

TRUE TRUST IN GOD (2) THE REST OF GOD

Dr Stephen Smith, 13 April 2014

Grace is God's ability / capacity that work in man that enables him to do what he cannot do in his own capacity.

But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).

James 1:14

The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

James 1:14-15 (Message)

DESIRE

It is important to understand this key issue regarding desire. Every desire that you have comes from God. The desire for success is a God-given emotional need that is built into you. Once we have sinned, we stare the greatest religious temptation in the face: We turn our backs on grace! The key to restoration is the same key to victory – BELIEVE!

REJECTING GRACE

[Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift (God's capacity) as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favour) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law (works), then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]

Galatians 2:21

Webster's dictionary on frustrate:

- Vain; ineffectual; useless; unprofitable; null; of no effect.
- To bring to nothing; to prevent from attaining a purpose; to disappoint, to defeat; to baffle; as to frustrate a plan, design or attempt; to frustrate the will or purpose.

The best way to experience grace is to experience it on a continual basis. This only happens once my heart is completely convinced that I am the righteousness of God in Christ and that I am committed to walk in it. Everything Jesus did, He did as a man full of grace and truth. He was the perfect example in showing us how to rule over temptation. He did it through God's grace (capacity) that worked through Him.

For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another (GOD'S CAPACITY!) and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift.

John 1:16

We are able to receive that fullness of grace (capacity) that worked in Jesus. Is it this grace that makes the New Covenant Life a possibility? Yes!

For someone whose heart is totally established in the Word of God, there is not much left for you to work on in the area of sin and temptation. Jesus lived a life above sin and temptation. It was His faith in the truth that made his grace effective in His life.

And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacle (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honour, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favour, loving-kindness) and truth.

John 1:14

We as human beings were not able to keep (obey) the law in our own capacity (the flesh). The law was implemented to make us more aware of our sin. The law required perfection and completeness, but could not show us the way to perfection.

For the Law never made anything perfect—but instead a better hope is introduced through which we [now] come close to God.

Hebrews 7:19

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.

Colossians 1:12

THE REST OF GOD

The next best thing to victory is **perseverance** – just keep on going. Perseverance is good. It is better than nothing, but it is not victory! Perseverance and willpower is the best of our ability! The only way we are going to put an end to this never-ending struggle and difficulty is if we get our hearts established in righteousness.

Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves].

Hebrews 4:11

It doesn't say you must be diligent to be victorious over change; it says: ***be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest of God...*** Hebrews 4:10 explains it even better: ***For he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labours, just as God rested from those labours peculiarly His own.***

NOTHING HAPPENS AUTOMATICALLY

Hebrews 4:9 promises us beforehand: ***So then, there is still awaiting a full and complete Sabbath-rest reserved for the [true] people of God.***

There is a place where you have to stop toiling, but you still have to diligently apply yourself to enter into that rest.

What was the contradiction?

Jesus is calling us up to another citizenship. If we want this other citizenship, we must change, keep on learning and stick to the change under the new law. The challenge is not how difficult it is to get saved, but the zeal in God's Kingdom, the renewing of my mind – that is the difficult part.

For by the grace (unmerited favour of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him.

Romans 12:3

When I change my view – that which I believe in, I will also be able to enter into that rest. From that point onwards, every change that comes into my life, comes through my faith in Jesus – never from my ability or from toiling.

No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtfully question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, Fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised.

Romans 4:20-21

For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike [sacred]. Let everyone be fully convinced (satisfied) in his own mind.

Romans 14:5

How do I become fully convinced? Through FAITH!

Webster's dictionary on faith:

- The faith of the gospel is that emotion of the mind which is called "trust or confidence" exercised toward the moral character of God, and particularly of the Saviour.
- Faith is an affectionate, practical confidence in the testimony of God.
- Credibility or Truth

This doesn't make you more righteous! I make a quality decision to believe in the work Jesus did on the CROSS, BURIAL and RESURRECTION for me and my heart BECOMES TOTALLY CONVINCED of the work (price), Christ has done for me. Become completely convinced regarding your identity in Christ Jesus – your righteousness in Him!