

GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

365 days of
Grace

PETER WILSON

365 days of
grace

by PETER WILSON

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Further resources available @ www.peterwilsonministries.org

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

FOREWORD

For the last 10 to 20 yrs there has been a ground-swell of preachers and teachers proclaiming a revelation of grace.

Steve Mcvey, Paul Ellis, Andrew Womack, Joseph Prince, Creflo Dollar, Rob Rufus, Ryan Rufus, Phil Drysdale, Barry Bennett and scores more like them.

This revelation of grace has become a tsunami wave that is sweeping the globe, growing in power and intensity!

It is a wave that cannot be stopped, a wave that is awakening the Church to the gift of righteousness and total forgiveness of sin, a wave that is preparing God's people to hasten the coming again of The Lord Jesus Christ!

Contained in the pages of this book is my own contribution to this revelation of grace, which is not a doctrine or a teaching but the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Once we've tasted the revelation of grace we become aware of our need to be established in it on a daily basis. For many of us, the law is so deeply ingrained in our psyche that we need smaller grace waves to wash over us again and again to cleanse away wrong thinking and replace it with New Covenant truth!

These Grace Waves have been purposely kept short and concise in order for the reader to spend quality time meditating upon their truths.

If you are reading these words it's because God has placed within you a desire to know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Welcome to the world of the 'Grace Addict'.

Peter Wilson.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

INTRODUCTION

Why the title, ‘Grace Waves Devotional’?

When a wave breaks onto a beach, it rushes up the beach cleansing the surface. As it ebbs out to sea, it leaves behind in its wake, a shell, a rock pool, a block of wood!

When reading a grace devotional, it’s like a wave breaking over our mind, cleansing away wrong thinking, replacing law with grace and establishing us in its truths!

As it ebbs out, it leaves behind in its wake, a nugget of truth here, a revelation there, an encouragement that strengthens!

These devotionals are not for the person who wants a quick read like eating fast food! No! To get the full benefit, they have to be read slowly, meditated upon and turned over in the mind!

Christianity has sold us the lie that reading 5 to 10 chapters of the Bible everyday will somehow make us into men and women of God!

It’s not that there’s no benefit from reading in such a way, but we’ve completely missed the truth that the Bible is not a Western book, it’s a Middle-Eastern book!

In the West we tend to read — In the East they tend to meditate!

Gen24:63 Isaac went out to ‘meditate in the field in the evening!’

Let’s look at some of the definitions for the word ‘meditation’ in the Hebrew of the Old Covenant: To muse, mutter, study, ponder, imagine, think, revolve in the mind. As you can see, each of these words demand attention, time and energy!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

WHY MEDITATE?

On the surface, God's word is the same as any other word, but underneath there is layer after layer of revelation, like a deep bottomless ocean. It is meditation that releases this revelation so that it becomes life to our spirit and changes us from the inside out!

1 Cor 2:9-10 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him!" Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny]. (AMP)

*Phil 4:8
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HOW TO MEDITATE

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (NKJV)

To Meditate we need to:

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit (the author of the word of God) to open the eyes of your spirit to see the truths hidden in God's word.

Ponder: Take a word or phrase, turn it over again and again in your mind. Do not move on to the next word until you have exhausted your thinking on the present word.

Mutter: at the same time as you ponder, speak out loud to yourself the thoughts of your mind. No thought is too simple to speak out. This action triggers further thoughts and releases scripture from the deposit of God's word stored up in your spirit.

Dialogue with God: Ask Him questions about His word! talk to Him about it!

Practise: Put into practise the revelation that God is revealing to you! (Present truth. 2 Peter 1:12)

We can know about God from reading the Bible, but only revelation enables us to know God intimately and relationally!

Matthew 16:15-17 Jesus said to them, " But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, " You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, " Blessed are you, Simon Bar- Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Up to this point, the disciples had been with Jesus and knew Him as the Son of man, but only Simon Peter knew Him as the Son of God!

2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

If you make the decision to conduct your devotional time with God through meditation, I can assure you, you will come into a revelation of grace that will revolutionise your life.

Thanks for reading!

Peter Wilson.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Ps 116:7
I said to myself, "Relax
and return, my soul to
your rest, because the
Lord takes care of you
and treats you well."*

SPEAK YOURSELF INTO REST!

Most of us are aware of the Biblical concept of confessing, proclaiming and speaking God's word. We proclaim God's healing, prosperity, protection and guidance etc!

Are you aware we can also speak God's rest to ourselves? In this Psalm, David is surrounded with pressing problems, but in the midst of them, he remembers in times past how God has always come to his aid.

David puts his trust back in the Lord and speaks to his soul and commands himself to relax and rest in the Lord! He knows that when he's at rest, God works powerfully on his behalf!

Focusing on and speaking God's word to ourselves in the midst of pressure, releases it's latent power, keeps us in hope and faith, brings stability and strengthens us to stand. More importantly, it releases God to work on our behalf!

Next time pressure comes, command yourself with such words as: "Calm down (Insert your name). Take it easy, focus on Jesus. I will not be driven by pressure or time. I am resting in You Jesus. Your rest steadies me, calms me and keeps me in peace. You are my anchor, my foundation, my provider and protector" etc etc!

**SPEAK YOURSELF BACK INTO REST!
TRY IT WHY DON'TCHA!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



RESTING IN CHRIST!

When an archer needed to shoot an arrow, he first had to string his bow, place the arrow in the bow, pull back the string, aim the arrow and shoot at the target.

After he finished using the bow he would unstring it. Experience taught him that if he kept his bow strung all the time, the pressure exerted on the bow would cause it to lose its elasticity and strength.

The bow is a picture of resting in Christ. (*Mt 11:28-30*) The person who's bow is always strung is one who lives in constant fear, worry and stress! They are taut with pressure like a wound up spring. They use up vast amounts of adrenalin and nervous energy until the day comes when they burn out, hit the wall and become a spent shell!

The bow of their life has lost its elasticity and strength and cannot be used, whereas the person who is at rest keeps the bow of their life unstrung.

Experience has taught them that if they give their fears, worries and stress to Christ, they can easily string their bow and become the arrow of God's deliverance wherever they are needed! (*2 Kings 13:17*)

Jesus wants to give you His rest today!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



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WATER IN DRY PLACES!

Have you heard believers say that they feel dry spiritually. Maybe you've confessed such yourself. What they mean is that they are not experiencing the life of God in their spirit!

A dry place is a waterless place. How do we get in such dry places?:

Jer 17:5 Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from The Lord!

When we drift away from trusting in God to trusting in ourselves, the end result is always a dry place:

Jer 17:6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness.

However, the moment we reject trusting in ourselves and return to trusting God:

Jer 17:7,8 Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, for he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

The moment we trust in Jesus, His water of life flows into every dry place in our lives!

Jn 7:37 Jesus cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 84:6
As they pass through
the valley of Baca,
(weeping and affliction)
He makes the valley
a spring!*

GOD IS WITH US IN THE UP AND DOWN EXPERIENCES OF LIFE!

Read 1 Kings Ch 20

1 Kings 20:28 “God is a god of the mountains and not a god of the valleys!”

In this story the Syrian army attack Israel seeking to invade them. Because God is with Israel they defeat the Syrians. This battle took place on the mountains surrounding Israel. The Syrians in their ignorance think they were defeated because the God of Israel is only the god of the mountains not the god of the valleys, so they return to fight Israel again in the valley of Aphek, but God is with Israel and again they defeat Syria!

God says to us today, “Do not be ignorant of who I am to you. I am not just the God who is with you in your mountain-top experiences, I am also the God who is with you in your valley experiences! Therefore, trust me in the valleys and they will be the to you as the mountaintops!”

Kenneth Hagin (the Father of the faith movement) when asked about how he went through his valley experiences said, “What valleys?” What he meant was that although he went through problems, difficulties or failure, he was never affected by them because his trust was always in God. Therefore, he rejoiced in The Lord just as much in the valleys as he did on the mountain-tops!

*Ps 23:4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil for You are with me, your rod and staff comfort
me!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
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Mt 14:28
"Lord, if it's you," Peter
replied, "tell me to come
to you on the water."

YOU TOO CAN WALK ON WATER!

Read Mt 14:22:32

In this story the disciples are in a boat on the lake of Galilee. It's being buffeted by strong winds and high swelling waves. Jesus came walking on the water. His intent was to walk past the boat to the other side of the lake. When Peter saw Him, he signalled to Jesus that he too wanted to walk on water. Jesus replied, "Come!" Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on water.

In **v30**, when Peter **saw** the wind, **fear** rose in his heart, he began to **sink**, and in panic he cried out, "Lord, save me!". Jesus caught hold of Peter and said, "You of **little faith**. Why did you **doubt**?"

When Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he had faith! But when he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at his circumstances, fear rose in his heart, doubt came in and he began to sink.

What circumstances are you going through? Is it relational, financial or personal! The key to victory is always to **look away from our circumstances** and **keep our eyes on Jesus**. This keeps us in a place of faith and victory!

Heb 12:2
Looking away [from
all that will distract] to
Jesus.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



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*Prov 18:21
Death and life are in the
power of the tongue.*

*Phil 2:14
Do all things without
grumbling, faultfinding
and complaining!*

GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let your grace work into my heart, the desire to thank you when I want to complain and grumble! Thank You Lord.

When things go wrong, promises are broken and mistakes are made, the natural response is to moan, complain and criticise.

Question: Why do I complain?
Answer: I am an attention seeker!

Think about it - Your SELF has been hurt, rejected or wounded and you want people to know about it, feel sorry for you, stroke your ego and agree with you. So you complain and grumble! It's negative, unproductive and is a work of the flesh.

We are not called to respond in the natural - we are called to respond in the spiritual!

1 Thess 5:18 In everything give thanks.

To give thanks in everything requires a change of mindset so that we speak positive instead of negative: Thank you Lord You'll bring something good out of this mistake (**Rom 8:28**) Thank You Lord, Your grace will turn this sin around (**Rom 5:20**). Thank You Lord that in my weakness You will be strong! (**2 Cor 12:10**)

To thank God in the midst of disappointment, hopelessness and hurt requires an act of trust, but if we will stand in that trust, we'll see God turn things around.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



MARRIED TO JESUS! PT1

In Rom Ch 7 Paul uses the graphic picture language of marriage to reveal how we have been set free from the law to live a life of grace.

Before the cross, the believer was married to the husband of law. He was a despotic husband who always pointed out our weaknesses, failures and sins. He never stopped judging and condemning us, and worst of all, he never lifted a finger to help or encourage us.

But at the cross, we legally died to the law and went down into the grave. As we rose from the dead on the other side of the cross, we became set free to marry our new husband of grace, Jesus Christ.

He is totally opposite to the husband of law — He never points out our wrongs and never judges or condemns us. He always encourages, praises, helps and strengthens us!

He speaks life and hope to us, and best of all He loves us unconditionally.

You also have (past tense) become dead to the law that you may be married to another —to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God
Rom 7:4

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

MARRIED TO JESUS! PT2

When we know by revelation we have died to the law, we will be able to stand against any accusation of satan. Why? Because satan will always try to accuse us of the broken law. This is the only weapon, lie and deception he can use against us.

He seeks to employ this deception 24/7:

Rev 12:10 The accuser of our brothers/sisters is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

If we still struggle with guilt and condemnation, we must admit to ourselves that it is a stronghold operating in our life; The only thing that pulls down a lying stronghold is the truth of God's word! Spend time meditating on the scripture below and ask God to reveal it's truths:

Col 2:13-15 He (God) blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. In this way God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin. (TLB)

Although the law is still in operation, it no longer has jurisdiction over believers.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 2:19
I died to the law so
that I could live for
God?*

*Rom 5:13
God does not consider
people guilty of sin if
there is no law.*

*Rom 15:13
Now may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing!*

*Grace Waves
Devotional*

MARRIED TO JESUS! PT3

Don't allow guilt to sit in the driving seat of your life!

WITH GOD: NO MEANS NO!

Once we receive the revelation that we are dead to the law and alive to Christ, we come into the glorious truth of Rom 8:1; and there are 3 important words we must grasp:

1) NOW: This word now is in the present continuous tense, hence whether we committed sin yesterday, 5yrs ago, 20yrs ago, next year, in 10yrs time we can always confidently proclaim, "There is NOW (present tense) no more condemnation!"

2) NO: This word means non! Not the tiniest, smallest word of condemnation. We can still hold onto feelings of guilt because we want to punish ourselves for something we've done in the past, and God shouts out loud, "NO! no more condemnation!"

3) CONDEMNATION: We must allow Rom 8:1 to wash over us again and again. Guilt and condemnation are buried so deep in our psyche we can hold onto such things as - self recrimination, speaking negatives over our lives, allowing other people's opinion to control us. These are all forms of condemnation. One by one, the Holy Spirit will highlight these areas and free us to live a life of peace, joy and rest!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE RIGHTEOUS ARE BOLD AS A LION!

Heb 4:16
Therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Come before not into God's presence. We live in His presence 24/7!

God Himself is exhorting us to come before His throne with boldness. Why?

Under the O.C. because of man's sin only a select few (the Priesthood) were allowed to draw near to God's presence. Only one person (the High Priest) was allowed entrance into God's immediate presence, once a year on the Day of Atonement!

They entered with great fear, knowing if they put one foot wrong, if their clothing was dishevelled, if they disobeyed any minute detail of God's instruction, they would become burnt toast!
(Lev 10:1,2)

Under the N.C. Jesus dealt with sin at the cross thus abolishing all the fear and ceremony of the O.C. He's now opened a brand new living way into God's presence. *(Heb 10:20)*

In this new way, we live 24/7 in God's presence, we've been made righteous in Christ, we are perfect in every detail and God bids us come to Him just as we are. He bids us come before Him with boldness, assurance and confidence knowing we are accepted in Christ.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR!

Rom 15:13
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



PUT YOUR FOCUS ON CHRIST!

God has built into each person a soul comprised of mind, will and emotions; it is programmed to work only one way, like a computer:
1) Mind 2) Will 3) Emotions.

This reveals the truth that our thoughts (mind) control our will and emotions. Thus our thoughts determine our speech and our actions. Hence the scripture: As a man/woman THINKS so is he/she!

Are you a law based thinker or a grace based thinker!

Law Based Thoughts: Focus on self — my weaknesses, my failings, my sins, my mistakes, my bad luck, my poverty, my sickness, my stress - It's a long list!

Grace Based Thoughts: Focus on Christ - His strength, His victories, His righteousness, His riches, His health, His favour, His provision!

God has given to each of us the grace to change the way we think. He's given us His word and His Spirit, He's given us His favour and His support. But He leaves the choice to us. I can choose to follow self or I can choose to follow Christ.



*Deut 30:19
This day I have set
before you life and death,
blessings and curses. Now
choose life, so that
you and your children
may live.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

THE FATHER IS ALWAYS PLEASED WITH HIS SONS!

Have you ever read this verse, measured your faith against it and sighed because you didn't measure up, and God must not be pleased with you! That's because we've taken this verse out of context! So let's put it back into the context of Heb Ch's 10 & 11.

The writer to the Hebrews was writing to Jewish believers in the Messiah who were suffering persecution from unbelieving Jews and were under great pressure to recant their faith in Jesus and return to the ceremonial, animal sacrifices of temple worship.

God was telling them He would have **no pleasure** in those who returned to such, but that He knew these believing Jews were not like that and would stand firm in the faith. In other words, He **was pleased** with them for retaining their faith in Christ.

Heb 10:38,39 But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he shrinks back, I take no pleasure in him. But we are not among those who shrink back and thus perish, but are among those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews Ch 11 is a continuation of this theme of faith, hence when they read v 6 they knew it didn't apply to them because they had faith and that God was pleased with them.

Have you, faith in Christ, of course you have. Then God is always pleased with you! He's not measuring your faith against a sliding scale to see if you're up to scratch! He is always pleased with you!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

Col 2:6,7
Just as you received
Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives
in Him, rooted and built
up in Him, strengthened
in the faith.

REFLECTING THE LIFE OF CHRIST!

Traditions of men!

The key thought of the word 'grace' in the Greek, is: The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. This divine influence is Jesus Christ. He didn't bring grace, He **IS** grace.

Therefore as grace works in our life the influence of Jesus is reflected through us! His character is seen in us. We don't have to **try to be** like Jesus, we **are** like Jesus.

This is why Paul so jealously guarded the gospel of grace against all human philosophy, traditions and rituals.

He knew that once Christ was replaced by something or someone else, people would drift away from the life of Christ into the dead works of men!

Col 2:8 See to it that no one carries you off captive by his philosophy, intellectualism and human tradition, disregarding the teachings of Christ.

Preachers today who are seeking to modernise the gospel to make it relevant to today's society, are in danger of dressing it up in the garbs of men's wisdom and intellectual quotes! That may work for a season but it will ultimately bring death to the people!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

CONFIDENT OF HIS PEACE!

In this verse, the words, have been are in the past tense. These words tell us that when we exercised faith in our Lord Jesus for salvation, we were (past tense) justified (made righteous).

This was a once for all done deal, never to be repeated, never to be revoked. So that having been justified, we now have peace with God. The word have in this instance is not past tense but present tense.

That is, once we have been justified, we will always have peace with God. Hence in the midst of every circumstance, every problem, every failure, we have (present tense) peace with God.

What mountain, obstacle or hurdle are you facing today. Are you in emotional turmoil, have your thoughts spun out of control, do you feel you have failed God.

The Holy Spirit wants to remind you to stand in your justification, stand in the knowledge that you have peace. This will equip you to reject every negative thought, quell every emotion and cast out every failure returning you to a place of security and stability.

*Isa 32:17
And the work of
righteousness shall be
peace. And the effect of
righteousness quietness
and assurance for ever.*

*Rom 5:1
Therefore, since we have
been justified through
faith, we have peace
with God.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



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*Ps 7:17
I WILL praise the Lord!*

*Ps 9:2
I WILL be glad and
rejoice in you!*

*1 Sam 16:23
When the evil spirit
from God was upon Saul,
David took a lyre and
played it; so Saul was
refreshed and became
well, and the evil spirit
left him.*

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE WORKS!

Saul's negligent behaviour caused an evil spirit to afflict and oppress his mind, but when David played his harp (guitar), the evil spirit was forced to lift off Saul leaving him refreshed and in his right mind.

Saul's deliverance was the grace of God released through David's worship music. He didn't deserve God's grace, but that's what grace is for - the undeserving.

There are times when our minds are oppressed and afflicted by evil spirits because:

- a)** We mess up and feel ashamed, guilt ridden and defeated.
- b)** We are overwhelmed by circumstances that bring fear, worry and anxiety.
- c)** We ignorantly feel far away from God.

One of the God ordained ways to bring deliverance at such times is worshipping the Lord — play a praise & worship CD, bring to mind your favourite worship songs or use the words of the Psalms as a catalyst to sing your own praises.

