

Grace and Empowerment



Lesson Objective:

The objective of this lesson is to gain a greater understanding of the age of grace in which we live and how the grace of God empowers us to live in the victory and freedom Christ purchased for us.

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

The Battle for Freedom

There was once a man who wanted to cross an icy river because he had business in the city on the other side. The closest bridge was several miles away and since his car was stuck in the snow, the best way to get across was walking over the ice covered river. The problem was, the man did not know how thick the ice was. He tried testing it by stepping onto it from the bank. It appeared to be solid, but the question still remained in his head, how thick was it in the middle?

Looking around for a solution to his problem, he saw some boards by the roadside, which had fallen from what used to be a fence. The man's mind sprang into action as he began formulating a plan. He took two of the boards and placed them over the icy surface. He then got down on all fours, placing his right knee and right hand onto one board and his left knee and left hand onto the other board. By shuffling the boards back and forth while shifting his weight from one side to the other, he began to maneuver his way across the surface of the ice. As he made it about halfway across, a sense of accomplishment swelled up within him. He felt so smart that he had figured out a solution to his problem. Sure it was taking a long time to shuffle across the river, but it would have taken him twice as long to walk to the bridge to cross. He felt proud of his genius idea even though he knew he looked silly. But he was accomplishing his task and would be at his meeting in plenty of time.

About two-thirds of the way across the ice the man began to hear the sound of bells ringing in the distance. They seemed to be coming from around the bend of the river. He continued to shuffle his way across while occasionally looking back to see where the sound of the bells were coming from. As the bells grew louder and louder, he could see something coming from around the bend of the river. It was a man leading a big Clydesdale horse pulling a large load of logs behind it across the surface of the icy river. As he looked back and watched the lumberjack with his load of logs passing behind him, a sense of embarrassment replaced

his once sense of pride. The smirk on the logger's face, as he passed him by, didn't help at all. The man had no way of knowing whether the ice would be able to hold him until he saw the revelation of its ability. Because we know just how much of a sinner we can act like, the weight of our condition can seem much greater than the grace that our Father is able to hold. Many of us are sure it will not hold us so we perform good acts to compensate for lack we believe is in the supply of God's grace. The grace of God is twenty feet thick and able to hold us, our family, our neighbors, the city, the nation and even a world of sinners gathered throughout the ages. There is no way the grace of God can give way to sin.

When people become born again they will usually encounter a sense of love and acceptance by God with joy and peace sweeping over their hearts. They will experience an immediate change in their lifestyles as they walk in a freedom they have never had before. However, for many, these changes are short lived. Many fall back into the bondages of sin that once held them captive. They can again come under the dark clouds of rejection, sadness, and a sense of insignificance. Why do people receive God's forgiveness but constantly live under the shadow of their weaknesses and failures?

When we succumb to guilt and shame, we give in to the single oldest temptation in the Bible; the temptation to question our true identity and God's integrity, which rob us of faith. The very first temptation in the Bible was not to partake of forbidden fruit, but to question God's word, "Has God said.....?".¹ The second one was to doubt God's intentions.

Ephesians 2:4-9 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places} in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Key Point: ***Receiving and continuing in grace is the only assurance we have of victory over sin.***

Usually we fall into sin because of ignorance or unbelief about walking and living in the grace God provided for us through faith. Receiving and continuing in grace is the only biblical assurance we have of victory over sin. Our battle for freedom has already been fought. Jesus secured the victory once and for all. The grace of God gives assurance of Jesus' victory over sin resulting in freedom. In reality, the Christian life is to be one of joy and peace with a sense of significance in our identity in Christ and in the revelation of who Christ is in us.

The Complete Work of Christ

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

¹ Genesis 3:1

Key Point: *The grace of God at work results in bringing change.*

The moment we believed and were born again, the grace of God came into us resulting in change. We became a new creation. The old things have passed away and we have been given a brand new start.² Just as we could not save ourselves by our own ability and efforts, we cannot bring about change through our own resolve. What Christ Jesus accomplished through his death and resurrection was a complete work. There is nothing that needs to be added to what he purchased for us. Through the act of shedding His blood we were brought out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Key Point: *We need to receive and experience what Christ has already accomplished in giving us a new heart and a new spirit.*

Our hearts and spirits were not only made new, but also made holy, righteous and whole. The need is not for us to become more righteous or holy, these have already been accomplished through Christ. The need is for us to receive and experience that which is new in our spirits. The reality of the kingdom within us needs to be experienced until it becomes a reality in what we believe and how we behave.

