

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Six : Grace in Acts

I. Overview:

The grace of God is a matter of tremendous significance. According to the New Testament, grace is actually what God is to us for our enjoyment. Grace came through Jesus Christ; this indicates that grace is a person. Paul said, "Not I but the grace of God which is with me". Believers are reigning in life by receiving the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness; the grace received by the believers being visible. With great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all; this grace was nothing less than the living Jesus moving, convincing, subduing, releasing, uplifting, and transcending. Paul and Barnabas urged the believers to continue in the grace of God; this denotes certain dispensational points and the word of the Lord's grace replaces the law. Acts 20:32, "I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified."

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the grace of God being a matter of tremendous significance.

According to the New Testament, grace is actually what God is to us for our enjoyment. Grace is mainly not the work God does for us; grace is the Triune God Himself dispensed into our being and experienced as our enjoyment. In brief, grace is the Triune God experienced and enjoyed by us.

B. Explain the words in Romans 5:17 and how to apply them.

Romans 5:17 says that we can reign in life by grace. To reign is to be God. There is only one King. But we as the children of this one King can also reign in His life. To reign is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the world, sin, the flesh, ourselves, and all the environmental circumstances.

Day 2 —

A. State the testimony of brother J. N. Darby.

J. N. Darby lived to be eighty years old and remained single his whole life. At the age of eighty, one day during his travels he was staying in a hotel alone. In his loneliness he had such a sweet feeling within that he knelt down and prayed, "O Lord Jesus, I still love You." Such a word coming from an old man proves how sweet the Lord Jesus is.

B. Fellowship that today we are not under the law but under the grace.

This grace is God Himself. Some people say that they lean upon Jesus. This is wrong. If you fly from Taipei to the United States by leaning upon the airplane. You do not lean upon the airplane, but you enter into the airplane. You are resting while the airplane is flying. Noah was saved by entering into the ark, not by leaning upon the ark. Today we are standing in grace. This grace is Christ Himself.

Day 3 —

A. Testify the experiences of 2 Corinthians 12:9.

The believers' experience of the grace in God's economy is the Lord's sufficient grace, Christ's overshadowing power, in our weakness. When a person is weak and cannot do anything, the Lord comes to do everything for him. When someone is strong, he does not need others. When you are strong, the Lord cannot do anything for you. When you are weak, the Lord has the ground and can do things for you right away.

B. Expound the words in Romans 5:17b, and its experience.

The life we have received does not merely save us from a few things; rather, it enthrones us as kings to reign over all things. We have received righteousness objectively, but we still need to continually receive the abundance of grace so that we can reign in life subjectively. We can reign in life so that everything is controlled by us instead of everything directing us. This is to overcome. This is grace reigning unto eternal life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the grace we have experienced in our daily life.

We must admit that in our daily life we do not minister much grace to others in our speaking. We must learn not to speak wasted words. Instead, every word should minister the grace of God as a part of the entire salvation of God. We must learn to be humble and not proud. If we are proud, God will reject us.

B. Explain the believers receiving great grace in Acts 4:33.

It is not just one individual alone who receives grace, but all the believers receive great grace. We have been crucified with Christ; now Christ is in us not only to be our life and life supply but also to be our person. Such a living is the organism for the processed and consummated Triune God to live among us organically for His expression. This is God's intention in His economy.

Day 5 —

A. State the grace mentioned in Acts 14:26.

Thus, grace is the Triune God becoming life and everything to us. It was by this grace that Saul of Tarsus, the foremost of sinners became the foremost apostle, laboring more abundantly than all the apostles. His ministry and living by this grace were an undeniable testimony to Christ's resurrection. The grace that motivated him and operated in him.

B. Expound the word of His grace in Acts 14:3.

The phrase the word of His grace in Acts 14:3 denotes certain dispensational points. In the synagogues the Jewish people did not read the

Old Testament in order to know the word of the Lord's grace. Rather, they read the Scriptures in order to know the word of God's law, a word belonging to the old dispensation, to the former divine arrangement of God's economy. But the word of the Lord's grace replaces the law.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in Acts 20:32, and how to realize them.

Paul committed the believers to God and to the word of His grace. Grace is the Triune God received and enjoyed by the believers. I believe that during the three years Paul was in Ephesus, he daily spoke the word of God's grace to the saints. We can testify that, by the Lord's mercy, the word of God's grace can be found in the Life-study messages. I would encourage the young people to take the time over the next several years to become constituted of all the Life-study messages.

B. Expound what the function of the word of God's grace has.

First, this word is able to build up the saints. To build up the saints requires the growth in the divine life, and the growth in the divine life needs the nourishment of the divine element and the edification and equipment with the divine knowledge. Second, the word of God's grace functions to give us the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

III. Conclusion:

Grace is not primarily the work that God does for us; rather, it is the imparting of the Triune-God into us to make us experiencing and enjoying Him. Simply speaking, grace is the experience and enjoyment of the Triune-God coming into us. The New Testament reveals that grace is actually the God Himself to us. Grace is exactly what God dispenses to us in Christ for our enjoyment. It is not a simple matter for God to transfuse Himself to us as grace. He must have gone through all the processes of incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Through these processes, He is now able to transfuses Himself to us. Grace is the God transfusing Himself into us through His passing these processes. In the coming ages —the kingdom of millennium and eternity—God will openly manifest this grace to the entire universe.