At such times we have to take the bull by the horns and WILL ourselves to praise The Lord. As we push through, God's presence will come, cleansing our thoughts, bringing peace of mind and renewing our strength! — **GET TO IT!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
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LET HIS WAVES WASH OVER YOU!

We all need a daily devotional Grace Wave!

When a wave breaks onto a beach, it flows over and cleanses the sandy surface. As it ebbs out to sea it leaves behind in it's wake: a shell, a plastic bottle, a piece of wood etc.

A grace devotional is like a wave of the sea. As we read, it cleanses our minds of clutter, negative thinking, law based attitudes and unbelief.

It's water of the word of God that flows over our thoughts, giving our mind a brain wash! (*Eph 5:25-27*)

A grace wave read, leaves behind in it's wake, a nugget of truth, a snippet of guidance or words of encouragement that set us up for the day. Something to chew on, mull over and meditate.

However, the greatest advantage of a grace wave, is that it feeds the grace revelation in our hearts and causes a natural growth of who we are in Christ.

Joseph Prince, Andrew Wommack and Phil Drysdale have all published excellent grace devotionals. Why not check them out? You owe it to yourself!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NEW COVENANT REPENTANCE IS JOYFUL!

REPENTANCE IS NOT SAYING SORRY

Often, we say to someone who has sinned, "Have you repented". What we really mean is, "Have you said sorry and asked God to forgive you". But this is not repentance - this is confession of sin which is no longer necessary under the N.C. - Repentance is a change of mind which leads to a change of behaviour.

It's true that repentance can also mean to have a compunction for guilt which means a sorrowing for what we've done - and that's what it was under the O.C. - but now under the N.C. God has dealt with our sin once and for all - there's no longer any need to sorrow, to be guilty or mourn over our sin. *(Rom 8:1)*

When we understand that repentance means to change our mind towards Christ because He has forgiven all our sins- repentance becomes something to rejoice and joy in.

N.C. repentance can only take place as we receive revelation from God's word. Any other kind of repentance is dead works!
(Eph 4:22-24)

N.C. repentance is exchanging the dead works of the flesh and embracing the good works of the Spirit. This is the true transformation. *(Rom 12:2)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST!

In the earliest texts, the scribes first translated this verse as, 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.'

In later centuries they added, 'who do not walk after the flesh', and still later added, 'but after the Spirit.'

The reason for this — they were trying to insulate Paul's gospel from charges that it was characterised by too much grace. The devil operating through men was working overtime to suppress the gospel of grace. He knew that once the truth was out, his days were numbered.

An overwhelming number of modern translations have cut out the add-ons and returned to the original text.

Let us boldly proclaim to those who are in bondage to guilt, that there is no longer any condemnation to those which are in Christ Jesus.

Satan's day's are numbered - he has been weighed in the balances and found wanting!

JESUS HAS REMOVED OUR SIN!

Conviction of Sin

We've been taught that one of the operations of the Holy Spirit is to convict people of their sin - behaviour that they've committed!

If God wants to convict us of our sin, then why:

- a) Has He taken our sin away. (*Jn 1:29*)
- b) Has He forgotten our sin. (*Heb 10:17*)
- c) Has He promised never to count our sin against us. (*2 Cor 5:19*)

Jesus Himself gives us the answer:

Jn 16:8,9 When He (Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin: of sin, because they do not believe in Me.

There is only one sin that the Holy Spirit convicts people of and that's their unbelief in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world.

Now sin has been dispensed with, the job of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of righteousness. How does He do that? When we sin, He points us to the cross to show us where Jesus put right our wrong!

The more He does such, the more convinced we become of our righteousness in Christ.

Oh! What a good God we serve!

*Rom 15:13
Now may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS!

In Christ: it is not my behaviour that makes me light — I myself AM light!

You Must Walk In The Light

This teaching says that if we are living in sin, we are walking in darkness and are cut off from God. Spend time meditating in the verses below until you come away with the revelation that, **'once in the light — always in the light'**.

1 Thess 5:2,4,5 For you know that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. But you, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Jn 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not (double negative) walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

1Jn 5:7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



WHO'S COUNTING!

We must keep short accounts with God. By this is meant that any sin we commit we must confess and ask God's forgiveness because any unconfessed sin will:

- a)** Break our fellowship with God. (*Isa 59:2*)
- b)** God will not answer our prayers. (*2 Chron 7:14*)

Now if you believe that under the New Covenant God forgave and took away all our sin at the cross, once for all time, then we don't have to spend time keeping short accounts.

In fact, God's word shows us that God doesn't keep short accounts with us either -

2 Cor 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.

Having to keep short accounts with God takes up huge amounts of time, energy and strength. It makes people sin conscious, releasing guilt and condemnation.

In Christ, God no longer counts our sin against us, He counts us righteous! (*Rom 4:22-25. [NLT]*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



SUPERNATURAL PROVISION!

When Jesus asked the disciples what food they had to feed the people, they said they only had 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Jesus took the, ‘only 5 loaves and 2 fish’ and fed 5000+.

This young boy was willing to give to Jesus, ‘his only 5 loaves and 2 fish’ and Jesus multiplied them beyond what he could ask or think.

His food became the catalyst for Jesus to create a miracle that is still talked about today by believer and unbeliever alike.

Many of us equate success with bigness, and that is good. The Church needs all the bigness it can get. It needs rich people, intellectuals, entrepreneurs etc; but it also needs all the small things it can get. Doors may be big and strong but they turn on small hinges. The tongue is a small member but it speaks life and death. (*Jam 3:5*)

The key is, are we willing to offer what we have to Him. What’s the only that you can give to Jesus today. If you give it to Him, He will take your only and multiply it beyond what you could ask or think.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



LOOKING AWAY FROM AND LOOKING TO: JESUS!

Peter had just been commissioned by Jesus to feed the fledgling early Church. Yet his mind was caught up trying to find out what ministry Jesus would bestow upon John. In a firm way, Jesus told Peter to mind his own business.

We can allow what God is doing with others to divert our attention away from what God wants to do with US! We think others are more gifted, anointed, have more power and authority, more revelation than us.

Fact is, no one can do the ministry we have better than us. We each have a unique part to play in God's kingdom.

God has deposited within us a gift/character mix that perfectly fits us for our ministry and preps us for fruitfulness and success.

Jesus says to you today, "Don't be distracted by looking at others. Don't be diverted from the task that I have called you to. Keep your eyes fixed on me. (*Heb 12:2*)

Heb 12:2 Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Jn 21:21,22
Peter asked Jesus, "Lord,
what about him?" Jesus
answered, "If I want him
to live until I come back,
that is not your business.
You follow me."*

*Ps 119:9
How can a young man
cleanse his way? By
taking heed according to
Your word.*

*Jn 15:3
Now ye are clean (pure)
through the word which I
have spoken unto you.*

WASHED CLEAN!

Have you been brainwashed?

The practise of brainwashing was not invented by the Chinese or Communists. It didn't originate with the C.I.A. or MI5. God created brainwashing with a positive not negative outcome:

Negative Brainwashing: Subjects a person to systematic indoctrination or mental pressure to make them change their views or confess to a crime, etc.

Positive Brainwashing: One of the symbols for the word of God is that of water that washes clean. The Holy Spirit works through the word to cleanse and purify the mind of negative thought patterns: unbelief, sin, worry, fear, worldly philosophies, heresies etc.

This is why it is good practise to start our day with a grace devotional. It cleanses our mind of clutter, prevents it from straying back under law and re-calibrates our thinking to the mind of Christ! *(1 Cor 2:16)*

Eph 5:25,26 Christ loved the church and gave Himself to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.

Jn 17:17 Purify them by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

CHOOSING NOT TO REMEMBER! PT 1

As Christians, are we still speaking the language of regret, past mistakes and failures: 'my divorce, my bankruptcy, how I failed my children'?

When we mess up, do we recriminate and beat-up on ourselves? Do we spend hours replaying the tapes (CD's) in our minds? Is our confession one of failure, defeat and remorse? Are we constantly plagued with guilt and condemnation?

If so, I have good news for you. Jesus Christ paid the price for all our past sins on the cross 2000 yrs ago. God in His foreknowledge looked up the corridor of the future, saw all our mistakes and sins, and took out that punishment on His Son!

His shed blood is the price He paid that all sin might be forgiven and taken away!

Our part is to ask the Holy Spirit to help us see our sin forgiven and His blood washing it all away, leaving us with a clean conscience.

Rom 8:1 There is now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



CHOOSING NOT TO REMEMBER! PT 2

God not only forgave and took away all our past sins, He says He will remember them NO MORE. The word NO is called a 'double negative' in Greek. It's used to strengthen a denial. Hence this verse could be read, "I will remember your sins **NO MORE, ABSOLUTELY NO MORE**"!

God is strongly saying that when He looks at us, any thoughts of our sin, past, present and future, never ever enter His mind. Why? They no longer exist, He's forgotten them.

He's forgotten your past divorce, mistakes and sins - God took them away, buried them in the deepest ocean and forgot them. **(Mic 7:19)** He Himself doesn't want to be reminded of our past sin and neither does He require us to remember it.

When God looks upon you and I, He always sees us in His Son, Jesus Christ; He sees us righteous, perfect and holy, without spot, stain or blemish. Absolutely clean!

Jesus became your (E) scape goat who took away all your sin never to bring it back to His or your remembrance!
(Read Lev 16:20-22)



Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



CHOOSING NOT TO REMEMBER! PT 3

If God and Paul can forget past sin - how can I forget. The key is to choose not to remember !

Question: How can I choose not to remember

Answer: When past sin rises in my mind, instead of feeding those thoughts, I can choose to put them on Jesus my (E) scape goat and see Him carry them away.

I now choose to replace those thoughts with good thoughts about Jesus and what He's done for me. I feed and feed those good thoughts.

Ps 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Feed on His faithfulness.

Keep practising this principle, if you fall back into negative thinking, put wrong thoughts on Christ your scape goat and start afresh. Don't give up. Ask Him for strength to push through.

Phil 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Heb 10:17
Their sins I will
remember NO more.*

*Jn 1:29
The Lamb of God, who
takes away the sin of
the world!*

*Phil 3:13
I do this one thing: I
forget about the things
behind me.*

*Gal 5:4
You have become
estranged from Christ,
you who attempt to be
justified by law; you have
fallen from grace.*

ACCEPTED IN CHRIST!

This verse has been taken out of context to teach that falling from grace happens when believers commit adultery, embezzle money, tell lies etc etc! This has nothing whatsoever to do with such things!

In context, this verse is talking about circumcision as a means of fulfilling the law in order to be accepted of God. Paul the apostle is here saying that:

- a)** When we seek to be justified (made righteous) by our own strength and self effort, the flow of God's grace into our lives has been cut off! We don't lose our salvation but the life of Christ in us stops functioning.
- b)** The word 'grace' also means to make acceptable:

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (graced us) in the Beloved (Jesus Christ).

Are you trying to make yourself right with God— Jesus says to you, "Stop striving, rest in me, allow my grace of righteousness and acceptance to flow into your life."

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Prov 18:10
The name of the Lord is
like a strong tower;
the righteous runs to it
and is set safely on high.*

RUN TO HIM NOT FROM HIM!

In David's day high towers were built on walls, in compounds etc. If an enemy broke through, the people ran to the tower and hid out in the top of it, finding protection and safety; in fact, the word safely in Hebrew means a high inaccessible place.

We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. *(2 Cor 5:21)* We don't have to run to God as our high tower because we are already safely inside Him:

Col 3:3 For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

In Christ we are far above all principalities and powers. *(Eph 1:21)* We are inaccessible to all enemies: satan, fear, sickness, poverty, worry, anxiety, threats, gossip, intimidation, guilt, condemnation etc, and nothing can gain access to destroy or wound us.

Hence when enemies come against you, see yourself hidden in Christ, far above all where nothing can gain access to you.

Isa 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

HE WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!

Are you surrounded by problems today! Utility bills you cannot pay; Redundancy, family breakdown, emotional trauma etc.

This is not the time to panic, rush around like a headless chicken or bury our head in the sand. Such premature actions lead to mistakes and more problems.

This is your time to trust in God. But you say, “what if God fails to come through for me. I’ll be made to look a fool in the eyes of family and friends, etc, etc.”

All thoughts of fear, worry, anxiety and failure come from that master of deceit and lies satan. He knows which buttons to press to make you insecure and unstable.

Instead, let’s turn to what God has to say: ‘Whoever puts their trust in Him will never be put to shame.’ **(Rom 10:11)**

Solution: Commit your need to God. Ask for strength to trust Him. When worry and fear rise up, confess your trust: “Thank You Father you are my provider, You will never let me be put to shame, You are for me, You love me, Your words are truth and I praise You.”

Determine to look to God alone and He will make a way where there seems to be no way!

*2 Chron16:9
The Lord shows Himself
strong on behalf of
those whose hearts are
toward Him*

*Ps 37:25
I have never seen the
righteous forsaken
or their children
begging bread.*

*Rom 8:31
If God is for us, who can
be against us?*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

PROMOTION COMES FROM THE LORD! PT 1

God does not reward us for the size of our ministry, gifting, intellect or abilities. He rewards us for our faithfulness. *(Mt 5:21)*
Eg: There are lots of extremely gifted people who never reach the zenith of what God's called them to do because they've not learned how to be faithful.

But you say, how can i learn to be faithful, i'm always forgetting things, breaking my promises or serving up half baked jobs! The answer is, **'You can't but He can'**.

God put the fruit of the Spirit in our spirit at salvation, one of which is faithfulness. But the the fruit is not activated by self effort, but by faith and trust in Christ! *(Jn 15:4,5)*

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Let's not make this complicated. We simply say, "Jesus, i ask you to work the fruit of faithfulness into my life, i give that task to you to accomplish and rest in your power to change me and look with expectancy (hope) for the good things you will do in me."

Now give Him time to work — He will not let you down for **He is FAITHFUL!** *(2 Tim 2:13)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



PROMOTION COMES FROM THE LORD! PT 2

Servanthood is not controlling, manipulating, threatening, rescuing or dominating people. Servanthood is:

a) Anticipating the needs of others: Servants see the needs of others as they arise and move to meet those needs. It's not something they have to do, it's something they want to do, otherwise it's not servant hood and ultimately will break down under pressure!

b) Identifying the needs of others: Servants are able to sympathise and empathise with the needs of others. They have understanding of what people are experiencing, are sensitive to their needs and are better able to serve them.

c) Sacrificing yourself for the needs of others: Servants naturally forgo their own needs and wants to help, promote, and rejoice with others in their success.

Servants do all these things because they do them, **'AS UNTO THE LORD'**. Serving as unto the Lord positions us to pray and ask God to sort out our attitudes, self ambition, rebellion and such like. It frees us up to respond to others needs. (*Eph 5:22*)

God uses servanthood as a springboard to success!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 6:9
*“There is a lad here who
has five barley loaves and
two small fish, but what
are they among
so many?”*

PROMOTION COMES FROM THE LORD! PT 3

Start Where You Are With What You Have

God delights to take the small, the nondescript, the insignificant things and make them great. Moses rod, Samson’s jawbone, Gideon’s lamps and trumpets, the shout of the Israelites at Jericho. God takes all these things and says,

“Now i will show you what I can do!”

Here we have a young lad with 5 loaves and 2 small fish. Jesus multiplied them to feed at least 10,000 people who ate until they were filled and there were still 12 doggy bags left over!

This young lad sacrificed his lunch, gave it to Jesus and witnessed a miracle! He dined out on this story for the rest of his life.

The moral of the story — offer what you have to Jesus and He will multiply it over and over and over again and in the process feed many with the bread of life!

Jesus wants to use what we have, not what we think we should have!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



WHAT SIN!

Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Jn 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.

Heb 10:17 "Their sins and iniquities I will remember no more."

Mic 7:19 You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

RIGHTEOUSNESS WORKS!

When God promised Abraham that He would bless him and make him a Father of many nations, Abraham believed God; and because he believed, God not only fulfilled His promise, He also counted Abraham righteous. (*Gen 15:6*)

In God's eyes, Abraham was righteous and He would no longer count his sins against him. Read his story and you will find Abraham committed big sins (He left home with his father and nephew when God told him to leave them behind — he had a child with another woman and gave birth to Ishmael — He twice used his wife as a human shield to save his own skin) — need i go on!

Not once did God rebuke him, in fact he came out the richer for it.

When we believed on Christ for salvation, God counted us righteous. Our sin has been taken away and been dumped like toxic waste into the sea of forgetfulness. (*Mic 7:19*) God no longer counts it against us; but the most exciting thing is that as we stand in the gift of righteousness, God works through it to bring change to our lives. Slowly, deep seated character weaknesses are changed into strengths and we can truly say we are living the life of Jesus. WOW!

Rom 5:17
Those who receive the
gift of righteousness will
reign in life.

Gal 3:6
Abraham believed God,
and it was accounted to
him for righteousness.
(NKJV)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

FEET FIRST!

The law was so ingrained in Peter's mind, he couldn't imagine God wanting to wash his feet. Peter knew that the law was man obeying God in order to receive from Him.

Jesus turned all that on it's head saying to Peter, "It's not what you can do for me, It's what i can (will) do for you!"

Today, Jesus has come to wash your feet and mine —

Mat 20:28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others.

In a hot Eastern climate the people wore sandals. Their feet picked up dirt during the day requiring regular washings. In rich houses it was the most menial job of a servant.

As we walk through this world dirt sticks to our feet. Jesus says, "Come, spend time with me, for in my presence all that is dirty is washed clean. For me to serve **'you'** is my great delight!

Jn 13:6-9

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Heb 13:15
The fruit of our lips
giving thanks.

1 Thess 5:18
Give thanks in (not for)
all circumstances; for this
is God's will for you in
Christ Jesus.

GRACE MUCH MORE ABOUNDS!

The Holy Spirit is here encouraging us to give thanks IN all things, not FOR all things! To give thanks FOR all things is to ascribe everything that happens to you as being from God. Did God put sickness upon you, make you bankrupt or take away a loved one — **NO A THOUSAND TIMES NO**

That would be to make God a bad God, but He's not bad, He's GOOD! (*Mk 10:18*)

Rather, our response to bad things that come is to trust the outcome to God and thank Him that He will take us through whatever happens and turn things around and bring good out of them. (*Rom 8:28*)

Even when we sin, fail or make mistakes, we can receive His forgiveness and thank Him that He will turn our mess ups around because where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. (*Rom 5:20*)

The reason Paul exhorts us to give thanks in everything is because he knows that giving thanks in difficult times is an expression of faith; and God always responds to faith!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST! PT 1

RECONCILED: RESTORED TO DIVINE FAVOUR

When we know we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, we become aware we have been preaching a wrong Gospel! We've been peddling bad news not good news.

The Bad News Gospel

- a) You are going to hell if you don't accept Christ.
- b) Your sin has separated you from God.
- c) God is angry at you.
- d) You must confess your sin.
- e) You must ask God to forgive you.

This is an O.C. Gospel!