When we were given a new spirit, we also received a new heart. The heart and the spirit are not the same. The heart is the place where who we are in our spirit and who we are in our soul come together. The heart is like a doorway between the spiritual realm and the realm of the natural. All that God created us to be in our spirit was revived in our new birth. The kingdom within us then begins to invade through the door of our hearts bringing union together with the thoughts, beliefs, emotions and ambitions of the soul.

Key Point: *Our hearts can be influenced by the thoughts and emotions of the soul.*

Although our spirits can only be changed by God, our new hearts can be influenced by the thoughts and emotions of the soul. What truths or lies we come into agreement with will have a positive or negative impact upon the heart. The condition of our heart determines what will come out of our inner selves. The reason we lose the sense of joy, peace and the sense of loving acceptance is because our hearts changed, not our spirit man.

The Need for Change

Key Point: *Because our spirit-man hungers and thirsts for more of God, the need for change is very strong.*

Within the heart of every born again believer there is a hunger that cries out from the spirit man for more of God. Our spirits hunger and thirst for relationship and intimacy with the Spirit of God. We desire to know and experience God in greater measures. King David voiced this hunger when he said, "And I - in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness."³ In our redeemed

² 2 Corinthians 5:17

³ Romans 10:17

state of righteousness our hearts cry out to see the face of God. This cry will only be satisfied as we conform into His likeness. For this reason, the need to change is very strong in every believer. It is a desire that is often met by resistance, tears and frustration.

Key Point: ***God's plan for bringing change within us is through personal relationship with us.***

Being raised in an instamatic culture of microwave ovens and drive up fast food restaurants, we want those hunger desires filled right now. However, that does not work in meaningful relationships. God's desire is that we abide in Him on a continual basis. We desire to change, but it seems impossible in our time-oriented mindsets.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 ¹¹*When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.* ¹²*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*

Key Point: ***Our failures at being Christ-like usually results in a sense of failure and hopelessness.***

We all see areas in our lives that are not like Jesus. We know we need to change but the next day we are looking at what appears to be the same person in the mirror. Therefore, we apply more disciplines in our lives that are good, but we end up performing changes instead of being changed. Acts of self-discipline usually last for a short while, unless they become part of our traditions. Failing to live up to self-imposed standards of righteousness, we then find ourselves under a load of guilt and shame. These failures usually result in a sense of hopelessness where we feel like we want to give up. The Scripture says that when hope is differed it makes the heart sick.

For many, the desire for change turns into a life-long struggle with what they believe is the sinful nature. This leads to a "works" or a "performance" mentality. Unless we learn to receive the grace to change, our lives will continue to be full of frustration and deceit.

The walk of following Jesus is meant to be easy and free. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."⁴ If our yoke is not easy, then we have the wrong one on. We are to be wearing His yoke. When we are yoked with Him, he does all the work. We just follow after Him. His will is to take us from glory to glory.

Grace: God's Unmerited Favor

Key Point: ***Out of God's love, He extents to us His favor.***

The most accepted definition of grace is, "unmerited favor." This comes with the understanding you get favor from God that you didn't deserve or earn. It means that out of God's love, or charity, He extends to us

His favor of blessings, goodness, kindness, power, and everything that is in heaven as our inheritance. Although this definition is true, it does not tell us what grace really is, it tells us only that it is free.

Key Point: *Two extremes of grace: Grace to do whatever you want, or grace provided for righteous living.*

While grace is “unmerited favor,” there are also some questions raised according to Scripture as to its conditions. If grace is unmerited, then why does God only give it to the humble and not the proud, according to 1 Peter 5:5? If grace is unmerited favor, how then is it possible to fall from it according to Galatians 5:4? Our understanding of what God intended for grace becomes further muddled as the church attempts to define its meaning through its historical experiences. The church's understanding of grace has been either too rigid or too loose. It has either ebbed into what is called “greasy grace” where individuals can do whatever they want and are extended grace regardless of their continued sinful behavior. The other extreme results in legalism so that the favor of God was given in proportion to one’s holy living.

The church has had the tendency to begin in the Spirit of God and end up in legalism. As an example, God, out His merciful and loving nature, chooses to pour out His presence in a unique way. The minds of men cannot comprehend His unmerited favor, so they attribute God’s favor as a reaction to something they did. They prayed, therefore prayer becomes the program for His extended grace. They don’t realize their desire to pray was in itself God’s grace. Or, because they wept, repented, and confessed their sins, this becomes the model for continued outpouring of grace.

