

Stewardship: Grace Upon Grace, Glory to Glory

**Proverbs 4:18** <sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** <sup>18</sup> 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.

The path that we all take as we follow Christ Jesus is one of PROGRESS: the trend lines are always overall better, we becoming more effective, more joyful, shining brighter and fuller until the day He comes.

**1 Corinthians 15:9-10** <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> 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.

Grace calls unworthy people to put off our excuses- or our pride- and be instruments in His holy hands.

How did Paul become an apostle of Christ Jesus? God called him through grace- there was no list of requirements.

God expects to put everything in; He does not need us to be anything more than responsive to His call.

**God works in us to will and to do...**

We will not walk fully in our callings until we can say this from the heart: "By the grace of God, I am what I am."

We have to have the grace awakening. It is a revelation. It must be REALIZED.

**John 1:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Grace is divine favor and assistance (help); it calls us to the impossible, and then makes impossible things possible.

Truth is the close companion of grace. Grace makes truth palatable and strengthens us to walk in the truth, which brings transformation.

**"You are blessed if you do them..."**

Grace supplies us with the supernatural help we need to walk by the Spirit within the scope of our calling.

**2 Corinthians 6:1-10** And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— <sup>2</sup> for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you."

Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"— <sup>3</sup> giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, <sup>4</sup> but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, <sup>6</sup> in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, <sup>7</sup> in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, <sup>8</sup> by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

Grace, working with our works, makes all our effort and endurance bear fruit. Without grace, we spin our wheels and experience constant frustration.

So what is the key to being good managers and growing in the grace we have received?

### **James 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

First, we recognize that whatever station in life God has called me to, it is a divine and holy calling- it is not arbitrary.

Next, I humble myself and take FULL OWNERSHIP of the role God has called me to perform in this life. Faithfulness is key to progress and promotion.

For some, it will mean making a change. If you have called yourself to your own idea, then humility means laying it down and finding your way into God's calling for your life.

Once you know you are where He has called you, faithfully grow everything in your sphere of influence.

What is flourishing around me, and what is withering? Is anything stagnant? Let's get those things into a place of progress.

The grace of God makes impossible things possible. With grace well-tended, working together with Him, we will succeed!

**Hebrews 4:14-16** <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.