The Good News Gospel

- a) The cross is a demonstration of God's unconditional love for you.
- b) God is not angry at you.
- c) God does not count your sin against you - The blood of Jesus has washed them all away.
- d) God has reconciled you (restored you to His favour) to Himself.
- e) God accepts you as you are.
- f) Receive Christ and enter into the eternal life of God.

This is the N.C. Gospel!

2 Cor 5:19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favour with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them]. (AMP)

*Rom 15:13
Now may the God
of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in
believing!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST! PT 2

Sin: A falling short, to miss the mark, an offence, a violation of God's law.

Under the O.C. the emphasis was always on man getting right with God: Thou shalt not, you must, you will etc. (*Ex 20:7*)

Because of this, one word was magnified above all others — 'SIN' — Sin was in man's face from the time he woke up until the time he went to bed. His whole struggle was one of overcoming sin. (*Isa 59:2*)

There was some relief from sin through animal sacrifices but animal blood can only cover sin, it cannot take it away. Hence sin still lay on man's conscience making him sin conscious.

Heb 10:11 Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Sin consciousness forces us to look inside ourselves, picking over every detail of our behaviour to separate right from wrong. Sin stirs up guilt which leads to condemnation, shame and rejection. (*Heb 10:2,3*)

In the next post we will see how the Church still has an overwhelming preoccupation with sin because we are N.C. people preaching an O.C. Gospel!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST! PT 3

Gal 5:1
Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The O.C. magnified sin — The N.C. magnifies righteousness.

It's because God has dealt completely with sin at the cross that He can:

- a) forgive us (*Eph 4:32*)
- b) Forget that our sin ever existed (*Heb 10:17*)
- c) Not count our sins against us (*2 Cor 5:19*) and
- d) Pronounce us holy and perfect. (*Heb 10:14*)

He not only dealt with the sin issue, He went a step further; He took away our sin nature and replaced it with a new nature of righteousness. (*2 Cor 5:17*)

God has now given us the green light to see ourselves as righteous conscious not sin conscious. That means no more guilt or condemnation, no more asking for forgiveness or confessing our sins and no more self recrimination or wallowing in our mistakes.

Instead, when we sin, we look to the cross to see where we have been put right with God. We receive His forgiveness, put it behind us, arise and move on.

Why have I gone into such detail about this issue — because there are many, many Christians who cannot break free from sin and its effect in their lives.

We need to keep sounding the alarm to all who will listen that Jesus has set us free from the bondage of sin!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST! PT 4

Gal 5:1
Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The O.C. magnified sin — The N.C. magnifies righteousness.

The most awesome revelation of the cross is that Christ came and dealt the knock-out blow to sin 'once' and for all.

Let's see how He did it:

Heb 7:27 As High Priest He once offered Himself up as the sacrifice for sin.

1 Pet 3:18 He once suffered for the sin of the whole world!

Heb 9:28 He once bore (carried) our sin upon the cross!

Lk 22:20 He once shed His blood for all sin — past, present and future!

Heb 10:2 He once purged our consciences of sin by His blood!

Heb 10:10 He once offered His body to sanctify us! (make holy)

Heb 10:14 By one offering He perfected forever those who are sanctified!

Rom 6:10 He once died unto sin and is now alive unto God!

Heb 9:12 As High Priest He once entered into the Most Holy Place with His own blood - and then sat down forever!

The work to defeat sin was now finished: completely complete and perfectly perfect!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST! PT 5

Although the N.C. Clearly teaches that Jesus dealt with the sin issue 'once' and for all, the Church still wants to make it an issue. We are told:

- a)** To keep short accounts with God, that if we sin, we must confess, ask for forgiveness and receive the cleansing of the blood.
- b)** Ask the H.S. to search our hearts and convict us of any sin and see if there be any wicked way in me.
- c)** God will only use a people who live holy and righteous lives.
- d)** God will not answer our prayers or heal people who have sin in their lives. .
- e)** The presence of the fear of the Lord needs to come back into the Church - In Church speak that means God needs to come in judgement upon His people.

Is it any wonder that great swathes of the Church are bound up in legalistic practices seeking to live a 'clean life before the Lord'

What are we doing - we are making sin the hub of our lives and we've allowed satan to blind us to the truth that sin is no longer an issue! **(2 Cor 4:4)**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



CONFESSING THE POSITIVE!

Let's remember that it is God who is speaking the above words. He should know, He spoke the universe into being by the power of His words.

We also have the same power to speak life or death. Some of us have not yet realised that we will eat the fruit of our words. James tells us the tongue controls every part of our being. (*Jam 3:3*) It is like the rudder of a ship, a bit in the horses mouth!

The language of the world is filled with words of death. Eg: I'm absolutely gutted! I'm knackered! I have such a bad memory! it's unbelievable! I feel so ashamed of myself! I'll never get out of debt! I'm frightened to death! etc, etc.

When we encounter problems, if we repeatedly proclaim, "I'm absolutely gutted", let's not be surprised if it leads to stomach problems.

Instead, let us ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to replace words of death with words of life.

Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." Jn 6:63

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



PLACED IN THE RIGHT POSITION!

The Parable of Place

READ LK14:7-11

When invited to a wedding reception in Western Culture, the guest knows where to sit because the host has place cards written with guests names on them.

In Middle Eastern culture the host places the guests where he sees fit, and has no qualms about moving people up or down the table. This can be embarrassing if having sat at the top table, the host moves someone to the bottom table.

Jesus spoke this parable to the Pharisees who had been invited to a meal and were choosing the best seats for themselves.

Lk 14:11 For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

God has a place, ministry, calling for each one of us. If we try to take a place or ministry by manipulation, control or butting others out of the way, we may for a time keep our place. However, God who is our host will come and remove us from our place and seat the right person there.

The moral of the story — never fight for your place! It is God who promotes and it is God Who puts down! (*Ps 75:5-7*)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



JOINED TO THE LORD!

The above scripture is a picture foreshadowing what took place at the cross when the Father took a bride from the side of Jesus.

Jn 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Why is it we can relate to, flow with and find our centre in Jesus. It's because we are bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh. We are of Him, in Him and joined to Him.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

As our heavenly Boaz, He is committed to protecting, providing for and taking responsibility for every aspect of our lives.

He wants us to bring every detail of our hearts to Him, the small things, the big things, yes, everything, because we are the apple of His eye.

*Gen 2:21,22
And the Lord God caused
a deep sleep to fall on
Adam; and He took one
of his ribs. Then the rib
which the Lord God had
taken from man He made
into a woman.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

RELAX: GOD HAS IT ALL IN HAND!

As believers we are seated as Kings in heavenly places in Christ. **(Eph 2:6)** To be seated speaks of rest. We are now (present tense) ruling over life from a place of rest!

This revelation removes the need to struggle and strive, it banishes inner turmoil and anxiety and is content to leave the outcome with God.

Another aspect of rest is to resist the pressure to act prematurely. Satan knows if he can unseat us, we will make wrong and untimely decisions, bringing chaos and hurt.

How do we resist such pressure:

- 1) We are to speak words of calm to ourself —Eg: “Don’t rush, take your time, slow down, preserve your energy, take one step at a time” etc!
- 2) Remind yourself that God is in control — “Thank you Lord that you have gone ahead of me, that you are ordering this situation. Thank you Lord that I stand on favour ground and I can expect a good outcome because you are working on my behalf.”

Commanding ourselves to rest keeps us in a place of peace and joy!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Ps 116:7
I said to myself, “Relax and rest. God has showered you with blessings.

Soul, you’ve been rescued from death; Eye, you’ve been rescued from tears; And you, Foot, were kept from stumbling.”

JESUS, THE 4TH MAN

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to stand with God rather than bow down to the golden image, Nebuchadnezzar had them bound & thrown into a fiery furnace heated 7 times hotter than normal. (*Dan Ch3*)

Suddenly a 4th man (Jesus) appeared with them and they were walking round in the furnace. The fire had burned off the ropes that bound them and they walked free from the furnace unharmed without even the smell of fire upon them.

The 4th man, Jesus now lives inside us. Therefore, when we pass through the fires of life, as we put our trust and faith in Him, 3 things will happen:

- 1) We will walk through the fire and come out the other side unharmed.
- 2) God will use the fire to burn away the things that bind us.
- 3) There won't be even the smell of fire upon us.

Are you passing through a fire today, count on the 4th man, Jesus. He is walking every step with you. Turn to Him, trust in Him and He will bring you through.

Rom 1:17
The righteous (just) will
live by faith.

1 Pet 1:7
These trials will show
that your faith is genuine.
It is being tested as fire
tests and purifies gold—
though your faith is far
more precious than
mere gold.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

*Jn 6:35
And Jesus said to them,
“I am the
bread of life. He who
comes to Me shall never
hunger.*

FEEDING ON THE LAMB! PT 1

The problem is not with the Bible, but in how we read it!

Many Christians are spiritually starving to death. They are reading the Bible as a normal book and find it lifeless and boring. That's because the Bible is an Eastern book and only comes to life when we read it the Eastern way.

The Eastern way is called '**MEDITATION**'

*Jos 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate in it day and night.*

- a) Meditation means to speak God's word to yourself.
- b) Meditation means to turn over God's word in your mind again and again.

This double approach releases the latent power locked up inside God's word.

We have to make the meditation of scripture a lifestyle in order to unlock its treasures of wisdom and understanding. (*Gen 24:63, Jos 1:8, Col 2:2,3*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

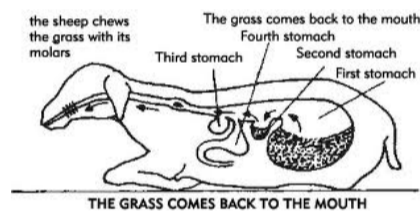


FEEDING ON THE LAMB! PT 2

MEDITATE: To muse, murmur, ponder, imagine, speak, converse with oneself aloud, revolve in the mind.

We meditate God's word like a ruminant animal. A ruminant is one who 'chews the cud'.

A good example is a sheep! A sheep has 4 stomachs!



For a sheep to eat, break down and extract all the nutrients from grass, it has to chew the cud (grass) and swallow it down into the first stomach. The enzymes break down the grass releasing the nutrients. It then regurgitates the cud back up into its mouth. It chews it again and swallows it down into the second stomach where the same process is repeated. By the time the cud has reached the fourth stomach, all the nutrients have been extracted from the cud.

Meditating on God's word is like chewing the cud. We repeatedly turn it over in our mind whilst pondering (thinking) what the word means. We can return to the same word again at a later date and repeat the same exercise. By doing such we extract from the word its meaning and understanding (revelation).

God's word has now become living bread to our souls. As we live out this revelation our lives are changed and transformed.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



FEEDING ON THE LAMB! PT 3

A meditation on 1 Jn 4:17 with points to ponder.

Turn over each word in your mind, speak your thoughts out loud to yourself. This is meditation.

AS:

HE: Jesus - sat at the Father's right hand/finished work/King/resting/ruling.

IS: (present tense) - As He is NOW and will be for all eternity.

SO:

ARE: (present tense)

WE: The same as Jesus is now/King/ruling/rest.

IN:

THIS: (present tense)

WORLD: Our everyday life.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, God’s covering of glory broke off them. They sought to make themselves acceptable to God by covering themselves with fig leaves.

But God knew only a blood sacrifice would make them acceptable.
(Heb 9:22)

He sacrificed animals on their behalf, took away their fig leaf coverings and instead clothed them with animal skins. He knew they couldn’t save themselves so He did it for them. It was pure grace.

The sacrifices pointed to the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. The Father offered up His own Son that we might find righteous acceptance with Him.

The Father says to us today, “are you still clothed with the fig leaves of self effort, legalism, tradition and religion. All such are dead works. You can now take them off, for I have given you the gift of righteousness *(Rom 5:17)*, not just to clothe you, but to make you innately righteous. *(2 Cor 5:21)* I have also restored you to glory in my Son! *(Rom 8:30)*

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE UNCHANGING GOD!

DUPLICITY **Insincerity, Double-dealing, two faced, hypocrite.**

Even the best of us can be duplicitous in our relationships and dealings with others!

Moses, David, Peter. All of them either lied, said one thing and did another or manipulated to get their way. None of them could be fully trusted.

But God is different class! Look at His C.V.:

- a)** He is the truth and cannot lie even if He wanted to! (*Tit 1:2*)
- b)** He never breaks His promise! (*Num 23:19*)
- c)** He can be trusted at all times! (*Rom 9:33*)

Are you passing through deep waters, in financial straits or need a miracle; God’s word tells us that all the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ Jesus. (*2 Cor 1:19,20*)

Find the promise that meets your need, fully put your trust in Christ alone and He will come through for you. He cannot deny Himself, for God and His word are one and the same!

Rom10:11 No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed. (AMP)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



STANDING ON RIGHTEOUS GROUND!

The lion (king of the jungle) is a very bold animal, it fears nothing and no-one.

In fact, when the lion roars, all other animals are in fear and high alert, watching for where the lion is and what he is upto!

When we have a revelation that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (*2 Cor 5:21*), we become very bold for God. We become like Jesus. He is called, 'The lion of the tribe of Judah,' (*Rev 5:5*)

The Church has taught us that we should fear God and approach Him with deep reverence, watching our P's and Q's. He is a holy and righteous God, so make sure you are dressed in your Sunday best.

But the writer to the Hebrews has obviously forgotten their manners because he/she tells us not once but twice: **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** (*Heb 4:16,10:19*)

God's righteousness has removed our fear of Him and puts us on level ground with Him.

We now see eye to eye with Him!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



FOCUSING ON JESUS!

In this verse we are given a 2 step approach that if responded to will keep our heart and mind at peace.

1) Looking away from: The more we focus on a thing, the stronger and bigger it becomes. The reverse is also true. The less we focus on a thing, the weaker and smaller it becomes. And as we look away from those things that distract, worry, fear and anxiety will slowly recede.

2) Looking to: The Holy Spirit now encourages us to look to Jesus. Focus on Him in your thinking or on one of His promises. As you do, He will grow bigger and bigger. Peace will now flood your heart, bringing rest in it's wake.

The bonus is that as we focus upon Jesus, inward change takes place and we become transformed into His image!

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding (focusing) as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

THE FATHER'S LOVE! PT 1

Before Jesus commenced His ministry of preaching, teaching, healing and deliverance, His Father spoke from heaven to affirm His Son, to establish His identity and give His seal of approval before the people.

“This is my beloved Son”: It’s the role of the Father to give identity to his children. He does so by demonstrating love and affirming his child’s masculine (if it’s a boy) or feminine (if it’s a girl) qualities.

The security that flows from a child who knows it has such an identity, propels them to success and enables them to overcome the setbacks of life.

As sons, our identity is now ‘in Christ ‘ and we can receive the Father’s unconditional love and come to a place of wonderful security.

Success will follow such identity, and the security will enable us to overcome the setbacks of life.

1 Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE FATHER'S LOVE! PT 2

In success you are loved In failure you are loved

The Father affirmed His love for His Son and also said:

“With You I am well pleased” The Father was telling His Son, I am pleased with you not because of your performance but because of who You are — my Son.

In Christ, we have now become the sons of God. As such, the Father is now pleased with us, not because of our performance, but because we are ‘SONS’.

He is pleased with us when we succeed and just as pleased with us when we fail. WHY! — Because, He doesn't judge us on performance, He judges us on who we are:

SONS!

Have you messed up, made mistakes or committed sins this week then Praise The Lord! He has (past tense) already forgiven you, accepts you! and is still pleased with you, because you ARE His son.

1 Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS

When Jesus walked the earth, He was a Jewish man preaching to Jewish people. To some He spoke law and to others He spoke grace.

How do we know when He spoke law. We know when He spoke law because there would be a condition attached. That's what the law is — conditional. Hence:

Mt 6:14,15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This one verse has wreaked havoc in thousands of Christian lives as they have tried to fulfil the conditions. This was forgiveness before the cross.

But at the cross, Jesus forgave and took away 'ALL' our sins and replaced the law with grace; so now, after the cross, He says to us, "Because I've forgiven you, you can forgive others."

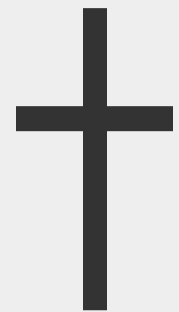
Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Knowing we are **unconditionally** forgiven releases the power in us to forgive others!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



**Forgiveness
before the cross**



**Forgiveness
after the cross**



WE ARE FRIENDS!

We've been taught to believe that God is inaccessible, too lofty or deep, too pure and holy for eyes to look upon. A God of mystery who keeps things hidden from us, who makes Himself hard to find!

That may have been true under the Old Covenant, but under the New Covenant, God has revealed the fullness of Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Col 2:9,10 For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.

All we need do is keep feeding the grace revelation in our hearts, and slowly but surely, the fullness of the trinity will be revealed to us. It's like the sun rising in the sky at dawn, it chases away the darkness, and a panoramic view of earth unfolds before us!

Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and clearer until it reaches its full strength and glory in the perfect day.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Cor 2:9,10
What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind
has conceived" – the
things God has prepared
for those who love him –
these are the things God
has revealed to us by
his Spirit.*

THE JOY OF THE LORD!

The joy of The Lord is not only our strength (*Neh 8:19*), it also keeps our relationships healthy, prosperous and well oiled!

In order to stop cogs, hinges and machinery from seizing up, becoming overheated or breaking down, oil is applied to all the working parts.

We too have the 'oil' of joy. It is an anointing, a fruit of the Holy Spirit within us.

As we praise God, the joy which is deep down in the well of our spirit, comes gushing to the surface.

The joy of the Lord is something we should prize and protect. It took Jesus all the way To the cross and beyond. (*Heb 12:2*)

Isa 61:3 To give them the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

**'WE HAVE TO PUT ON THE GARMENT
OF PRAISE!'**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 6:1,2
Shall we go on sinning so
that grace may increase?
By no means!*

*We are those who have
died to sin; how can we
live in it any longer?*

GRACE PREVENTS SIN!

The teaching about grace is today being attacked and vilified from all sides. It is called, cheap grace, greasy grace and hyper grace!

We are told that such grace will lead us into licence and gives people a blank cheque to indulge in a lifestyle of sin.

If Paul the apostle was alive today, he would have been labelled with the hyper grace tag. In fact, Paul would have been called all those things and more!

Why all the vitriol? It's because grace is such a polar opposite of law, that unless we have a revelation of it, we will not understand it; and what we don't understand makes us insecure and unstable.

A proper reading of the above scripture shows that we don't live by grace in order to sin, we live by grace in order to stop sinning.

**It's a fact! We sin less under grace,
not more!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

CHRIST: THE BREAD OF LIFE!

Unleavened bread is (flat) bread without yeast. It is yeast spreading through dough that causes bread to rise. Yeast speaks of pride, sin, hypocrisy and false doctrine.

Paul told the Galation believers who had been birthed into grace, that they had allowed the law (false doctrine), to spread like yeast throughout the Church.

