This is Amazing Grace!

GRACE that Transforms: GRACE 2 WALK in Love and Be Like HIM!

Review Ephesians 4:17-24

**17**Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18**They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19**They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20**But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21**assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22**to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23**and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24**and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

In the Holy Spirit’s Grace and empowerment, I am able to restrain, control and direct my thoughts, words, and actions so they are aligned with God. I am ever being changed to be like HIM in thought, word, and action.

When we are darkened in our thinking we are ignorant due to the hardening of our heart to God’s truth. We are given to this darkened thinking that results in dark and sinful behavior. BUT WHEN WE ARE ENLIGHTENED with revelation and responsive to God’s truth, we are transformed through the renewing of our mind— we agree with God, repent and re-align with God’s truth in our thoughts, attitudes, words, actions.

Jesus: earthly embodiment of Truth in and through His life.

NOW we who are His become the earthly embodiment of His truth in this world!! We are receivers and extenders of HIS AMAZING GRACE!

GRACE OF GOD AT WORK

A few days ago I awakened hearing these words,

“See to it that no one misses the grace of God...

Rest of verse —“and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” Hebrews 12:15

Hebrew roots of grace:

<http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/articles_grace.html>

The Meaning of Grace [http://www.ancient-Hebrew.org/Hebrew](http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/Hebrew) perspective

“The word 'grace' (CHEN in Hebrew, CHARIS in Greek), as it is used in the scriptures, literally means 'favour', to bend or stoop in kindness to another as a superior to an inferior. It has the idea of graciousness in manner or action. When used in reference to God, it is the benevolent action of Him stooping down to us in His kindness to reach us in our need, and convey upon us a benefit. His grace has been termed 'Unearned kindness' but it is more than an attitude of favour or mercy. His mercy is an expression of His compassion toward us, but His grace is an extension of benevolence translated into action that releases His enabling power into our lives.

Seeing that we never merit His favour, we are always indebted to Him to extend to us His mercy and bestow upon us His grace whereby we may respond to Him in an acceptable manner. From beginning to end we are dependent upon Him, for life itself, for all sustenance by which we continue to live and have our existence, and most importantly for our spiritual life without which we are but the "living dead".

The purpose of His grace is not just to save us from wrath and damnation, but to fulfil His original purpose which He had in creating us in His image and likeness. That original purpose was to have sons who had proven themselves faithful under testing, come to a maturity of character in which He could share as co-heirs, the responsibilities of administering His creation.

Grace is God meeting man where he is, in order to bring man to where He is. It is the active demonstration of the unconditional love of God, but it does not meet us where we are to just leave us in that condition and merely overlook our deficiencies and shortcomings. God meets us where we are, in our sin and our weakness, and our immaturity, in order to transform us and conform us to His image and stature (Romans 8:29-30). So, although Yahweh is long-suffering and patient with us in the extension of His grace toward us, there is an ultimate expectation in the ministry of His grace toward us for the fulfillment of our ultimate restoration.

This grace in which we now stand, enables us to live the Torah-obedient lifestyle of Yeshua who is our example to follow (1 Corinthians 4:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 2:21). He empowers us to obey Him so that we are able to fulfil His eternal purposes for us, through the indwelling presence of his Holy Spirit. It is possible to abuse the grace of God by continuing to live according to our own desires and our own will.

But, as Paul said, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" (Romans 6:1). The manifestation of God's Presence in our lives at any time is not a validation of our present state, of our personality or of our present lifestyle. It is an extension of unmerited grace toward us in the interim, while He suffers-long with us in the process of bearing with us as little children who need to go through the stages of growth to reach maturity, and need the constant re-assurance of parental love in the process. But while He will not withdraw His Presence while we act out our childish ways, we frustrate the grace of God and become transgressors when we build again the former things, instead of going on to maturity (Galatians 2:18:21; Hebrews 6:1, 4-6)”

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 English Standard Version (ESV)

**25**Therefore,

IMPERATIVES: given with an implied subject “you”

* an essential or urgent thing
* a factor or influence making something necessary
* absolutely necessary or required; unavoidable
* command or something demanding attention or action
* expresses the will to influence the behavior of another
* having power to restrain or direct

In the Holy Spirit’s Grace and empowerment, I am able to restrain, control and direct my thoughts, words, and actions so they are aligned with God. I am ever being changed to be like HIM in thought, word, and action.

25 put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**26**Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27**and give no opportunity to the devil.

Being angry is not sinful; anger is an emotion that says something needs to change. It is what we DO in that anger.

Cain—“sin is crouching at the door seeking to master you”

Jealous and angry—-gave foothold to devil—trying to get his foot in the door.

Vying for authority! Seeking whom he can devour. 1 Peter 5:8

**28**Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Shift from self to now working hard to share what we have

Not just cease from sin but yield and employ self for purpose to benefit others!

**29**Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may GIVE GRACE to those who hear.

2-part process: keeping my well-spring clean and God’s guard upon my mouth.

Receiving grace to be a giver of grace to benefit others!!!!!

“Out of the heart, the mouth speaks.” Matthew 15:8

Corrupt talk is a heart issue!

Heart: mind, will, emotions, attitudes

Ephesians 4:29 (AMPC)

**29**Let no foul *or* polluting language, *nor* evil word *nor* unwholesome *or* worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good *and* beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need *and* the occasion, that it may be a blessing *and* give grace (God’s favor) to those who hear it.

Definition of foul or polluting: rotten

**Definition of unwholesome words:** words that are detrimental to the physical, mental, or moral well-being of another

Examples of using unwholesome talk

-sometimes we say cruel things with nice words—-“bless her heart.”

-talk that is none of our business: gossip

-words that have not even been confirmed as true: gossip

-making others look bad to make ourselves look or feel better

-words spoken with an attitude that looks down on another—degrades, discounts, or dismisses their feelings, actions, or value.

This also includes obscenity, foolish talk, and course joking as listed in Ephesians 5:4.

Setting a guard on our mouth!

Psalm141:3

“Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over my lips.”

Clean our/my well-spring!

-ask God to reveal bitter, rotten pollutants

-repent and ask forgiveness

-forgive

-ask for cleansing of pollutants

-ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit and the fresh streams of living water

Help me speak what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen!

-words that are beneficial for the spiritual growth of another

-words that are fitting to the need or occasion

-words that are a blessing and give grace to those who listen

If the person were in the room would I say it and how would I say it?

HOW DO I SPEAK WORDS OF GRACE IF I HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED GRACE?

SEE TO IT THAT NO ON MISSES GRACE!

**30**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Holy Spirit is a person Who is grieved and offended by sin and foolishness.

When we are filled with Him we will feel that grief.

-Do not offend, vex, sadden Him

-Do not displease, or cause Him distress or pain

-Do not cause Him sorrow, dishearten or dispirit HIM

Dispirit: lose enthusiasm or hope

When we grieve the Holy Spirit we will also grieve the spirits of others.

SO LETS OPEN THE STUFFED CLOSET OR GARAGE OF OUR HEART AND GET RID OF SOME THINGS!!!!

**31**Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

NOW BE: be filled and receive GRACE so we can also GIVE GRACE!

**32**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Walk in Love**

**5:1**Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

**2**And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

AMPC

**5**Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him *and* follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father].

**2**And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a [a]slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

Fragrance evokes response

Lady in library wearing my grandmother’s perfume; evokes loving feelings so that I wanted to hug her.

Good perfume leaves behind its fragrance.

What is the spiritual fragrance or odor we leave behind by our interactions with others? May it be said of us, “THE SWEET PERFUME OF HIS PRESENCE HAS BEEN HERE!”