Past revivals have demonstrated a tendency of the church to redefine grace after they received an outpouring of God’s presence upon them. People from all walks of life were getting saved, which resulted with bars and brothels being emptied and going out of business. Yet, as the outpouring seemed to ebb away, some of the people slid back into their former ways of living. The church, in reacting to the illicit behaviors, began making requirements of holiness, resulting in legalism.

The problem further develops when we set out to purposefully duplicate a move of God and its results through our efforts. If, for example, we are trying to bring a movement of God through repentance evidenced through the confession of sins, we will become very sin-conscious and repentance-oriented. We will have a tendency to minister out of sternness, instead of the Holy Spirit convicting sinfulness we begin to condemn sinners. The problem then develops as we begin to educate and train the church that the way to get God to move is through public humiliation. In order to get humility we start provoking ourselves to brokenness. We will stir ourselves to tears and weep longer than the time before. We’ll call a corporate fast; we’ll start all night prayer meetings, and put requirements upon the people they have no grace for.

Grace: God’s Ability

Key Point: *Grace is God’s empowering ability working in and through us to do what we cannot do on our own.*

The simplest definition of grace is the word “ability.” Grace is God’s empowering ability working in and through us, making us able to do what we cannot do in our own ability. The flesh refers to man’s ability. We are in the flesh when we try to perform for acceptance or change, and become what we should be through our own strength.

Romans 8:1-5 ¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Key Point: ***We have been given the ability to abide and walk in His Spirit.***

Jesus came to abolish sin so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to our own ability but according to the Spirit's ability. For those who are according to their own ability set their minds on their own strength, but those who live according to the Spirit receive His abilities. For the mind set upon our own ability results in separation from God, but the mind set on the Spirit, results in life and peace. Because, the mind that is set upon ones own strength is opposed to God; for it does not yield itself to the power contained within God's word, for it has no ability to do so. Those who are in their own strength cannot please God. However, we have all ability in His Spirit.

Key Point: ***The Law is based upon man's ability to obey rather than God's ability to empower.***

Obedience to the law became based upon man's ability to obey rather than God's ability to transform. The law cannot change man; it simply gives him a standard of conduct that is conducive to God's values. The law required perfection, but gave no means whereby our natures could be changed. It had no ability in itself. That ability can only come from God. That ability is what is called grace. It is unmerited because it is not based upon our ability to perform for it.

Jesus: The Fullness of Grace and Truth

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)*

Although Jesus is God, when He came to earth He emptied himself of His divine power and became just like man in right relationship with God. Jesus, the Son of Man, was 100% man ministering under the empowering ability of the Holy Spirit and not by His own strength.

Key Point: ***Jesus set an example for us by walking in God's truth totally dependent upon receiving divine ability through the Holy Spirit.***

Jesus did not walk in truth alone. Living according to truth would have been another example of walking according to law that man could not obey. Jesus could only set an example for us by walking in God's truth

as a man totally dependent upon receiving God's ability through the Holy Spirit. He is the perfect example of how a man could live above sin by being dependent upon the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grace and truth came together through Christ Jesus. He walked in the Holy Spirit's ability to live the truth. Knowing the Word alone is not enough. We must appropriate the needed grace to live according to the reality of the Word.

When Jesus taught people about the law, He raised it to an impossible standard. First, he raised it to a level of the issues of the heart. He made the religious world see that God didn't just want right performance; He wanted a right heart. Secondly, He established that the motive of the heart had to be love.⁵

By Grace through Faith

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--* ⁹*not by works, so that no one can boast.* (NIV)

Key Point: ***Faith is the channel through which the grace of God flows to us.***

Faith cannot be based upon our personal accomplishments no matter how noble or good they may be. Our faith can only be based upon the finished work of Christ. Faith becomes the channel through which the grace, or God's empowering abilities, flow to us. Grace is not automatic. It only works in areas in which we have faith. If I misapply my faith in my own strength, then I quench the flow of the grace from God. Faith brings grace, but it is grace that brings power for transformation, victorious living, and supernatural ministry.

Since faith comes by the hearing of the word of God,¹ then what I listen to and agree with becomes a great influence upon the grace I receive. Our beliefs are structured according to the amount of truth we hear and come into agreement with.

Key Point: ***Falling from grace is misapplying our faith in our own abilities to perform righteousness.***

Falling from grace does not mean that we have lost our salvation. It means that we have misapplied our faith in our own abilities to perform righteousness. It is faith in the Spirit's abilities that brings hope in the face of change and transformation. It is the kind of faith that is motivated out of love and desire for God's presence.