It's only when we live our lives out of who we are in Christ, does grace flow. Why? because Christ is our unleavened bread! Only He is without sin, hypocrisy and pride. Only He is full of grace and truth.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to cast out (Gal 4:30) any law in my life, that I may become unleavened bread and flourish in your grace.

(Mt 16:6-12)

(Gal 4:21-31)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

*1 Jn 4:10
Herein is love, not that
we loved God, but that
He loved us, and sent His
Son to be the propitiation
(sacrifice) for our sins.*

HE WANTS TO LOVE US!



**The cross: God's demonstration
of love to the world!**

Many have been raised on a gospel that teaches maturity of love is measured by how much we love God.

No, a thousand times No! The New Covenant standard for love is not how much we love God, it's how much God loves us.

This is the good news of the gospel, that the weakest, immature, incapable believer has reached maturity of love when they allow God to love them.

God has made it so easy for us that all we have to do is receive it; as we do, we discover a love for others growing inside us. It's a real love, an unforced love, a genuine love. This is the love of God!

The fruit of such love is that fear, fear of God and fear of man recedes, and in its place comes a confidence and security of who we are in Christ.

1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO MORE DEBT!

When we go into overdraft on our bank account, we are spending money we do not have. We have now gone into '**DEBT**'.

However, if a friend pays off our debt, that debt is no longer counted against us.

Before Jesus came we had a bank account of sin, full to overflowing! But He paid off our debt on the cross and closed down the account.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord never counts against him.

Now the account is closed, we no longer need confess our sin. Why confess something that is no longer counted against you. The account is empty! Capiche!

Rom 4:3 Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

But Jesus has gone one better, He's opened a new account of righteousness and He's filled it full to overflowing! We now have an unending deposit of righteousness that we can confess, that we can draw upon!

**Under the Old Covenant — You confessed your sin
Under the New Covenant — You confess your righteousness!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE PEACE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING!

'God's peace cannot be broken'

When Adam fell into sin, he broke the peace between God and man. Ever since, man has been in rebellion and at war with God. 'This was man's doing, not God's'.

Even though He didn't have to, God took the initiative to restore that peace by sending His Son to die on the cross and 'make peace' with man through His shed blood! *(Col 1:20)* **'This was God's doing, not man's'.**

Isa 53:5 The punishment that 'brought our peace' was on him.

But notice, it was God who made the peace. It was nothing of man. Now, as a believer who has received His peace, nothing we do or don't do can ever break it again.

Hence, next time we sin or mess up, see yourself from God's vantage point. He has already punished His son for your sin 2000 years ago and in His eyes, He is still at peace with you! Receive this revelation and be at peace within yourself!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

IN CHRIST: GOOD WORKS!

To accomplish things in life, we must honour Jesus Christ as central to our success.

Failure to do so makes everything a 'dead work'. Of course, we'll receive the reward here for our success, but when Jesus returns it will be burnt up as wood, hay and stubble!

Why is it a dead work:

A) If it's successful: we pat ourselves on the back and award ourselves Brownie points. This is pride.

B) If we fail: we fall into defeat, condemnation and hopelessness, bemoaning our loss. Again, this is pride! It's all about us, what we've succeeded or failed to accomplish.

Whereas, if we invite Christ into all we do and ask for His grace:

A) When we succeed: we know it's Him who's brought it about, and we thank and praise Him. This is a 'good work'

B) When we fail: instead of sinking into guilt and condemnation, We can invite His grace to turn the situation around, arise and get on with life! Again, we praise and thank Him for His help and strength! This too is a 'good work'.

Heb 6:1 Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

REST WILL ALWAYS BRING PROVISION!

There were many beautiful women in the king's court, all competing to be the one whom the king would choose to be his queen!

Esther was different, she didn't compete, she didn't ask for anything, yet Hegai (Keeper of the king's women) favoured her and gave her beauty preparations, food, 7 young girls specially chosen from the king's court to serve her, and gave her the best rooms in the harem.

To top it all, Esther was chosen to be the king's queen!

Esther received favour from those around her because she trusted and rested in God to make a way for her.

If you and I want to receive God's favour, let's stop competing, chasing after money or striving for promotion. Instead, choose the way of trusting and resting in Jesus, then, like the Red Sea, the way will open up before us!

Esther 2:15
Now when the turn came for Esther to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch advised. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all who saw her.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

SURROUNDED BY HIS FAVOUR!

When it comes to our relationship with God, we can become nervous and edgy about what comes up behind us because we've been taught that God is somebody to be feared.

Fear makes us think that God is coming up behind to judge, punish or frighten us! That may have been so under the law, but under grace, God's fear has been replaced by His unconditional love in Jesus Christ.

He now has your back! His shield of protection surrounds you!

Without fear, we can now proclaim that:

a) I have a continuing confident expectation of God's goodness, so bring it on Lord!

b) God's mercy comes up behind me to forgive every sin, blot out every mistake, help me rise again when I fall and turn every failure into success.

THANK YOU LORD!

CHRIST: THE GREAT BURDEN BEARER!

In the city of old Jerusalem, the streets are very narrow. Carts and other forms of transport could not get through. Instead men were employed called 'Burden Bearers'.

They perfected the technique of carrying huge burdens on their backs, but one wrong move and 'crack!', their necks would break.

Mankind was not created to carry burdens of worry, fear, stress or anxiety. Such things break, exhaust and wear us out.

Step forward, 'The Lord Jesus Christ' - He is the Great Burden Bearer. He promises to walk beside us and carry our burdens so we can be at peace and rest.

Are you worried fearful and stressed. Give those burdens. to Jesus right now! "I can't do it", you say! Yes you can! See yourself casting them on the shoulders of Jesus and leaving them there. Practice this until you are free!

REIGNING AS KINGS!

There are those in the Church who have made a 'thing' of how weak and helpless we are, as if it is a positive spiritual principle!

"Oh Lord, help this thy servant in his weakness. I am but barren and poor without you. I am a worm and not a man."
(tongue in cheek)

NO, a thousand times NO! We do need God's grace when we are weak, but the fact is, we ARE new creations, seated in heavenly places, kings who co-rule and reign with Christ, prosperous and healthy!

We can only rise to the level that we see ourselves as, and Christ has raised us to the highest level. We are not striving to get there, we are already there. We're the head not the tail, above only and not beneath our circumstances.

Seeing ourselves as God sees us, enables us to build our lives around who we ARE, not what we're trying to become!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GOD'S LOVE CHANGES US!

Many Christians want to experience a deep loving relationship with God, but feel guilty and condemned because they know inwardly that such is not taking place.

Let John the disciple who is called the apostle of love lead us into freedom.

1 Jn 4:10 "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

Let's stop all efforts to love Him and instead ask Him to love us.

1 Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us. (NKJV)

As His love takes root in us it will create a natural desire to respond and return that love.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



BE INFLUENCED BY CHRIST!

Do not be conformed (outwardly moulded) to this world.

The world is in chaos and the pressure is on - economies are collapsing, businesses are crumbling, making many redundant; food prices are shooting up and wickedness is being exposed in high places.

Let's not allow ourselves to be influenced by the media of T.V., radio and newspapers. A daily diet of such things can only stir up fear, worry, fretting and stress!

Unless we are directly involved in such things, let's leave others to worry about them.

God has given us a better way that leads to peace, joy and rest:

*Heb 12:2 Looking away from all that will distract to Jesus,
Who is the source of our faith (AMP)*

Keeping our focus on Jesus will release us to get on with our lives, undisturbed and untroubled!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ex 12:8
On this night they must
roast the lamb over a fire.
They must eat it with
bitter herbs and
bread made without
yeast. (NCV)*

THE LAMB ROASTED BY FIRE!

On Passover night, the Israelites were to slaughter a lamb, roast it over a fire and eat it. They had to feed upon the lamb!

The lamb for Christians represents the Lord Jesus Christ. He became a burnt offering upon the cross for you and I, and God is calling us to feed upon Him. He becomes spiritual food for us as we practice meditating in His word.

Ps 119:103 Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds— it's sweeter than honey in my mouth! (CEB)

Do we need to learn rest — let's feed upon *(Mt 11:28-30)* until Jesus releases to us a revelation of rest!

Wherever we need Jesus to meet a need, it will always be met as we feed on His word.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

GOD PASSES OVER YOU!

When the Israelites daubed the blood of the lamb on the side posts and lintel of the door of their houses, the death angel would passover them. Thus they were safe and secure from the judgement of God.

Both the wooden cross piece and the door are pictures of Christ:

The wooden cross piece daubed with blood speaks of the blood that Christ shed on a wooden cross to take away all our sins. We no longer need fear the judgement of God ever again. God exhausted all His judgement at Calvary 2000 yrs ago!

The door speaks of Christ who said, "I am the door." You and I are now 'in Christ' and nothing, but nothing, can ever take us out of Christ. No sins, mistakes, failures, disasters, famines, plagues or earthquakes. We are saved for all eternity in Him!

*Ex 12:23
For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (NKJV)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Rom 12:2
And do not be conformed
(outwardly moulded)
to this world, but be
transformed (inwardly
changed) by the renewing
of your mind. (NKJV)*

THE NEW CREATION!

The changes a caterpillar makes to turn itself into a butterfly are a creative act of God that all takes place within the chrysalis. Then the butterfly bursts out of the chrysalis. A fully formed new creature — a beautiful creature.

This is the same process of transformation (metamorphism) that takes place within us by the Holy Spirit. At salvation the new creation comes bursting forth from within us.

The word 'transformed' is in the 'present continuous tense'. As we feed the Christ within us, we facilitate constant change from the inside out.

2 Cor 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

HIS GOODNESS KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

There are two ways we can journey through this oft repeated verse of scripture:

We can pray, but fret, stress and worry about the outcome; and God will work all things for good because that is His nature, but we'll finish the journey bedraggled, joyless and beaten down.

OR

We can pray and commit the whole of our problems to God, trusting Him for a positive outcome and rest in Him; and God will work all things for good and we'll finish the journey in peace and joy, praising the Lord!

Heb 4:10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (NKJV)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

RIGHTEOUS AT THE CROSS!

At salvation, God took away our old sin nature and gave us a new righteous nature (*Rom 6:6, 2 Cor 5:21*).

Hence, we must no longer see ourselves as sinners but as righteous!

Seeing ourselves as sinners forces us to look inwards, making us sin conscious, stirring up guilt and condemnation.

Seeing ourselves as righteous forces us to look outwards toward the cross to see where Christ made us right with Himself. We now become righteous conscious, stirring up peace and joy.

Rom 5:19
For as by one man's
disobedience (Adam)
many were made sinners,
so also by one man's
obedience (Christ) many
will be made righteous.
(NKJV)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH!

Although Jesus agonised over drinking the cup of suffering in Gethsemane, because He saw that the Church would be His reward, it was joy that took Him through the pressure of His ministry and His coming death.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NKJV)

David also prophesied Jesus words about going to the cross:

Ps 40:8 I take joy in doing your will, my God.” (NLT)

It is the joy of The Lord that takes us through pain, suffering and loss, because -

Neh 8:10 The joy of The Lord is your strength! (KJV)

Our reward is Jesus, and as we steadfastly look to Him, His joy will take us through whatever we have to face today.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*2 Cor 5:19
God was reconciling
the world to himself in
Christ, not counting
people's sins against
them. (NIV)*

TRUE RECONCILIATION!

Why does God no longer count our sins against us. It's simple. We are no longer under the law. This is one of a number of reasons why we need no longer confess our sin to God.

In order to understand this, we must see our relationship with Christ from God's point of view. God has removed us from under the demands of the law and now sees us as perfect in Christ.

Therefore when we sin:

a) The Old Covenant of law says we are to confess our sin and ask God for forgiveness.

b) The New Covenant of grace says we are to confess that God no longer counts our sin against us and thank Him for forgiveness.

*Rom 5:13 Sin is not counted against us when there is no law.
(NCV)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Mt 6:33
But seek first the
kingdom of God and
His righteousness, and
all these things shall be
added to you. (NKJV)*

RIGHTEOUS AND IN HIS KINGDOM!

We no longer need seek God's kingdom or His righteousness.
We live on the other side of the cross!

We now (present tense) have the kingdom. We were born into it at
salvation. (*Jn3:3*)

We are now (present tense) the righteousness of God in Christ. (*2
Cor 5:21*)

Therefore, we no longer need activate the promise by what we
'DO' —NO! We activate it by 'FAITH'. We stand on God's word and
remind Him of His promise to provide for us.

Jesus said we are not to run after things or chase money because
we no longer live by the world's economic system. We live in the
kingdom of God.

What are your needs today. Take God at His word and put Him to
the test. Look to Him alone and He will meet your needs.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

LOOK UP!

‘HEAVENLY MINDED ~ EARTHLY GOOD’!

Religion says, “He’s so heavenly minded, he’s no earthly good. God says, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

(Col 3:1-3. NIV)

As we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ we bring His life down from heaven and release it into the earth.

We become so heavenly minded we become earthly good.

GRACE: the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life. (Strong’s Greek Concordance)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

THE NEW CREATION!

IT IS FINISHED! (Jn 19:30)

When Jesus cried out, "It is finished", He meant the whole work of salvation: Forgiveness, Acceptance, Love, Perfection, Holiness, Healing: emotional & physical, Righteousness, Sanctification..... I could go on!

All those things are part of the new creation which we have become in Christ Jesus!

Our part is not to try to attain to any of those things - it is to receive them from Christ. This is grace: the unmerited, unearned, undeserved favour of God.

Eph 2:8,9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (NKJV)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Prov 28:13
He who covers his sins
will not prosper, but
whoever confesses and
forsakes them
will have mercy.

WE PROSPER BECAUSE WE ARE IN CHRIST.

People take this verse to affirm their teaching that we must confess our sins. However, this verse is **O.C.** not **N.C.** What's the difference:

O.C. — Forgiveness operated on a case by case model, hence every time a person sinned, the priest would offer an animal blood sacrifice and the person would confess and ask for forgiveness.

(Ps 51:1-4)

Hence, in order to prosper, the people had to keep short accounts with God

N.C. — Forgiveness operates on a once for all time and eternity model! Christ as our sacrifice offered His blood once to obtain forgiveness and removal of all sin, past, present and future!

(Jn 1:29, Eph 1:7)

Heb10:12 This Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

We no longer have to keep short accounts with God. If we sin we simply receive His forgiveness, rise up and move on. In fact, God Himself no longer keeps count of our sin:

2 Cor 5:19 God was in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



ACCEPTED IN CHRIST ALONE

Before the creation of the world, God had already conceived the plan of salvation for mankind. Part of that plan was to bring us into sonship with Himself through His Son Jesus Christ.

These verses tell us that it is the good pleasure of His will to make us accepted in His Beloved Son Jesus Christ.

The word 'accepted' means, 'To compass (surround) with favour, to honour with blessings. Meditate on these truths - it's God's intent, His good pleasure, His express purpose now that we are in His Beloved, to surround us with favour and honour us with blessings 24/7!

Prayer: Father, whatever I do today, remind me to be conscious of You and Your desire to favour and bless me. Whatever problems come my way, I look to You, I put my trust in You and I have an expectancy that Your favour and blessings will turn everyone one of them around. I look to You to make me Your change agent today in my marriage, my family, my work, my business and my Church! Thank You Lord!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Eph 1:5-6
Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.



THE BIRTHRIGHT IS YOURS

Rom 14:17 The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

In this verse Paul the Apostle reveals the birthright of every believer. Did you catch that? It's your birth - right to live in righteousness, peace and joy, everyday of your life!

A revelation of Rom 14:17 will move us away from an up/down, topsy/turvy lifestyle into one of victory, contentment and security. Let's look at these 3 characteristics:

1) Righteousness: Gives us right standing with God - right standing gives us confidence, security and stability with God, and we receive from Him - total forgiveness, acceptance and unconditional love. (*Rom 8:30, 5:1*)

2) Peace: We not only have peace **with** God but have the peace **of** God. This peace flows out of righteousness. Peace of mind, heart and body. God's peace is healing and therapeutic to the whole of our being! (*Rom 5:1, Phil 4:7*)

3) Joy: When we are at peace within ourselves, joy can flow. Joy is not always laughter and rejoicing. It also means a 'calm delight'!; and joy releases God's strength for the day's activities

Deut 33:25 As your days, so shall your strength be.

Righteousness, peace and joy are God's order for kingdom living. Righteousness activates peace and peace activates joy. This lifestyle is infectious, attractive and reveals Christ to the world!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



SECURITY IN JESUS

How often we fall into ditches. We say or do the wrong thing and fall into a ditch of depression, anger, hopelessness, defeat, the list is never ending.

Or we become stuck in the deep mud of circumstances, sometimes not of our own making! We're stuck relationally, financially or even spiritually!

We feel insecure and unstable. Our thoughts are confused and out of control. We've become like a ship without a rudder, adrift in a sea of doubt and unbelief.

But here's the good news, although we may have fallen into a ditch, although we've become stuck in the mud - we are still 'In Christ', He is the rock of our salvation. A rock that is unchanging, immovable and a sure foundation.

See yourself in Him, centre your thoughts in Him and look to Him. He will pull you out of the ditch, free you from the mud and establish you're going out and coming in!

Heb 13:5 For God Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax My hold on you! Assuredly not! (AMP)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 40:2
He lifted me out of the
ditch, pulled me from
deep mud. He set me
safely on a rock and made
me secure, steadying my
steps and establishing my
goings.*

THE ARK OF OUR SALVATION PT 1

Noah's Ark is a type of Christ as the 'ark of our salvation'. The ark was built on 3 levels - this speaks of the Father (level 1) the Son (level 2) and the Holy Spirit (level 3)

God told Noah to set a door in the side of the ark. **(Gen 6:16)** It was set in the side of level 2 which speaks of Christ. The bible interprets this truth in Jn 10:7 where Jesus says, "I am the door".

The ark was the place of protection for Noah from the devastation of the flood. It was God Himself that shut Noah and His family inside the ark. **(Gen 7:17)**

Today we are seeing the ever increasing advent of earthquakes, famine, plagues, disease, tsunamis and unstable weather conditions sweeping around the world.

What is to be the response of the believer. Should we succumb to fear, anxiety and worry. **NO! A THOUSAND TIMES NO!** - God would point us to Christ. We entered into Christ as the door of our salvation. God Himself shut us in and we are now hidden with Christ in God. **(Col 3:3)**

We need not fear anything coming upon the earth. We are now safe and secure in Him. He is our ark of safety, protection and hope! **(Read Ps 91)**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE ARK OF OUR SALVATION PT 2

Everything Noah needed for provision and protection was in the ark. Everything the believer needs is found in Christ!

Col 2:3 In Him (Christ) all the treasures of divine wisdom, that is, the comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God and all the riches of spiritual knowledge and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden.

The types and shadows of the Old Covenant point forward to Christ and His Church under the New Covenant. Therefore it behoves us to discover who we are in Christ.

