

## **Walking in Grace**

Why do we try and fail, try and fail, and try some more and still fail?

Pain is temporary. It may last a minute, or an hour, or a day, or a year, but eventually it will subside and something else will take its place. If I quit, however, it lasts forever.

### **Why and what are we trying to do?**

**There is a difference between creating a working lightbulb and being a disciple of Jesus.**

**You will never be successful at serving the Lord through your own resources.**

John Mark, cousin of Barnabas, tried to serve the Lord through his own efforts.

**Paul tells the church to receive John Mark if he comes to them. John was now walking in the Grace of God**

[Col 4:10 KJV] 10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

**John Mark had deserted them after they left Paphos.**

[Act 13:13 KJV] 13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

**Paul and Barnabus had a huge argument over bringing John Mark with them on the next missionary journey.**

[Act 15:37-40 KJV] 37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. 39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

**Text:** [Eze 36:26-27 KJV] 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

## **Introduction**

What's our attitude towards Serving the Lord?

Where is our faith and humility in our relationship with the Lord?

Are we servants or lords in the Lord's service?

Is Jesus working through you or are you trying to work through Jesus?

Grace saves us and Grace enables us to serve and obey

**What's our attitude towards Serving the Lord?**

All God's promises are conditional. So, Grace is not an automatic experience or a forced experience. The lives of many Christians do not consistently match what is described here in Ezekiel 36:27. The reason is that they are not relating properly to the Lord in humble dependence.

## **Religious Attitude vs Humility**

[Luk 18:10-14 KJV] 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

## **Protect against Cheap Grace**

[Jde 1:3-4 NLT] 3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. 4 I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

## **Where is our faith and humility?**

Yes, these two relational realities (humility and faith) also determine whether or not the Spirit of God is our resource, just as they were determinative concerning grace.

Two statements by Jesus expound upon this fact.

[Jhn 6:44 KJV] 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

[Jhn 6:53, 63 NLT] 53 So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, **you cannot have eternal life within you.** ... 63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

"You have no life in you...It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing" (John 6:53, 63). We do not innately possess life as God intends it to be lived. Natural human resources are of no benefit in developing a godly life. Such revelation is very humbling.

## **Are we servants or lords in the Lord's service?**

[Gal 5:13 KJV] 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Ask not what the church can do for you. What can you do for Christ?

## **Is Jesus working through you or are you trying to work through Jesus?**

People also need life continually, "for the letter kills." If we were left to our best efforts after we were given new life in Christ, we would be struggling under a human performance bondage of rules and regulations. That is spiritually deadening.

[Jhn 15:5 KJV] 5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

## **Grace saves us**

[Jhn 6:63 KJV] 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [they] are spirit, and [they] are life.

[Eph 2:1 KJV] 1 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins;

[Eph 2:8-9 KJV] 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

## **Before Grace**

[Eph 2:2-3 KJV] 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

## **Grace enables us to serve and obey. His, His, His, Not Ours**

[Col 3:8-10 KJV] 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Jesus expresses, His life in and through us: "Christ who is our life" (Colossians 3:4). Christ's life produces a lifestyle marked by His love, His joy, His peace, His wisdom, His courage-and whatever else is of His holy character.

The new covenant of His grace holds forth this life, and the Holy Spirit delivers that life into humble, trusting hearts. "It is the Spirit who gives life."

## **Jesus Spoke Spiritual Words**

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[Col 3:12-17 KJV] 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye. 14 And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.