Illustration: Chris Christian

Chris Christian would be considered by many to be a normal Christian. He goes to church every Sunday. He pays his tithes and gives offerings as often as he can. He loves his wife and children and works hard to provide for them. He reads his Bible and prays every morning, and is friendly to his neighbors. However, Chris Christian has a problem with living in the victory and freedom that Christ Jesus purchased for him.

⁵ Genesis 3:1

Although he is faithful in giving to his church, he can't seem to get on top in his finances. Every time he seems to save a little bit of money, something happens which costs him. Consequently, he is having to constantly scrimp and save. His boss doesn't seem to appreciate him. Several times he has been overlooked for a promotion while he has watched others below him receive them instead.

He has been battling with feelings of rejection and insignificance, which has led to emotional mood swings from anger and frustration into depression. It got to the point that when he walked into a room at home, his family would actually leave the room. The only escape from the pressure of worry and frustration is when he was able to relax in front of the television drinking a soda and eating junk food, which has had an effect on his weight and health. "Where are all the promises that God gives in His word?" he consistently asks himself. "What did he do to deserve this punishment from God?" he reasons. "What is God trying to teach me?" he wonders.

But the problem is neither with God nor His word. The problem is that Chris Christian has not learned to appropriate the grace of God. His faith is in reliance upon his own abilities to perform for acceptance and work for promotion. His faith is in the concept of giving so that he could receive, and in his ability to find peace through escape.

Key Point: *The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of grace working in our lives.*

When we place our faith in our own strength, our ability to discipline ourselves and exercise self-control, we choke the flow of grace into our lives. Self-control is the fruit or manifestation of grace from the Holy Spirit. As a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it can only be accessed through faith in what God has promised to provide. Only He can provide a sense of love and acceptance in the face of rejection. He is the source of hope in His provision that comes with joy. In the midst of the storm He gives us peace. He provides patience in confrontation, kindness and goodness in the face of injustice, and self-control in temptation. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of grace working in our lives.

Galatians 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness {comes} through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Key Point: *When we trust in our own abilities, we neutralize God's ability.*

The word *nullify*, or *frustrate* as translated in other versions, means to neutralize, to make of no affect. We are either depending upon our own abilities or God's abilities. There is no in-between. When we trust in our own abilities, then we have neutralized God's ability. This is what happened to the Galatians. They were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, they had no lasting victory and freedom in their lives apart from what they could produce in their own abilities. Having begun in the Spirit they chose to believe lies and work their way into change and maturity.¹

Most believers have tried to conquer sin, but out of ignorance they have warred after the flesh and not the Spirit.¹ Faith cannot be based upon our personal accomplishments; it must be based on the finished work of Christ Jesus. When the grace of God comes to us, the objective is not endurance but victory. We do not endure, we overcome. When we accept our identity as overcomers in Christ, grace flows out of us and makes us able to live the victorious life of Jesus Christ.

Free from Sin

Key Point: ***A believer who sins does so by will rather than uncontrolled compulsion.***

God has freely given the Spirit of grace to us to make us able to live a powerful, godly, victorious life. As the Spirit of grace, He continually works in us to empower us to conquer sin. He is the “One called alongside to help.” As the Helper, He give us the ability to do those things we could not do in our own ability. It is up to us to believe and choose to come out of sin. He is here to help by giving us the ability.

Defining grace as nothing more than unmerited favor lends itself to saying that “God can still give me favor when I sin.” The truth about grace actually says, “I don’t have to sin.” Sin has no power over the believer. We are not limited to our ability to deal with sin. Yes, God will continue to love me and accept me if I sin, but this is an issue of mercy, not grace.

In light of this truth, sin under the New Covenant is much more serious than sin under the Old Covenant. Because we have been delivered from sin and we are no longer slaves to sin, all sins are willful choices. It may be done in ignorance, but it is always done as an act of the will. A saved person always sins by choice. Grace removes the excuse to sin.

Key Point: ***Personal responsibility is the only pathway to freedom.***

The significance of the “grace through faith” message is in one’s acceptance of responsibility. A believer in the new covenant who yields to sin can only admit to ignorance, unbelief or choice – all of which can be reduced to personal responsibility. Personal responsibility is the only pathway to freedom. Personal responsibility says, “I must believe God and depend on the Holy Spirit to make this work.” Failure to make a decision by faith limits what the Spirit of grace can do in our life.

Sin will rule over your life if you let it. If we yield to sin, sin will gain control over our lives – even though we have been given the power to overcome sin. If we yield to the righteousness of Christ in us, the Holy Spirit will give us the grace to walk in that righteousness. But the choice is ours.