We must especially delve into the Pauline letters because it was to Paul that God gave the revelation of the risen and ascended Christ and the gospel of grace.

We can so easily miss this and preach stuff from scripture that isn't Christ. It sounds good, it looks good, but it doesn't do us good!

Preaching a series on 'The Doctrine of God' may have some benefit (doctrinally) but if it is not being interpreted through the lens of the cross, we have taken people along a road that leads them away from the riches of Christ and the life that He brings!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE ARK OF OUR SALVATION PT 3

Everything about Noah's Ark in Genesis is saturated with rest:

- a) Noah's name means rest (5:29)
- b) The ark came to rest on Mt Ararat! (8:4)
- c) The dove wouldn't leave the ark until it found a place of rest (8:9,12)

God created man for continual rest, but when sin entered it brought continual unrest!

In this story, Noah (type of Christ) and his family (type of the Church) are safely at rest inside the ark. Outside the ark, chaos reigns! The earth is being destroyed, mankind is drowning and God's judgement is being poured out, all because of sin!

Only in Christ (ark of our salvation) can man find continual rest from the effects of sin. Jesus said, "**Come to Me, and you will find rest for your souls!**" (Mt 11:28-30)

To rest in Christ is to release our life into His keeping. It's believing that He can work out our problems far better than we can; and once we have a revelation of rest, we have to work at maintaining that rest.

Heb 4:11 Let us make every effort to enter that rest!

Stress is the No1 killer in society today, therefore, as Christians we can make an impact for God and demonstrate to the world the ability to live in peace in the midst of chaos so that we ourselves become the beacons that lead others to find rest in Christ.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE DEVIL HAS ALREADY BEEN DEFEATED

Why does satan seek to accuse believers 24/7, because, after his defeat at the cross, the only weapon he has left is to accuse ignorant believers of the broken law!

Do I still battle guilt and condemnation; If so, I am still living under the law and every time I break it satan has the legal authority to accuse and condemn me.

Only the truth of God's word can set me free:

1) On the cross, Jesus the perfect man, fulfilled the law on my behalf and in Him I am totally accepted by the Father. (*Mt 5:17, Eph 1:6*)

2) I was (past tense) crucified with Christ on the cross and I died to the law. Therefore, although the law is still extant, I have been removed from under it's demands. It no longer rules over me! Hence if I sin, if I am not under the law, satan cannot accuse or condemn me! (*Rom 7:4, Gal 2:19*)

I can now throw off satan's accusations and boldly declare, "There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ!" (*Rom 8:1*)

Col 2:15 God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin, and displayed to the world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Pet 5:8-9
The devil walks about,
seeking whom he may
devour. Resist him,
steadfast in the faith.*

*Rev 12:10
"The accuser of our
brothers, who accused
them before God day and
night, has been
cast down!"*

ARE WE PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

Let us not be surprised if we are attacked, criticised and rejected for carrying the message of grace.

Dr Martin Lloyd Jones wrote, that if we are not being persecuted for the gospel we preach - we're not preaching the gospel of grace!

But why the opposition, why was Paul run out of town, why did his preaching cause riots and stir up the strongest emotions!

It's because the gospel of grace takes an axe to the root of the tree of the gospel of law, and that is too much for some people! The Jews had been living by the law for 1500 yrs and along comes Jesus to upset the applecart!

As someone has said, "It was the law that nailed Jesus to the cross!"

We must make sure we don't fight fire with fire! Yes- let us debate, but remind ourselves we are grace (ious) people. What's the point of winning an argument if we lose the battle. Jesus and Stephen said, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Acts 17:6
*"These who have turned
the world upside down."*

Gal 5:11
*If I still preach
circumcision, why do I
still suffer persecution?
Then the offence of the
cross has ceased.*



DON'T INTERPRET THE NEW COVENANT BY THE OLD COVENANT.

We often hear proclaimed today that when nations and people sin, God will judge them. He will send the prophets to call the people back to God, but if they don't heed the warnings, judgement will follow in the form of earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, famines and all sorts of mishaps!

A preacher recently stated that "If God doesn't soon bring judgment upon America, He'll have to go back and apologise to Sodom and Gomorrah!"

That may sound very bold, authoritative and spiritual but it's also very Old Covenant!

When we look to the cross, we find not judgement but forgiveness and love, in fact the cross is the greatest ever statement of God's love for mankind:

Jn 3:16,17 For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son; and to remind us of His true intentions, the next verse says, 'God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.'

2 Cor 5:19 tells us that at the cross, God not only restored man to divine favour with Himself, He also no longer counts man's sin against him!

Is God schizophrenic, judging one moment, forgiving the next. What a confusing message to give out to the world! NO! - We are pedlars of good news not bad news, and the good news is this:

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord never counts against him.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*2 Cor 5:19
God was in Christ,
reconciling (restoring
to favour) the world
to himself, no longer
counting people's sins
against them.*



LOOKING UNTO JESUS

When the wind is for us (in our back), it's 'plain sailing.' The momentum is with us, we have the advantage; people, events, goals, fall neatly into place. When the wind is against us, (in our face) we meet opposition, enemies, problems and pressure!.

Such was the case with the disciples in the boat on Galilee. The wind was not only against them, it had stirred up great swelling waves.

When Jesus came walking on the water and Peter expressed the desire to do the same, Jesus said one word, "Come!" Peter got out of the boat and walked on water. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, the wind (opposition) no longer held him back. The waves (problems) were under his feet.

The moment he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind (opposition), fear, anxiety and insecurity became a burden pressing him down, and he began to sink!

What opposition, what problems do you face today. If you will only keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, He will take you through what is against you. Instead of problems crushing you, they will be under your feet, and you'll find yourself walking on water!

The things against us are not stumbling stones but stepping stones to higher levels in God.

Ps 110:1
*"Sit here until I put
your enemies under
your feet."*

Rom 8:31
*If God is for us,
who can be against us!*

Mt 14:24
*The boat was being
tossed about by the
waves. For the wind was
against them.*

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

Ecc 10:10
*Using a dull axe requires
great strength, so
sharpen the blade.
That's the value of
wisdom; it helps
you succeed.*

REST IS VITAL!

Many continue to cut with an axe, long after it has become blunt. It is to much trouble to stop, take the axe out of service and sharpen it's blade. To them, it's wasted time. Their actions reveal how foolish and unwise they are! The scripture says, Even a child is known by the way he acts—whether what he does is pure and right.

(Prov 20:11)

The axe is a picture of the believer. The cutting edge blade speaks of the anointing of life and ministry.

The Holy Spirit is teaching us that it's not enough to know spiritual rest, we must also take physical rest, otherwise our cutting edge anointing becomes blunt and dull and we lose our effectiveness. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.'

When Elijah running from Jezebel, requested God that he die, the first action of the angel was to give Elijah food and drink and allow him to sleep. God knew he was exhausted and needed to recharge his physical batteries. *(1 Ki 19:5)*

When the disciples returned from a season of ministry, excited about what God had done, Jesus said to them, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." *(Mk 6:31)*

'The moral of the story: Physical rest restores a cutting edge anointing'

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

GIVING THANKS IN ALL THINGS

We've received a high utility bill and haven't sufficient money to pay it. Been made redundant from our job. A friend has broken a promise to holiday together and the contract obligates us to cover their share of the cost!

As followers of Jesus, we have 2 choices:

- 1) Complain, moan or dispute the problem.
- 2) Give thanks (not for the problem) that in the midst of the problem God will bring good out of it (**Rom 8:28**); that where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. (**Rom 5:20**)

Why give thanks? Giving thanks is living out of and drawing upon the grace of Jesus Christ. In Strong's Greek Concordance, another word for grace is thankfulness. (**Jn 1:16**)

Giving thanks is a declaration of our faith in God and releases Him to turn our circumstances around!

Are you caught between a rock and a hard place today? Do not complain! instead, thank the Lord that He's your provider (**Phil 4:19**) thank Him He's your healer (**Isa 53:5**) thank Him He's your protector (**Ps 91**) — Now stand back and watch Him work for you!

It's your opportunity to stand on the promises of God!

1 Thess 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 13:15
Offer the sacrifice of
praise to God, the fruit of
our lips, giving thanks to
His name.*

*Phil 2:14
Do all things without
complaining and
disputing.*

LET'S SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Grace is a teaching whose time has come!

Of all the major religions only Christianity reveals God as a God of love. It's famous mantra is Jn 3:16 'For God so loved the world.' Yet the Church through the centuries has bred deep into believers lives, that God is a God to be feared!

It takes a revelation of grace and the gift of righteousness to reveal God's unconditional love towards the world. (*1Pet 1:10, Rom 1:17*)

The gospel of grace revolution sweeping the nations today is not some isolated teaching that has suddenly surfaced amongst God's people, but is God's purpose to liberate the Church and facilitate the return of Jesus Christ! (*Gal 5:1, Eph 3:2*)

Satan is stirring heated opposition against this message because he knows more than anyone the damage it will cause his kingdom. It's a sign to him that his time is short and is coming to an end! (*Rev 12:12*)

Let us thank God we now have the true gospel, the gospel of grace the gospel of good news, a gospel the nations have been waiting for!

Prov 25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

THE FLAME OF PENTECOST PT 1

Many Christians have given up speaking with tongues because they don't understand the mechanics behind tongues.

When people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues they are carried along by the euphoria of it all. Gradually as the euphoria subsides it becomes less and less a part of their life. Why is this?

Paul the apostle gives us a clue when he tells us that tongues comes out of our spirit not our feelings or emotions. Many have stopped speaking in tongues because they don't feel anything when they pray. We live in a feelings generation: if it feels good, do it! If it doesn't feel good, don't do it,

The answer is to make praying in tongues a discipline! A discipline tied to the Word of God. A knowledge of tongues from scripture will release faith in us when we pray.

Suggested reading material:

'Chasing The Dragon' by Jackie Pullinger.

'70 Reasons For Speaking In Tongues' by Bill Hamon.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE FLAME OF PENTECOST PT 2

God gave us the baptism of the Holy Spirit (which includes tongues) that we might be continuously filled with the Spirit to overflowing. (*Jn 7:38,39*)

There is one baptism but many fillings. (*Acts 1:8, Eph 5:18*) In Eph 5:18 Paul says we are to be filled with the Spirit. The word filled in the Greek is in the present continuous tense. It would be better read, 'Be being filled with the Spirit.'

In the front wall of the Hoover Dam are a series of electric turbines. The water in the dam is allowed to flow out through the turbines generating the power of electricity which powers up thousands of homes.

Believers are like the Hoover dam. Locked up inside is the water of the Holy Spirit. As we pray in tongues (electric turbines) it releases the rivers of living water, generating the power of the Holy Spirit!

Paul said to Timothy, "Stir up (fan into flame) the gift (the inner fire) within you" (*2 Tim 1:6*). If Paul were alive today, he would be challenging the New Covenant Church not to let gather dust the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE FLAME OF PENTECOST PT 3

In order to receive the greatest benefit from praying in tongues, we need to develop a lifestyle of praying in tongues. But how you ask, can this be done? After all we live in a world system that speeds up ever faster, a world of pressure that is ever changing!

God never leaves us without solutions to meet our needs. We find these answers in His word. In Eph 5:16 Paul exhorts us to redeem the time, that is, buy up every opportunity to live out our lives for God in the midst of a crooked world.

These opportunities to pray in tongues are those times when we are doing things that don't require a lot of mental commitment: Driving the car, housework, shopping, ironing etc. These are the opportunities we can snap up and use the time to pray in tongues.

It takes discipline to develop a lifestyle of tongues, but if we ask the Holy Spirit, He will help us to achieve this. He will remind us when opportunities are passing by to grab hold of them and make them serve a better purpose.

As you submit to His promptings you will find praying in tongues becomes second nature in whatever you are doing.

*1 Cor 14:18
I thank God I speak
with tongues more
than you all*

*1 Cor 14:4
He who speaks in a
tongue edifies himself.*

*Eph 5:16
Redeem the time (buying
up every opportunity)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE FLAME OF PENTECOST PT 4

The most important revelation we need to know about tongues is the effect it has on the way we function. God created us spirit, soul and body.

With our spirit we connect with God who is Spirit. (*Jn 4:24*). God's divine order for man is to live out of his spirit, with soul and body in a subordinate position. This order was reversed when man fell into sin and became body, soul and spirit. Man's spirit died (*Eph 2:1*) and he was ruled by the 5 senses of his body through his soul.

At salvation God created in man a new spirit (*2 Cor 5:17*) thus returning him to the divine order of spirit, soul and body once again, but as believers our body and soul are still subject to the temptations of the flesh. (*1 Thess 5:23*)

The value of praying in tongues is that it builds up our spirit giving it ascendancy over our soul and body enabling us to live out of our spirit' once again.

Our spirit is exposed to the spirit realm and all of it's workings. Hence, our ascendant spirit hears God's voice more distinctly and receives flows of revelation. In fact, tongues opens the door to the manifold blessings of God in our lives!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE FLAME OF PENTECOST PT 5

Benefits of praying in tongues:

- a) Brings peace and calm to fearful and confusing circumstances! *(Phil 4:6,7)*
- b) Is a gateway to the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit! *(1 Cor 12:1-11. Gal 5:22,23)*
- c) Releases revelation from God's word! *(Eph 1:17,18)*
- d) Receiving wisdom from God! *(Jam 3:17)*
- e) Produces a strong spirit man! *(Eph 6:10)*
- f) Helps and aids us in prayer and worship! *(Rom 8:26)*
- g) Add your own to this list!

We must have faith when we pray in tongues that God is moving in and through us - this faith comes from the word of God. Faith sees God at work within us!

Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the (revelatory) word of God.

Don't give up if tongues seems not to be producing results. Persevere, press in, ask God for token signs. Don't listen to the lies of satan that tongues is gibberish! This is why you must stand on the truth of God's word! **DON'T GIVE UP!**

Gal 6:9 In due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HOPE NEVER DISAPPOINTS

The hope in the world is at best, fickle and at worst disastrous! This kind of hope has nothing to rely on, and is simply wishful thinking!

Whereas, the hope that God gives is reliable, sure, certain and secure! Why is this?

It's because God has placed His hope in Christ (*Col 1:27*) and in Christ is everything we need! Therefore when we are looking to Jesus to provide or meet our need, He will never let us down, He will never disappoint us (*Rom 5:5*)

Are you disappointed in Jesus today? If so, you have taken your eyes off Him and are looking to another channel or avenue to meet your need!

The hope of Jesus is described as an anchor for our soul! An anchor is used to keep a ship secure and tied down in a storm and prevent it from drifting away.

So, no matter how high the waves of circumstances may seem to be, if we refuse to be distracted and keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus (*Heb 12:2 [AMP]*) - We will not be swept away but anchored in the sure promises of God!

Hence we will not only come through the storm, but experience Jesus meeting our needs! You see, hoping in Him will never, ever bring disappointment!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Heb 6:19a
This hope we have as
an anchor of the soul,
both sure and steadfast.

Heb 6:19a
And which enters the
Presence behind the veil.

Rom 15:13
Now may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing!



NOAH'S ARK

When Noah built the ark, God instructed him to put a door in the middle level! When it was time to go into the ark the scripture says, *'So Noah, went into the ark, and the Lord shut him in.'* (*Gen 7:7,16*)

Noah, his family and animals were save and secure because God had shut the door!

When God shuts a door no one can open it! (*Rev 3:7*) This signified God's protection over them in the midst of the storm and the great flood coming upon the earth!

No matter how ferocious the storm, nothing but nothing could affect them whilst they were in the ark!

When we came to salvation, we entered into the security and safety of God by going through Christ the door! Then God Himself shut the door so we are now hidden with Christ in God! (*Col 3:3*)

There are many storms coming upon the earth: Floods, earthquakes, famines, terrorism, virus's, economic collapse, the list is endless, but the Father says to you: *No matter what storms come, you are secure in my Son Jesus! I have shut you in and nothing, but nothing can snatch you out of my hand!"* (*Jn 10:28*)

DOMINION OVER THE EARTH PT 1

God created the earth for man's pleasure and delegated authority to man/woman to reproduce themselves, exercise dominion and reign over it as Kings!

Gen 1:28 God blessed them, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over every living thing!" Hence God put within mankind the ability to reproduce after their own kind, both naturally and spiritually!

Laying aside natural reproduction, let us zoom in on spiritual reproduction!

Whenever you or I come into contact with another person, we immediately begin to reproduce ourselves in them and they in us!

Jesus called unto Himself 12 disciples whom He named apostles! (*Lk 6:13*) He immediately set about reproducing Himself in them! The 12 became 70, became 120, became 3000, became 5000, and filled the earth with the name of Jesus!

Today you and I have the opportunity to ask God to purposely draw people to us that we might reproduce (mentor) the grace gene in them, that they may go on to reproduce the grace gene in others!

Pray: Father, open my eyes to see the influence and power You have put within me to reproduce myself in others. To pass on the grace DNA of Jesus that He may be glorified in them! Selah! WOW! What do you think about that!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Gen 1:11a
Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind."

Gen 1:11b
"Whose seed is in itself, on the earth", and it was so!



DOMINION OVER THE EARTH PT 2

Gen 1:28 God said to them, “Fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over every living thing!”

God delegated to mankind authority over the earth. He commanded them to **subdue** and have **dominion** over the earth and everything in it! *(Ps 8:4-8) Ps 115:16 The heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.*

The first Adam lost this authority when he ceded it to satan in the garden! Jesus, as the ‘last Adam’ won back this authority for man when He defeated satan on the cross!

We see this authority functioning in Jesus earthly ministry when He commanded the wind and waves to be calm, He cursed the fig tree, turned water into wine and increased the loaves and fishes! *(Lk 8:24, Mt 21:19, Jn 2:9, Mt 14:19)*

Jesus took dominion over and subdued the earth as a man, not as God! He became the fore-runner and pioneer for believers to follow in His footsteps!

Jn 14:12 He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Let us not lower the standard of God’s word! He said it, that means we can do it!

In our next Grace Wave we will look at how to take authority as Kings over the earth!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Dominion: *To tread down, subjugate, to prevail, reign over, rule over, take dominion*

Subdue: *To conquer, force, subject, bring into bondage, keep under, make subservient.*

*Strong’s Hebrew
Dictionary*



DOMINION OVER THE EARTH PT 3

We've seen that Adam & Eve ceded their Kingly rule/reign to satan in the garden, but Jesus won it back for mankind at the cross!

Rev 1:5-6 To Him who loves us and has made us kings and priests to His God

Today, God is restoring these two offices to the Church and removing the confusion that exists between them!

For too long we've been acting like priests instead of kings, for too long we've been asking instead of commanding, for too long we've offered incense instead of flashing the sceptre of His word!

There has to be a pendulum swing from priest to king until it finds a balance! Like beavers build a dam to hold back the waters, the kings anointing has been building up for centuries and is about to break through with a mighty deluge!

This 'kings anointing' is not for superstar ministries, but for every believer, and as the Church rises up to take her authority in unison, there will be awesome and mighty demonstrations of God's miracle power!

