***

- The nation of Israel journeyed through the wilderness in a very clear and structured formation. They were divided into tribes, then clans, then families.
- Not anyone could collect the manna. Fathers of tents were commissioned to gather manna (grace) for their families.
- This presents a picture to us for how the New Testament spiritual family should be structured - fatherly leadership engages the DEW (current speaking, proceeding word) of God and feeds those under his/her care with the MANNA (grace) that emerges from the DEW (proceeding Word).

Ephesians 3:2

*If indeed you have heard of the administration of **God's grace** which was **given to me for you.***

- The grace that the Ephesian church needed was given to Paul to administrate.
- If you were in this context and refused to submit to the fatherly leadership of Paul, you would not receive the Grace that God wanted to impart to you.
- Spiritual fathers are channels of grace.
- We need to ensure that we are connected and submitted to spiritual, fatherly oversight, because the grace that God wants to give us is directed through them.

3.6 MOVING AND CAMPING, BOTH PERSONALLY AND CORPORATELY

Numbers 9:17,22

- 17 *Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp.*
- 22 *Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out.*

- It took one night to get Israel out of Egypt. It took 40 years to get the Egyptian mindset out of Israel. Likewise, it took one moment for God to save us, but it takes a lifelong journey of sanctification to conform to His image.
- Israel camped at various stations during their journey. Each station represents a stage of growth in their development.
- Camping can be seen as us WORKING WITH THE GRACE received in order to transform our lives into that which God intends for it to be. Once grace hits our spirits, we need to design an obedient response in the soul. We need to adjust the thinking and behaviours of the soul in order to elevate it to the standard of our grace-enriched spirit.
- In periods of camping, we need to ensure that we are partaking of grace (daily bread), as it prepares us for the next leg of the journey.

Numbers 2:34

"The children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses; so they camped by their banners and so they broke camp, each one by his family, according to their fathers' houses.

- Consider how the nation journeyed - tribes, clans, families.
 - Similarly, the Body of Christ is constituted in tribes, clans and families.
 - Journeying is not just personal - we've got to understand and actively participate in the corporate journey of the global church.
 - It is important that we are connected to grace-enriched spiritual leaders / fathers who produce grace-filled spiritual families, connected to the present speaking of God.
-