1 John 1:5-10 ⁵ *This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.* ⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and {yet} walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;* ⁷ *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.* ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

Key Point: ***When we choose to walk in darkness, our fellowship with God is constrained.***

This portion of Scripture is often used to tell sinners how to get saved. However, it is not written to sinners, it is written to the saints who sin. Light, in the Scripture, is synonymous with truth. God deals in truth, righteousness, and honesty. When we walk in any darkness (untruth, unrighteousness, sin and deceit), our fellowship with God is constrained.

Key Point: ***Acknowledging the truth sets us free to come boldly to God instead of running from Him.***

Many people say that your sin will separate you from God. That is totally untrue under the New Covenant. The New Covenant says that nothing shall separate us from the love of God. The constraint in our fellowship is on our part. God does not draw back. When we sin, our heart (consciences) condemns us. But God is greater than our hearts. *"We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."*¹ In other words, God does not change, but in our hearts we change. By acknowledging the truth we are set us free to boldly approach God, instead of running from Him. It frees us from the accusations of guilt and shame that keep us at a distance from Him.

Key Point: ***We no longer have a sinful nature. Instead, sin has its root in our belief systems.***

The last half of 1 John 1:7 is essential: *"and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."* The truth is we are clean from sin. Your spirit man is as clean and perfect as it will ever be. There is nothing you can add to what Jesus has done in your spirit. At the same time, your soul and your heart are affected by sin. When you sin, it damages your faith in God. It damages your faith in the Word of God. It destroys your hope for freedom and the renewing of life. Since we have been born again, our sins do not have their root in the sin nature. We no longer have a sinful nature. Instead, sin has its root in our belief systems and in our emotions.

Key Point: ***Confession is saying the same thing as God says.***

1 John 1:9 is crucial to walking out the victory that Jesus gives. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Confessing sin is not confessing that you are a sinner. You are no longer a sinner; you are a saint made righteous by the blood of Jesus. The word, *confess* literally means to say the same thing. We are to say the same thing about sins as God says about them. This is significant to walking in the light. It is not only telling God what you did wrong and how bad you feel about doing it. It is saying the same thing about my sin God says; I must say that I am free from sin. It is saying that sin no longer has control over me. I must confess that I have the righteous nature of Christ in me. And I must also declare that forgiveness is mine through the finished work of Jesus. These are true confessions.

Conclusion

It is in intimate fellowship with God that enables grace to purge our conscience from the influence of sin. It is in the embrace of His love that melts away the guilt and shame of sin and brings us into the peace of knowing that all things are right between Papa God and us. In that place of peace we are able to come and abide in His rest.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

It is not God's will for the Christian walk to be so difficult. Jesus said that His yoke was easy and His burden is light. His will is that we change from glory to glory. This change comes as we allow faith to take hold of all that Jesus has provided for us in heaven and pull His kingdom to earth.

A major fault of Israel was that they refused to enter into rest. They refused to trust God and allow Him to give them victory. He wanted them to enter the Promised Land. He wanted them to live in houses they did not build and eat the fruit of trees they did not plant. They were to enjoy the blessing they did not work for.

Hebrews 3:15-19 ¹⁵As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." ¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. (NIV)

Hebrews 4:1, 3 ¹ Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

³ Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. (NIV)

Hebrews 4:9-11 ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

In order to trust someone you must come to know them. In order to know someone, you must learn of them. If we humble ourselves and learn of God we will find rest in His grace. We will discover an enabling power to do things we could not do in our own ability. Grace, in a heart environment of peace and rest, which are the fruit of faith, will invade our lives with the blessings of God's resources in heaven. We will experience God's empowering ability to conquer fear and live in the freedom He purchased for us.

End of Lesson 307

Recommended Resources:

1. Book: "Developing a Supernatural Lifestyle" by Kris Vallotton. © Copyright 2007 – Kris Vallotton. Destiny Image Publishers Inc. P.O. Box 310 Shippensburg PA 17257-0310
2. Book: "Grace, The Power to Change" by Dr. James Richards. © Copyright 1993 – James B. Richards, Whitaker House, 30 Hunt Valley Circle, New Kingsington, PA 15068
3. Book: "Agape Road" by Bob Mumford. © 2002, 2006 – Lifechangers. Destiny Image Publishers Inc. P.O. Box 310 Shippensburg PA 17257-0310
4. Audio Message: "Living In Graceland" by Kris Vallotton
5. Audio Message: "This is Grace" by Bill Johnson

These resources can be obtained through:

Sound Wisdom
933 College View Drive
Redding, CA 96003
USA

email: customerservice@ibethel.org

Customer Service Phone #: 1-530-246-6000