Friends, the kingly ministry is an anointing who's time has come, and God is calling every believer to arise and use their sceptre of authority over sickness, poverty, elements and even time itself!

Won't you step out today and begin to release your God given kings anointing?

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



DOMINION OVER THE EARTH PT 4

You ask, how can I learn to release my authority as a King over sickness and poverty etc!

Catch hold of these pointers:

- 1) Build your faith by memorising, meditating and confessing scriptures that pertain to your circumstances! Eg: *Mt 17:20 You shall say to this mountain.....Lk 8:24 He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging water.*
- 2) Develop a lifestyle of praying in tongues! *1Cor14:18 I speak with tongues more than you all.*
- 3) Start small! Take authority over headaches or back pain! *Zech 4:10 Who has despised the day of small things?*
- 4) Ask the Lord for opportunities to exercise your authority and be willing to risk! To do things you've never done before! *Mt 14:29 When Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*
- 5) Ask the Lord to change your mindset from one of always asking (Priestly prayer) to one of commanding things to happen (Kingly authority). Much of this is learned behaviour! *Acts 3:6 In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk*
- 6) The paramount truth: It is the name of Jesus that sets people free! *Acts 3:16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 5:17
Those who receive the
gift of righteousness
will reign in life through
Jesus Christ.*

*Rev 1:6
And has made us kings
and priests to His God*

GRACE BUILD YOU UP

Acts 20:32 I commend you to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up.

The words, 'build you up' in this verse mean, 'To finish the structure of which the foundation has already been laid'.

Paul is teaching us that it's great to know Christ as our Saviour and foundation stone, but we need to constantly build upon Him by feeding ourselves grace! *(1 Cor 3:10)*

Question: How do I feed upon grace?

Answer: By reading and meditating on grace verses, listening to grace messages, reading grace books and a daily grace devotional!

The temptation for some is to depart from grace material on the pretext that we don't want to restrict ourselves to just grace, but want to be open to teachings and revelations from others in the body of Christ!

This is all well and good, but if the teaching we listen to is not passed through the interpretive key of the cross, we will drift back under the law and find ourselves caught in it's undertow!

The whole of scripture points to Christ! He is the grace of God, therefore, it behoves us to keep Him central in what we feed ourselves! Life can only be found in Him!

Let us be vigilant to protect this revelation of grace! This will keep us on the straight and narrow and build us a house that can withstand every wind of doctrine. *(Eph 4:14)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 1:6a
"I am surprised that you
are so quickly deserting
Him who called you by
the grace of Christ!"*

*Gal 1:6b
".....and that you are
transferring your
allegiance to a
different gospel?"*

GRACE - THE DIVINE INFLUENCE

2 Tim 2:1 Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

The key thought for the word 'grace' as found in Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dict is:

Grace: The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life, including: gratitude, acceptance, benefit, favour, gift, graciousness, joy, liberality, pleasure and thanks!

The divine influence is the very life of Jesus worked out in us as we grow in His grace.

Wow! Stop and think about this right now! As you grow in grace you are reflecting the life of Jesus into the world! Jesus was the most attractive man who ever lived (and continues to live). People from all walks of life were drawn to Him: the poor, the rich, the sick, the religious, the sceptics!

As we continue to grow in grace and reflect Jesus, people will be drawn to His attractiveness emanating from us. They won't be able to stop themselves. Like iron fillings drawn to a magnet, they WILL COME!

So today, relax into His grace, don't 'try' to live the life of Christ or be something you're not! Just be yourself!

The more authentic I am as a person, the greater His grace flows through me!

Today's Thought: I will be relaxed! No striving or struggling! I will be myself and allow the divine influence of Jesus to flow through me into a desperate world! Whoopee!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Lk 19:2-4a
Zacchaeus sought to see
Jesus, but could not
because of the crowd.....*

*Lk 19:2-4b
For he was short of
stature. So he climbed up
into a sycamore tree to
see Him!*

BE A BLAME SHIFTER

Are you the kind of person, when things go wrong always blame yourself? Or you constantly berate yourself for mistakes you made in the past?

Blame always brings guilt, condemnation and a troubled conscience and satan will take advantage of our self accusations by adding his own to them until we lose touch with reality, lose our peace and become an emotional basket case!

Now the 'good news'! When Jesus died on the cross, God took your blame, put it upon His Son, then punished the Son for that blame, so you could walk away scot free!

Col 1:22,23 "Yet now God has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault."

Our part now is to be a '**blame-shifter**'! That is, when we are tempted to blame ourself for our mistakes, we instead shift that blame onto Christ where it belongs!

This frees us from guilt, condemnation, self-accusation and demonic accusation restoring peace to our soul!

Gal 5:1 In this freedom Christ has made us free and completely liberated us; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and ensnared again!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Eph 1:4a
He chose us in Him,
that we should be.....*

*Eph 1:4b
Holy and without blame
before Him in love*

GOD IS FOR ME, WITH ME & IN ME!

The Father is 'FOR' me.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is 'FOR' us, who can be against us?

The Son is WITH me!

Mt 1:23 "They shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God 'WITH' us."

The Spirit is IN me.

Jn 14:15-18 "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be 'IN' you.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Gal 3:23-24
The law held us as
prisoners until
Christ came.*

*Gal 5:1
Christ has set us free!
Don't become slaves of
the Law again.*

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS PT 1

We address Jesus as Lord, Saviour, Redeemer and King, and rightly so, He is all those things and more! However we rarely address Him as friend or brother! Why is this?

It's come about through the preaching of the law covenant! God has been painted as a holier than thou figure, a distant, unapproachable God who is to be feared! A person we relate to through do's and don'ts!

People who preach law cannot conceive of grace people relating to Jesus as both Lord and friend, King and brother! They think we are schizophrenic Christians, people who are sloppy, lazy, licentious, greasy and cheap! A people who don't know the etiquette of approaching a holy, sacred and righteous God!

They have yet to see that:

A) Like the woman in Lk 7:36-50, the grace and forgiveness of Jesus naturally working in us takes our worship and awe of Him as Lord and King to a whole new level, never before experienced!

B) His grace breaks the chains of sin (like the law could never do) to such depth and brings such freedom that it sinks a deep well of joy that gushes up our shouts of praise and gratitude high into the air!

His unconditional love and acceptance dismantles the prison of rules, regulations and legalism, freeing us up to naturally relate to Jesus as brother and friend!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Prov 22:11
He who loves purity of
heart and has grace on
his lips, The king will
be his friend.*

*Prov 27:6
Faithful are the
wounds of a friend.*

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS PT 2

What are the qualities of friendship that we find in Jesus:

- 1) A friend will never bail out on us but will stick with us through thick and thin! *Heb 13:5 For **He Himself has said**, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**” **Prov 18:24.***
- 2) We can go to a friend for help! *Heb 4:16 Come boldly to the throne of grace and find grace to **help** in time of **need.** **Ps 46:1.***
- 3) Friends are transparent and share their hearts with each other! *Jn 15:15 I have called you **friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made **known** to you.*
- 4) A friend accepts you as you are! *Prov 17:17 A friend **loves** at **all times.***
- 5) A friend demonstrates their love for you! *Jn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down** one’s life for **his friends.***
- 6) A friend can be trusted! *Ps 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; **My heart** trusted in Him, and I am helped.*

Pray: Jesus, I see all these qualities in You. Strengthen me to never to bail out on You, to always come to You for help and to share my heart with You! Thank You Jesus for accepting me as I am, for showing me unconditional love and being able to trust You even in the most difficult circumstances!

You truly are a friend to me, help me to be a friend to You!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

JESUS CONSCIOUSNESS OVERCOMES FEAR!

We all have secret fears! **Fears about the present:** The evil in the world, finances, our children, divorce. **Fears for the future:** old age, sickness, loneliness! **Fears that disable:** flying, heights, water, the list is endless. In fact, scientists tell us there are over 500 fears or phobias in the world!

We ask ourselves, “Is there a way to conquer my fears?” “Will I ever know peace of mind?” “Can I rid myself of this crippling emotion?” The answer to all these questions is: **YES!**

King David successfully conquered all his fears! HOW? Did he find the answer in a self help book? Hypnotise himself or surround himself with protective body guards?: **NO!**

He overcame all his fears with a 2 step confession in Ps 24:3:
1) I WILL FEAR—NO EVIL! David could confidently rebut all his fears! How!
2) FOR YOU ARE WITH ME! He **knew** that God was with Him to protect, provide and guide! It is when we **know** (revelation) God is with us that we can overcome all our fears!

We use **Mt 1:23 Immanuel—God with us!** But that is a bit Old Covenant! The New Covenant goes one step further—God (Jesus) is not just with me, He is in me!

As we rigidly keep our eyes focused on Jesus, as we look to Him and become conscious that He is with and in us, His life is released empowering us to put down all fear!

Isa 43:2-3a

*When you pass through
the waters, I will be
with you.*

Isa 43:2b

*When you walk through
the fire, you shall not
be burned*

Heb 12:2

Looking unto Jesus

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

TO TRUST IS TO RUN

Prov 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

This verse tells us that God's name is a strong tower! In Hebrew the word 'name' speaks of a person's character, authority, honour and reputation.

A strong tower was a high tower, a stronghold, that was built atop of or inside a city wall. When the enemy broke through, the people would run to this tower for safety.

The word 'safe' means an inaccessible place! It was so high, no one could reach it!

For the believer today, Jesus is our strong tower! We are 'in Christ' and have been raised up together with Him and made to sit (rest) together with Him in heavenly places, far above all principalities and powers. (*Eph 1:20-21, 2:6*)

Praise the Lord! You and I are in an inaccessible place where problems and demonic forces cannot reach us!

They cannot reach us when we run to Him. The word for 'trust' in Hebrew means to run to for safety! As we put our trust in Jesus, we have so to speak, run to Him and He Himself becomes our high tower, our inaccessible place of peace, joy and rest!

We're now looking down on our problems, not being caught up in them. We're no longer struggling, we are resting (sitting)!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Eph 2:6
He raised us up together,
and made us sit (rest)
together in the heavenly
places in Christ.*

*Eph 1:20-21
Far above all principality
and power and every
name that is named.*

*Col 3:3
Your life is hidden with
Christ in God.*

*Grace Waves
Devotional*

REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE LORD

Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Today, you may be facing what to you are big problems or obstacles in your way to a life of peace, joy, success and prosperity?

In King David's day, the heavy artillery of modern warfare were horses and chariots, but God told David upon becoming King that he was to hamstring any horses he won in battle!

God knew that left to himself, David would put his trust in these horses and chariots instead of in Him! Hence when David put his trust in the Lord, he was victorious every time!

Deut 20:1 When you go out to battle, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you.

When we face overwhelming odds, there is always the temptation to look to ourselves or others to gain the upper hand or protect ourselves; But God wants us to know that His word is current coin for every generation. ***He is the Lord, He changes not! (Mal 3:6)***

Church history teaches us that God's Church is only powerful and dominant when it's people put their trust in Him! Today Church leaders must lead the way by modelling trust before the people! Trust can be taught but it's even better when it is caught!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 118:8
It is better to trust
in the Lord than to put
confidence in man.*

*Prov 3:5
Trust in the Lord with
all your heart, And
lean not on your own
understanding.*

*Isa 40:8.
Ps 33:11*

*Col 3:3
Your life is hidden
with Christ in God.*

*Grace Waves
Devotional*

REST FREES US FROM OURSELVES!

When our lives are taken up by worry, fear, guilt, condemnation and the anxieties of life, we are not free at those times to serve God!

We are wrapped up thinking about things that have, are, or may take place in our past, present and future!

These things become distractions and instead of being available to God, our minds and bodies are elsewhere!

The answer to all these things is found in a four letter word called, ‘rest’! This is why Jesus says to you and me, *“**come to me all you who are tired, worn out and weary and I will give you rest for your soul!**”* (mind, will & emotions) (Mt 11:28)

Jesus was surrounded by pressure 24/7. People wanted Him, drew from Him and challenged Him!

Where did He get the strength to fulfill His ministry? It was in **trusting** all those things over to God and **resting** in Him to take care of business!

Instead of being distracted by those things, He was free from Himself and could give His time and attention to proclaiming the kingdom of God

Pray: Jesus, help me become aware when I’m being distracted by the problems and pressures of everyday life! Teach me how to trust and rest in You, that I might be free from preoccupation with myself and give my energies to serving You!

*Col 3:3
Your life is hidden with
Christ in God.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

TROUBLE VALLEY BECOMES HOPE VALLEY

Hos 2:15 Trouble Valley will become Hopeful Valley.

The word, 'Achor' means,, trouble, disaster, pain, affliction! It was named after a man called Achon who had taken things that belonged to God. In doing so he had made the whole nation of Israel to sin! God was angry with them and withdrew His presence until Achon was punished by stoning him to death!

Let us be thankful that under the New Covenant God no longer deals with us in such a way! In fact, whether we are in trouble,, sin or failure, God has promised to turn our circumstances around! Let's look at how He does this:

In this story Achan is a type or picture of Jesus Christ! On the cross, Jesus bore the punishment and anger of God for all our sin and wrong and died in our place! We can now walk away as free and forgiven people!

God shows His abundant grace by also showing us a way out of our trouble! He renames the Valley of Achor, the "Door of Hope" This is another picture of Jesus who calls Himself,

"The Door" He now becomes our door of hope and escape!

The word hope means an expectation of good! So no matter your trouble today, if you will put your trust in Jesus and look to Him, He will not only show you the way out of your trouble but turn it around and bring good out of it! ([Rom 8:28](#))

Today, let us celebrate the name of Jesus! He is our Saviour and deliverer!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Hos 2 15
I will give her the Valley
of Achor as a door of
hope. Read Jos 7:10-26*

*Jn 10:9
Jesus said, "I am the
door,. If anyone enters by
Me, he will be saved."*



*1 Pet 5:6a
Therefore humble
yourselves under the
mighty hand of God.*

*1 Pet 5:6b
That in due time He may
exalt you.*

SUBMISSION IS A FREEING WORD PT 1

Does a baulk rise up in you when you hear the word '**submission**'? That's because we have imbibed the worldly spirit that is anti-authority and that says submission is weakness, is restrictive and brings bondage and oppression!

Did you know that the spirit behind the world system is satan? he is the one who led a rebellion of angels to usurp God's throne and was cast out of heaven to earth and injected the world's system with his rebellious spirit! (*Jn 16:11, Rev 12:9*)

When Jesus fought His epic battle with satan in the wilderness, satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and said to Him, "*All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.*" (*Lk 4:5-6*)

As a man, Jesus rejected satan's way of promotion and chose God's way! He humbled Himself and submitted to His Father's authority! The Father then raised Him upto the highest place and gave Him the name above all other names: 'The Lord Jesus Christ!' (*Phil 2:8-9*)

Submission to the authorities God has placed over us leads to promotion and success!

In the kingdom of God, '**The way up is down**'! (*Heb 13:17*)

Pray: Father, help me to see that submission is not a dirty word, rather, it is the way to freedom, promotion and success in Your kingdom! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

SUBMISSION IS A FREEING WORD PT2

Let's look at 2 ways that make submission a successful enterprise:

1) Submit to God: We create problems for ourselves in submission by seeing man/ women in our way rather than God. Scripture, always teaches putting God first in submission, that we submit to man as unto God!

*Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
(Eph 6: 1, 5-7)*

Submission becomes easy when we place Jesus between us and the person we are called to submit to!

2) Submit Yourself: God does not make us submit to anyone, rather He says to us, “**submit yourself**”, that is, we ‘choose’ to submit ourself:

Eph 5:21 Submit ‘yourselves’ to one another out of reverence for Christ

As we choose to humble ourselves in submission, the grace of God flows freely through us bringing sweet fruitfulness and success.

1 Pet 5:5 God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

There is divine safety in submission. If we are willing to wait for God, He will promote us when He is ready, and when He promotes nobody can remove us from the place or position He has placed us in! (*Acts 5:34-40, 23:9*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Phil 2:8
He (Jesus) humbled
Himself and became
obedient.*

*Phil 2:9
Therefore God highly
exalted Him.*

SUBMISSION IS A FREEING WORD PT3

Let us build 'safeguards' into the arena of submission to authority!

God calls believers to submit to legal and righteous authority:

Legal: It is God who places authority and leadership figures over our lives and calls us to follow them! (*Heb 13:7, 17. 1 Pet 5: 1-4. 2 Tim 3:6-9*)

Righteous: Biblical leadership always operates from a place of righteousness! (*Prov 16:12. Ps 67:4*)

A safe model in following leaders is to serve unless we know it to be sin or against our conscience!

When a leader in any sphere of society steps outside of legal and righteous authority, we must take steps to protect ourselves by putting in place a very simple boundary: **NO!**

Abuse in any form can only flourish when we allow it! We must learn to say Yes/No as the occasion demands. We are not a spiritual doormat!

Let us also be gracious with each other! Nobody gets it right all the time! Submitting our way to God frees us from a hurt/bitter/rebellious spirit! Forgiveness means letting go of the person who abused us. This washes our soul of toxic emotions bringing healing!

Deut 19:14
You shall not remove
your neighbour's
landmark.
(Boundary)

Job 38:11
"This far you may come,
but no farther, and
here your proud
waves must stop!"

Eph 4:32
Forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ
forgave you.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

SUBMISSION IS A FREEING WORD PT4

Question: If I am in a Local Church or part of a team, how can I fulfill the calling on my life and see the gifts God has given me expressed to their fullest extent.

Answer: By submitting to the leader's vision!

God gives vision to a leader to build something, and together with the team they seek to fulfill this vision!

Hence, as we serve the leaders vision, God will make our calling and gifts flourish and find their place within this vision!

Jesus was part of 'Team God'! He knew the Father's vision was to redeem the earth and the people therein! As He went about fulfilling the Father's vision, He said:

Jn 5:30 I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Jn 12:49 I have not spoken on My own authority; The Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

Jesus saw His calling and gifts flourish as He went about fulfilling His Father's vision, and before He died, was able to say, "It is finished!" (***Jn 19:30***)

Today, serve your leader's vision and you will see your ministry flourish and expand to it's fullest potential!

Ps 92: 12

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, they shall grow like a cedar.

Ps 92: 13

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Eph 4:32

Forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

GOD HAS YOUR BACK! PT1

An Eastern Shepherd always led a flock of sheep from the front and had one or two dogs to protect the **back** of the sheep to prevent them from straying or from predators such as robbers and wild animals whose only action would be to kill the sheep for their meat and skins! (*Jn 10:10,1 Sam 17:34-37*)

David the Shepherd/King likens these dogs to God's goodness and mercy:

His goodness is His: Favour, prosperity, welfare and the best of His provision!

His mercy is His: Loving-kindness, faithfulness, deliverance and redemption!

As these dogs follow or run after the sheep to **protect their backs**, as we trust in Jesus, the Father will release His grace through His goodness and mercy to protect, provide for and help His sons!

This means we can replace all evil and negative thoughts with positive and hopeful thoughts of righteousness and truth.

Determine with the Lord's strength to develop a mindset that says, 'all the difficulties, circumstances and problems of yesterday, today and tomorrow will be swallowed up by His goodness and mercy'!
"Thank You Lord that **You always have my back**. I needn't be concerned with matters that bring worry, fear or anxiety. I now rest in You and enjoy Your presence in my life!" "What an awesome God You are!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



GOD HAS YOUR BACK! PT2

1 Jn 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

John the apostle of love hits us between the eyes with the truth of God's word. We can only love God, only love others **because** He has first loved us.

Yes, we can have a natural love for others, even for God, but natural love is limited and will break down under pressure of circumstances. But God's love is exhaustless it has no limit! Praise The Lord!

God's love is 'agape' love! It is an unchanging, unwavering, unconditional, sacrificial love that is affected neither by circumstances or words!

It was agape love that moved God to send His Son to the cross! The greatest demonstration of love in the history of the universe!

It is this love at work in us that will motivate us to sacrifice for others, love the unlovely and go to the ends of the earth to proclaim the good news—not because we have to but because we want to!

Prayer: Father, give me a revelation of your love for me! Show me how to receive your love and apply it to my earthly relationships! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*1 Jn 4:10
This is love, not that we
loved God, but that
He loved us.*

*Eph 5:2
Walk in love, as
Christ also has loved us.*

*1 Thess 4:9-10
But concerning brotherly
love you have no need
that I should write to
you, for you yourselves
are 'taught by God'
(Divinely Instructed) to
love one another!*

IMPERFECT BUT ACCEPTED IN CHRIST!

Under the Old Covenant, the Priests couldn't offer to God a sacrificial animal with a defect! Those that were blind, broken, maimed, bruised, crushed, torn or cut were rejected. The animal had to be perfect in order to be accepted by God!

The same holds true today under the New Covenant! God will not accept worship from people who have defects of character, weaknesses, are in sin, bitterness, hatred, fear, unforgiveness, rage, worry, etc, etc!

But here's the good news! If you have received Jesus as your personal Saviour, the Bible declares you to be 'In Christ'!

To be in Christ is to be made acceptable to the Father. He is the perfect sacrifice who offered Himself to God that we might be acceptable in Him!

Eph 1:6 To the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved (Christ).

When the Father looks upon you today, He doesn't see your imperfections, sins and failures - He sees you perfect in Christ and says to you:

"Come to me today just as you are! Do not run away but run to me! Offer to me your worship and feel my presence flowing into your life, cleansing you of all your imperfections and replacing them with my joy, peace and rest!"

COME JUST AS YOU ARE!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE WELL IS IN YOU

*Gen 26:15 The Philistines **stopped up the wells** of Abraham and filled them with earth.*

In the days of Abraham, in a land of wilderness, water was a precious commodity that was used for drinking, watering flocks and cattle etc.

It was accessed by digging wells deep into the earth! A well became the property of the person who dug it. Abraham had dug many such wells but after he died the Philistines came along and stopped them up with dirt, rocks and debris, stopping the flow of this precious, life giving water!

Believers are like wells. Deep down inside them, in their spirit, is the river of the Holy Spirit. He is the water of life we are to drink from continuously, that we may never thirst again!

But if we are ignorant of who we are in Christ, satan our adversary comes along and stops up our well with his rocks of accusation, dirt of deception and lies of debris!

He whispers that we are not forgiven, not worthy, unacceptable, unholy, unrighteous, etc!

Hence the life giving water ceases to flow and we lose our passion for Jesus, our desire for reading the scriptures and worship and become dried up, hopeless and defeated!

If that is you today, let's expose the work of satan with God's word that the water of life may flow freely in you again.

Meditate on these verse: *Jn 8:44, 2 Cor 11:3, Rev 12:10-11.*

Jesus has set you free: *Rom 11:16, 2 Cor 5:21, Eph 1:4, Col 2:13, Heb 4:16.*

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Isa 12:3
With joy you will draw
water from the wells
of salvation.

Isa 12:4
In that day you will say:
"Praise the Lord!"

(Read Gen 26:15-22)

*Ps 23:6a
Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me.*

*Ps 23:6b
All the days of my life.*

WHAT IS FOLLOWING YOU?

Most of us have times of foreboding when we think the past will catch up with us! We've made mistakes, failed important opportunities or committed what we think are serious sins! Or we still carry a residue of guilt, condemnation, hopelessness!

We have this nagging feeling we still have to pay for these things and the day will come when they will creep up and smack us round the back of the head like a baseball bat!

The culprit behind such things and the one who lights the blue touch paper is our adversary (enemy) satan! He will take advantage of any opening we give him!

But David the Psalmist gives us a cast iron promise from God how we can kick satan into touch and plug the holes in our thinking! He tells us that God's goodness and mercy follow us not just 24/7 but **ALL** our **DAYS!**

Freedom Confession— "From today I will cast down all negative thoughts from the past and replace them with God's wonderful promise of provision: 'Surely His goodness and mercy will catch up to me, overtake me and flood me with blessings, all my days!'"

Confessing this promise many times means the words enter our ear gate and drop down into our spirit! As we continue to meditate upon them the day will come when revelation will break out, faith will rise in our heart and we will know the reality of Ps 23:6 in our life!

*Rom 10:17
Faith comes by hearing
the word of God.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



CHRIST HAS REDEEMED ME

If we know Christ as our Saviour, the scripture teaches that we are now the righteousness of God! (*2 Cor 5:21*). We are not righteous by what we do but by what we are (*Rom 5:19*). It's not a righteousness we have to earn but a righteousness that is given as a free gift! (*Rom 5:17*)

The verse above tells us that we now have a silver tongue and can truly say, **“As a believer, I was born again with a silver spoon in my mouth!”**

Silver speaks of redemption and was the metal of currency used in Bible days. If an Israelite sold some of his land, he had the right to buy it back (redeem) again! (*Lev 25:25*)

To redeem means to buy back something that was sold. When we sell something to a pawn broker to raise money, we can go back at a future time and buy back what we sold.

Jesus redeemed us, not with silver, but with His own precious blood. Precious because it is the costliest thing in the universe! Thank You Jesus! (*1 Pet 1:18-19*)

Under the New Covenant we are told to ‘walk in wisdom, redeem the time, and speak with grace’! (*Col 4:5-6*) In other words, we are to as it were, redeem the opportunities that pass by, by the use of our tongue!

Today, let us ask Jesus to help us speak words of life, encouragement and hope! Let us not be the harbingers of doom and gloom but of good news and gladness!

Because you are righteous, you have a redemptive tongue. You have the ability to speak life not death, good not bad and light not darkness!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Prayer: Lord Jesus,
help me today to
think before I speak,
to use words that
build people up and
speak of a good
future. I trust, rest
and rely on You to do
this for me!
Thank You!

*Grace Waves
Devotional*

Ps 23:4a
Though I walk !through
the valley of !the
shadow of death

Ps 23:4b
I will fear no evil.!
For You are with me

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

King David wrote this Psalm from the experience of being a shepherd from a boy! He was an expert in all the ways of shepherding!

He knew that when the shepherd led the flock through a dark winding valley, where predators lurked and the sheep could lose sight of the shepherd who had gone ahead, they needed to be constantly reassured.

Therefore the shepherd would whistle or tap his staff on a rock! This reassured the sheep of the shepherds presence and protection which kept them at rest!

As believers, we pass through times of problem, pressure and pain. We can also muse on future scenarios and allow our imagination to run riot! What if this or that happens?

Before we know it, fear, worry and angst well up and our life is being driven by negative emotions!

We must learn at such times to practise this promise of Jesus, to **'FEAR NO EVIL'**! Whatever we are going through, whatever's to come, we must reject any imaginary thoughts of evil and foreboding, and put them where they belong, 'under our feet'!

Jesus Your Heavenly Shepherd says to you today: "I am (present tense) with you, !I will not allow evil to engulf you. Trust and rest in me!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



PRACTISE BEING RIGHTEOUS CONSCIOUS!

Under the Old Covenant, the blood of animal sacrifices could only deal with sin on a **case by case basis!** Each time they sinned, they offered another sacrifice!

Because animal blood could only cover sin, the people still carried the guilt of it on their conscience. Hence they became sin conscious, that is, always looking inward at their sins, mistakes and weaknesses!

But under the New Covenant, Jesus died as a **once for all** sacrifice for **all** man's sin, **past, present and future!** There isn't one sin that hasn't been dealt with by His blood!

Also, His blood removes sin completely from our lives, subsequently we have now been judged by the Father as perfect, complete, holy and righteous before Him!

We must now stop being sin conscious (looking at ourselves) and become righteous conscious (looking away to the cross at Jesus's perfect sacrifice for all our sin).

Friends, we have to settle it in our hearts that in Christ we are now perfect, pure, righteous and holy! Only as we receive this can we walk out of the guilt and condemnation of sin and remain righteous conscious!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Heb 10:1
For the law, can never
with these sacrifices,
which they offer
continually year by year,
make those who
approach perfect.

Heb 10:2
For they would have
ceased to be offered? For
the worshipers, once
purified, would have
had no more
consciousness of sins.

Rom 8:1-2
There is therefore now no
condemnation to those
who are in Christ Jesus.
For the law of the Spirit
of life in Christ Jesus has
made me free from the
law of sin and death.



Rom 8:2a
For the law of the Spirit
of life in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:2b
Has made me free from
the law of sin and death.

CHOOSE JESUS CHOOSE LIFE!

The first Adam's disobedience triggered 'the law of sin and death'! God said to him: *"Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* (Gen 2:17) **(Hebrew: In dying you shall die!)**

As a result of the sin of the first Adam, the whole of mankind was birthed into the law of sin and death! It is at work in us 24/7, but there is a way to be free from it's power. God the Father superseded the law of sin and death by introducing the higher 'law of the Spirit of life'!

He sent the last Adam (Jesus) to die on the cross and take the punishment for the law of sin and death for all mankind and took it down into the grave with Him. He then rose from the dead on the other side of the cross, triggering the law of the Spirit of life!

This is God's eternal Zoe life that transforms everything it touches and bring life out of death, healing out of sickness and prosperity out of poverty!

Every time you and I look to the cross to receive the Father's forgiveness, acceptance, love, joy and healing etc, the law of the Spirit of life is flowing through our being! Praise the name of Jesus!

As a friend of mine recently said, "Let us press on to know the fulness of God's salvation and Zoe life, transforming us from the inside out!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

*Rom 8:2
For the law of the Spirit
of life in Christ Jesus.*

*Rom 8:2b
Has made me free from
the law of sin and death.*

Read The Book of Esther

EXCHANGING DEATH FOR LIFE

In the time of Esther, when the King issued a law, it could not be changed or revoked!

Est 8:8 “Whatever law is written in the king’s name and sealed with the king’s signet ring no one can revoke.”

The wicked haman had manipulated the King to issue a law for all the Jews in his kingdom to be put to death on a particular day!

God used Queen Esther (A Jew) and gave her favor with the King, to issue a new law that superseded haman’s law and led to the deliverance (salvation) of all the Jews!

When Adam sinned, he triggered **the law of sin and death!** It was a law that could not be revoked! (*Gen 2:17 Rom 8:2*)

But God issued a new law that far supersedes the law of sin and death—it is called:

‘The law of the Spirit of life—in Christ Jesus’!

Friend, Are you struggling with sin, condemnation, guilt, shame or rejection etc! If so, I have ‘good news’ for you! Jesus Christ died in your place and took the punishment for your sin that you might experience His deliverance and walk away free!

This new law applies to all mankind; and today Jesus bids you come to Him and receive His gift of salvation and freedom from Sin!

CALL UPON THE NAME OF JESUS TODAY!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE SHEPHERD ALWAYS LEADS FROM THE FRONT

A horse has near 360 degree vision. It can see to the side and behind itself. To prevent the horse from being distracted a rider will attach a pair of blinkers/blinders over it's eyes so that it can only see forwards!

The horse's vision and focus is now what lies to the front and ahead of itself!

The scripture exhorts believers to adopt a blinkered approach to following Jesus. He is our heavenly Shepherd and **always** leads from the front, hence we are called to look away from all that distracts to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

The words, 'looking away' in Greek mean to look away from one thing and fix our eyes on another thing!

Today there are many voices and things, both negative and positive competing for our attention. To allow ourselves to be distracted by them is to be led away from Jesus in a different direction!

We can rest assured that when we follow Jesus, He will **always** lead us to green pastures, beside still waters and along paths of righteousness. *(Ps 23:2-3)*

Even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we know He has gone ahead to clear the way of all obstacles/dangers, and as we put our trust in Him, He will bring us safely through!
(Ps 23:4)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Heb 12:2
Looking away from all
that will distract. To
Jesus, the author and
finisher of our faith.

Ps 16:8
I have set the Lord
always before me!

Grace Waves

Devotional

Rom 5:20
Where sin abounded,
grace abounded
much more

Prov18:21
Death and life are in the
power of the tongue,
and those who love it
will eat its fruit.

BELIEVE FOR THE BEST!

The sin nature in man (*Rom 5:19a*) is programmed **to believe for the worst** - We need a bigger car but can't afford one, I have job interviews to go to but don't think my skills are good enough, my child is being bullied at school and I don't know what to do?

The new righteous nature in Christ (*Rom 5:19b*) is programmed to **believe for the best**— A bigger car, job interviews, a bullied child: Thank You Lord that You have promised to provide for me, to give me confidence in my interviews, to protect my child from bullying! I trust in You and rest in You to fulfill all these things! (*Phil 4:19, Prov 28:1, Ezra 8:21*)

The believer in Christ, no longer has a sin nature but a new righteous nature, and God has programmed us to **believe for the best!** How can we do this:

1) Find the promises from God's word that fit our situation. Memorise them, confess them often! Only speak the promise, do not speak your negative circumstances! Joel Osteen says that the words we speak prophesy our future! (*Prov 12:14, 18:20, 21:23*)

2) Once you've prayed and asked God to fulfill His promise, don't ask again! Instead, practise thanking Him for the promise to be answered! (*Phil 4:6, 1Thess 5:18, Eph 5:20*)

3) At such times, the enemy will always increase his pressure upon us to force us to capitulate and confess the negative. Thus faith breaks down and our prayer is short circuited! So stand your ground and hold to your confession! (*Read Exodus Ch 5*)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES!

Eagles have large wings, that can reach a wingspan of eight feet, but they use their wings to fly sparingly! It wouldn't take much for an eagle to exhaust itself and use up its strength flying around!

'No'— God made eagles to soar, not fly!

When a storm comes, the violent, strong winds slam into the cliff face forcing the wind upwards as thermal currents of air! The eagle waits for the thermals and launches off his perch high up on the cliff face. The thermals take him high up into the heavens, far above the storm.

Once up there, the eagle locks its wings out straight and soars around for hrs on the thermals. He uses them to do all the work for him, expending little of his own strength!

Friends, when the storms of life come, we can use up all our own strength (flying) trying to sort out issues ourselves! It leaves us battered and exhausted!

But if we will give those issues to Jesus and rest in Him, the thermals (wind) of the Holy Spirit, will take us high up above the storms where we can soar and be at peace!

You see, when we are soaring (resting) Jesus is working on our behalf, sorting out and resolving our issues!

You are called to be an eagle, majestic, powerful and strong! Jesus says to you today, **“Stop flying and start soaring!” “Rest in me - let me do the work!”**

*Ps 103:5a
Who satisfies your
mouth with good things!*

*Ps 103:5b
So that your youth,
renewed, is like the
eagle's— Strong,
overcoming, soaring!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

JESUS IS YOUR SAFETY NET

The role of the circus acrobat is to perform somersaults, rope walking, back flips etc! The amazing thing about such people is that they work from a great height!

But in case they fail, they have a safety net to catch them, preventing hurt and injury!

God may not be calling you to such things, but He does have a work for you to do! A work that involves moving forward, risk taking and faith and trust in Jesus!

Many believers are not moving forward today because of a fear of failure, of messing up, of taking a wrong turn, of letting others down! All legitimate concerns!

But this is the beauty of serving God, that if we fail, there is a safety net called, **'The grace of Jesus Christ'**, that will catch us if we fall!

How does it catch us: In Christ, we are forgiven our mistakes, there is no guilt or condemnation, His grace swallows up our sin, our failures are turned around by His goodness, He will never leave us to fend for ourselves, He will provide our wants and needs — I could go on! (*Col 2:13, Rom 8:1, 5:20, 8:28, Heb 13:5-6, Phil 4:19*)

God says to us today, "Don't be fearful of moving forward or taking risks! I am with you today and everyday! I have already gone before you to make a way for you! Look to me, trust me and you will see the desires of your heart fulfilled!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Deut 33:27
The eternal God is your
refuge, and underneath
are the everlasting arms!

Jude 24
Now to the one who is
able to keep you from
falling, and to cause
you to stand!

LEARNING TO REST IN JESUS!

The farmers in Jesus day would yoke together an old ox with a young ox! As they pulled the plough together, the young ox would learn from the older experienced ox!

Our elder brother's (Jesus) desire from day one is to teach us how to live with His yoke of rest! He tells us that His yoke is:—

Easy: It is not complicated, oppressive or energy sapping—It is simple, prosperous, easy, good, profitable and blessed!

Light: It is not heavy, difficult, hard, harsh or bitter—It is light, easy to bear, gracious, gentle and sweet!

Not only does Jesus give us rest, He also promises to teach us how to rest. He doesn't leave us to our own devices! If we ask Him, He will teach us! This is grace!

Mt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me! (Tit 2:11-12. Phil 2:12-13)

Today you may have realised that your life is not characterised by 'rest'! The good news is that, with Jesus, it is never too late to change. He will respond immediately to our cry for help. (***Ps 46:1***) Why not commit yourself to this prayer:

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I give my life to you today and ask that you will teach me how to rest in You! Give me the strength to cast all fear, worry and anxiety onto You, that I may fall back into Your strong arms of love and protection!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Mt 11:28
Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mt 11:30
For My yoke is easy and My burden is light

YOUR SIN IS NO LONGER COUNTED AGAINST YOU!

As believers, you and I died to the law when we died with Christ on the cross! It was instantaneous death the moment we received Christ as our Saviour! The law is still extant but has no jurisdiction over you or I at all! NADA!

Rom 7:4 Friends, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ!

Let's think this through logically—When it comes to the issue of sin, if there is no law, we cannot be judged for our behaviour, if we cannot be judged, we cannot be found guilty and condemned, and if we cannot be condemned, we cannot be punished!

Rom 5:13 Sin was in the world before the law of Moses, but sin is not counted against us as breaking a command when there is no law. (2 Cor 5:19, Rom 4:8, 1 Cor 13:5)

When it comes to the issue of sin, the Church traditionally has always insisted that believers keep '**short accounts**' with God regarding personal sin!

Yet here we have 4 verses unequivocally teaching that not only does God not keep an account of our sin and neither should we!

God does not keep an account of our sin because at the cross, Christ not only took the punishment for our sin, He completely removed it never to be brought back to remembrance! Wouldn't you think Him an odd God who tried to remember something He has removed!

As Joel Osteen would say, "Can you receive it!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 6:8
Now if we died with
Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with Him.*

*Rom 6:11
Reckon yourselves to be
dead indeed to sin, but
alive to God in Christ
Jesus our Lord.*



*Jn 15:15a
No longer do I call
you servants.*

*Jn 15:15b
But I have called
you friends.*

HANGING OUT WITH JESUS

Have you been hanging out with the Father, the Son and the Spirit today?

Does that statement offend you? “Where is the fear of the Lord”, you ask? “Where is the reverence, respect and awe of being in the presence of an ‘Almighty, Holy God’?”

To be offended reveals a law mindset of Master and servant! A mindset of obedience, watching our P’s and Q’s, on our best behaviour and keeping short accounts with Him!

No outlandish, extravagant, whooping it up behaviour! For such is irreverent, would offend and make God angry, causing Him to withdraw, etc etc! Is this your view of God?

Friends, we no longer live **under** an Old Covenant God—We live **with** a New Covenant Father 24/7 and He has made us His friends and best buddies!

A revelation of grace means we no longer need fear Him because He has made us holy and righteous (*1 Cor 1:30*) He has forgiven and removed **ALL** our sins (*Col 2:13, Jn 1:29*)

He now bids us come before Him with boldness (*Heb 4:16*) and great joy (*Ps 16:11*)

In His Son Jesus Christ, we are now His beloved and totally accepted 24/7 (*Eph 1:6*)

The knowledge of His great love draws from us a deep gratitude and thankfulness that spontaneously leads to worship, awe and abandonment! (*Lk 7:36-50*)

See yourself as His friend today!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Humility is the opposite of pride - satan allowed pride to blow up his thoughts of himself and see himself as something bigger than he was. He wanted to take over God's throne but soon realised the error of his ways.

What he wanted to take by force - Jesus acquired through humility - satan wanted the highest place but was thrown down to the lowest place - Jesus took the lowest place and God exalted Him to the highest place! satan **wanted** to make a name for himself - Jesus was **given** the name above all names!

Humility is not grovelling before God and feigning to be something we are not - it is simply seeing our need of God and looking to Him for His help, guidance, strength etc.

Phil 2:8-9 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

Humility means we never have to fight for our place! When we are relying on God - He will promote us at the proper, perfect time!

Ps 75:6-7 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He puts down one, and sets up another.

Friends, Let's not fight, control or manipulate our way into God's purpose for our lives! It will always end in tears! Instead, let's look to God to promote us! He will take us far higher than we could take ourselves! Look what He did for Jesus! (*Phil 2:3-11*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Lk 14:11
Whoever exalts himself
will be humbled, and he
who humbles himself will
be exalted.*

*Prov16:18
Pride goes before
destruction, And a
haughty spirit
before a fall.*

THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE

Scientists tell us, that in the centre of a great hurricane, there is an 'eye'. The eye is 20–40 miles in diameter.

Inside the eye the weather is calm and the sky is clear, whilst outside, the hurricane is wreaking destruction and death!

Today, you may be surrounded by circumstances that have turned your world upside down! Financial loss, marriage heart-ache, job difficulties etc!

The world is in upheaval: Terrorism, earthquakes, Tsunami's, Economic collapse, killer viruses..... The list is endless!

It seems you have been caught up into a hurricane of events! You're confused, worried, fearful for your family! You have lost sight of God and hopelessness has set in!

Jesus says to you today what He has been saying for the last 2000 yrs, "The eye is the place of my rest, protection and guidance!"

Mt 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest!"

"Stop trying to fix things and people! Let me fix them!"

Prayer: Jesus, help me stop striving to work things out!
Let faith in your word rise up in me that I may rest in you!
Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO LONGER A SERVANT

Under the law covenant, the relationship between a person and God, was that of servant and master. It was a distant relationship based on the commands of the master and the obedience of the servant! Even Moses the great law giver was but a servant! (*Heb 3:5*)

But under the New Covenant of grace, the relationship and language changes! We are no longer a **servant** but a **son**, God is no longer a **master**, He is our **Father**!

As sons we are now in an **intimate** relationship with the Father, a relationship built on love and friendship!

The catalyst for this change in relationship was and is our Saviour Jesus Christ! His great sacrifice of love in laying down His life for us, His friends, has reconciled man to God and restored the relationship he once had with his Father in the garden of Eden! (*Lk 3:38*)

Think long and deeply about this: You and I no longer need fear God as a master because our relationship is now one of unconditional love and friendship of and with the Father!

John (the apostle of love) laid his head on the breast of Jesus because he knew he was loved by Jesus. He later wrote, "**Perfect love casts out fear!**" (*1Jn 4:18*)

The revelation of the Father's perfect love for you will unequivocally convince you, you need never fear the Father again and can come to Him at all times and receive His love and friendship!

1 Jn 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Jn 15:15
No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing.*

*Jn 15:15b
But I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*



THE DIVINE ORDER OF LOVE

1 Jn 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

When the Church is at a low ebb, the cry goes up, “We need more love for each other!”

To heed such warnings is to put people back under the law. It becomes a performance type of love, rooted in self strength and therefore a dead work!

Now it’s true, we are called to love one another, but we must first get things in their divine order! The divine order is: **‘We love Him because He first loved us’!**

In the Greek language, the word ‘Him’ is absent, and it reads: **‘We love because He first loved us’!**

To the degree we have a revelation of God’s love for us - to that degree can we love each other; and out of that revelation God Himself teaches us how to love each other!

1 Thess 4:9-10 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are ‘taught by God’ (Divinely Instructed) to love one another!

So let’s stop striving to love, and instead invite God to reveal His love for us and teach us how to love each other!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Help me to stop striving to love. Give me a revelation of Your love for me and teach me how to love others with Your love! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Jn 4:7
Beloved, let us love
one another, for love
is of God.*

*1 Jn 4:10
In this is love, not that
we loved God, but
that He loved us.*

GRACE MEANS WE CANNOT LOSE!

Let us not forget that God's grace is there for us to draw upon to meet every need 24/7:

Rom 8:28 *We know that all things work together for good* — Have you made mistakes or messed up? The scripture says, that He will 'synergeo' (work) those things and bring good out of them!

The Greek word '**synergeo**' is the English word '**synergy**' Which means the working together of two or more elements to produce a greater effect than a single element can produce by itself!

God is the Great Chemist who takes the elements of our mistakes and makes them work together to bring fruitfulness and glory to His name!

This means when we live by His grace, we cannot lose! When we live by His grace, we can never fall backwards, we can only fall forwards!

Eg: When Jesus died on the cross, it looked to be the greatest mistake! The powers of darkness were rubbing their hands with glee! But God turned around what was thought to be unsalvageable and made it the platform for the salvation of the world! (**1 Cor 2:7-8**)

Friends, give to the Lord today, all your mistakes, sins and failures, then stand back and wait for Him to work! His '**synergeo**' will bring salvation to your life and glory to His name!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 5:20
Where sin abounded,
grace abounded
much more!

Eph 3:20
To Him who is able
to do exceedingly
abundantly above all
that we ask or think!



THE LAVISHNESS OF THE FATHER'S LOVE!

Question: What manner or kind of love has The Father bestowed upon us!

Answer: It is the lavish kind of love! Lavish means to send a torrent or deluge of His love upon us!

To facilitate His love, God sent us the gift of His righteousness! His righteousness means we are: **a)** Perfect before the Father! (*Heb 12:23*) **b)** Totally accepted by the Father! (*Eph 1:6*) **c)** Totally forgiven by the Father! (*Col 2:13*)

When we know we are perfect, acceptable and forgiven, we can receive the fullness of His lavish love!

Paul the apostle was so carried away when he received the revelation of the Father's deluge of love, that he said: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (*Rom 8:35,38-39*)

Are you longing to receive the Father's love? Ask Him to reveal the gift of His righteousness which is in you through His Son Jesus!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 5:17
Those who receive
the gift of righteousness
will reign in life through
Jesus Christ.

1 Jn 3:1
Behold what manner
of love the Father has
bestowed on us!

EVERYTHING CHANGES AT THE CROSS

God created mankind with a basic need to be loved! It is lack of this love that makes performers and rescuers out of us all!

The Old Covenant law exacerbates our performance as we seek to live upto a standard we cannot possibly reach!

Mt 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Thankfully God sent Jesus, who as the perfect man, perfectly loved God and in doing so, perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf!
(Mt 5:17)

New Covenant saints (holy ones), also died to the law at the cross *(Rom 7:4)*, freeing us up to stop performing, stop rescuing, and instead 'receive' the Father's love!

Question: How do we receive the Father's love!

Answer: By adopting a receiving heart and mindset and by thanking Him for His love!

As God's love slowly floods our heart, we will naturally respond by reciprocating His love back to Him! BINGO! We have discovered the principle of receiving God's love **first** before we can return it!

1 Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

New Covenant love is not our love for the Father, but His love for us!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 2:20
I live by faith in the Son
of God, who loved me and
gave Himself for me.*

*1 Jn 4:10
In this is love,
not that we loved God,
but that He loved us.*

ARE YOU 'GOD AWARE'!

Today you may be surrounded by pressing problems, a relational upset, an unexpected loss! Jesus is saying to you, **“I am with you in the fiery furnace! I am with you in waters deep!”** — But are we aware that He is with us?

Let's look at 3 things that help us realise the presence of Jesus in our lives:

1) If we allow negative emotions to come in—they will always push God out! **Solution:** Take a 'time out' and draw aside to praise and worship the Lord. Negative emotions die in God's manifest presence, restoring us to a place of rest, peace and trust in Him!

2) Isa 43:2 states 3 times, **you will pass through** your present circumstances! Hence with eyes firmly and continuously fixed on Jesus, the only losses incurred, will be the things that bind us! **(Dan 3:24-25)**

3) After the resurrection, the scriptures tell us, whenever the disciples were fearful, or troubled by circumstances —Jesus appeared **'In the midst of them'** **(Jn 20:19,26)**

Jesus is **'In the midst'** of your problems today! Right this very second, He is with you! Be encouraged and hopeful! He will work everything for your good!

Mt 1:23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us”.*

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Isa 43:2a
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.

Isa 43:2b
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

FEED, FEED, FEED, THE GRACE REVELATION!

A mistake that we can make as grace people, is to forget to keep feeding ourselves grace! **“I’ve had enough of grace for a while, I’ll try something different!”**

Paul the apostle was very keen to remind his converts, to ‘continue’ in the faith, once delivered to the saints!

Cole 2:6-7 You accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to live following him. You must depend on Christ only, drawing life and strength from him.

When a ship forgets to put down anchor, it slowly drifts far away from it’s destination! Don’t let the ship of your life drift away from grace!

Heb 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

When we drift from grace, we drift back under the law! It is so subtle, unseen and deceives (blindfolds) the person concerned! The Galation Church started in grace but allowed the wrong teaching to lead them back under the law.

Gal 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel!

Jesus says to us today, “Keep the compass of your life pointing towards grace!”

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Acts 20:32
I commend you to God
and to the word of His
grace, which is able to
build you up!*

*Gal 5:4
you who attempt to be
justified by law; you have
fallen from grace.*



SEEK THOSE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE

Jn 1:4 In Him was life (Zoe: The eternal life of God)

Col 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Today I was meditating on these verses, and the H.S. showed me this:

We are told to 'seek those things which are above', where Christ sits at the right hand of God. I looked up the word, 'seek' in Strong's Greek Dictionary. One of the meanings is :- **'To seek in order to find out by thinking, meditating'**.

Hence we see that the things above are Christ and everything He is, and we are seated there with Him!

So how do we seek the Christ above, how do we gain access to His life - We do so by meditating and thinking upon the scriptures that speak about Christ in us and us in Christ!

The verse also tells us to, **'set our mind on things above'**. In Strong's Greek Dictionary, this means: **'To exercise the mind, to direct one's mind to a thing'**. So again, we are exhorted to use our mind to meditate the word of Christ, in order to gain access to the life of Christ!

These verses and these words in particular are affirming again the power of meditation to unlock the word of God and reveal the Christ to us, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge! **(Col 2:3)**

I would encourage you again to continue to push through with your meditations in the scriptures, for great things await us! Thank You.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS NOT BAD NEWS

2 Cor 5:18-19and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sin against them.

Paul here strips away everything that clouds the 'good news' and gives 2 keys of reconciling the world to God:

KEY 1: God was in Christ on the cross, reaching out through Him to encircle the human race with His arms and restore them to God's favour! This is what reconciliation means - 'restored to God's favour'!

KEY 2: God has removed the only thing that can prevent us being reconciled, namely, 'sin'

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation!

This is the gospel that the world is ready to receive, a gospel that preaches good news and only good news.

We've made the gospel unattractive and repelling to the world by adding such words as hell, judgement and confession of sin!

Isa 52:7 Proclaims that people are waiting for us to come across the mountains with good news! They are waiting for us! Let us not disappoint them but go forth boldly and unashamedly proclaiming that the Father has removed all obstacles and all they needs do is 'receive' His message of love!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 5:10a
For if when we were
enemies we were
reconciled to God
through the death
of His Son.*

*Rom 5:10b
Much more, having
been reconciled, we shall
be saved by His life.*



*Ecc 3:11
He has made everything
beautiful in its time.*

*Gen 1:31
Then God saw everything
that He had made,
and indeed it was very
beautiful (good).*

LET THE REAL YOU COME FORTH!

Satan operates the world system in which we live! (*Jn 14:30*) Some principles he uses to mould our character, steal our peace and joy and keep us in bondage are:

Comparing ourselves with others (*2 Cor 10:12*) Competitiveness (*Mt 20:20-24*) Covetousness (*Mt 19:21-22*) Pride (*Mt 26:33*) Our reputation (*Gal 2:6*) Peer pressure (*Gal 2:11-13*)

These ways prevent the real us from coming forth! They mask our true identity! The Greeks had a word for this. They called it hypocrite! A hypocrite was an actor who covered his/her face with a mask when playing various roles.

So often, we know we are being a hypocrite but feel powerless to change the masks! We are like a chameleon continually changing colour to blend into our surroundings!

Only the grace of the Lord Jesus can bring inner change that sets us free to be our real selves, so no matter the peer group or surroundings, people see the unique us!

The key Greek thought of the word grace is: **‘the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life’!** This divine influence is the life of Jesus within. As we feed upon Him in His word, we will experience the masks dropping away and our behaviour being influenced by His life. A life that exalts and brings honour to His name!

Then the new YOU, the real YOU, will come forth in strength, power and beauty

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



TO KNOW ABOUT HIM OR TO KNOW HIM?

We can hold a degree in Theology and know a lot **about** Jesus, but not **know** Jesus.

Jn 3:4 Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a doctor of divinity and a ruling member of the Sanhedrin. He had seen Jesus perform miracles, preach the gospel etc, yet he exhibited total ignorance of Spiritual truth. His problem - He knew **about** Jesus after the flesh, but he didn't **know** Jesus after the Spirit!

After Paul the apostle was converted, he said, *“Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.” (2 Cor 5:16)*. Paul had come to the knowledge that it takes a revelation of Christ in order to **know** Christ.

Many came to **know** Christ at salvation by the Spirit through revelation, but stopped dead in their tracks, not realising they had to continue to grow in that revelation. Hence they have remained spiritual pigmies, baby Christians and carnal believers!

But how you ask, can I build upon the foundation of the Christ in me? It is done through meditating, especially in the Pauline letters and asking the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your spirit to reveal more of Him! *(1 Cor 3:10, Eph 1:17-21, Eph 3:1-5, 2 Pet 3:18)*

We can only know Christ by revelation!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Cor 2:14a
The natural man does
not receive the things of
the Spirit of God, for they
are foolishness to him.*

*1 Cor 2:14b
nor can he know them,
because they are
spiritually discerned.*

RECEIVE BEFORE YOU CAN GIVE

1 Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

5 Good reasons to receive the Father's love:

1) His love changes us: Love does not judge, condemn, shame, accuse or reject! Love makes allowances for weaknesses and majors on strengths. This creates an atmosphere for change!

Prov 10:12 Love covers all sins.

2) His love brings security: When we know we are loved it gives us the strength to overcome all obstacles! *SS 8:6 Love is invincible facing danger and death! (TM)*

3) He loves us for who we are, not for what we can do: Only when we know we are loved unconditionally will we stop performing to get love and change to a receiving kind of love! *Mt 3:17 "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"*

4) His love accepts: When we know we are loved, we will run to the Father not from Him! *Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

5) His love removes fear: Fear immobilises, causes panic and destroys relationships. God's love melts away fear freeing us to live a joyful, confident life! *1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 2:20
The life I now live, I live
by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me.*

*Jn 21:20
Then Peter, turning
around, saw the disciple
whom Jesus loved!*

HE FORGAVE 2000 YEARS AGO

Col 2:13 He has made you alive together with Him, having forgiven you all sin.

Under the New Covenant God does not forgive our sin on a present or future basis! He only ever forgives sin on a past tense basis!

The verse quoted says, *'Having (past tense) forgiven you all sin!*

Of course, this includes our present and future sin, but to come before God today to confess our sin and ask His forgiveness, is forcing God to do something twice that He's already done **once** 2000 yrs ago!

Heb 9:26 But now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

We may have an issue with God having already forgiven our present and future sin, but let's remember, when He forgave our sin 2000 yrs ago, we were still in the future, and had He not forgiven all future sin then, we could not be forgiven, could not be born again and wouldn't be partakers of eternal life!

God's plan of salvation at Calvary was to deal with sin **once** for all time and eternity. When He had accomplished this, He cried out, *"It is finished!" (Jn 19:30)*

Today, tomorrow, when we sin, we can gratefully receive God's forgiveness by thanking Him for such and arise and move on into a great life of freedom in Christ!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 9:25-26a
Not that He should offer Himself often, for then He would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world*

*Heb 9:26b
But now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

*Ps 37:7
Rest in the Lord,
and wait patiently
for Him.*

*Ps 27:14
Wait on the Lord
and be of good courage.
Wait, I say, on the Lord!*

SIT STILL!

The book of Ruth is a type of Christ and His Church! Boaz is a picture of Christ our heavenly Bridegroom and Ruth a picture of the Church, His Bride!

In this story Boaz has the opportunity to marry Ruth, but Hebrew culture determined that another man had first option to marry her. So before Boaz could marry Ruth, he had to find out if this man wanted to marry her! This involved lengthy legal procedures.

Naomi Ruth's Mother-in-law knew this would take time and said to Ruth, ***“Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man (Boaz) will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.” (Ruth 3:18)***

Sit still Ruth, rest, let Boaz take care of it, which he duly did, and they were married and Ruth gave birth to a baby boy!

Maybe at this moment, events are taking place beyond your control, in your business, job or family. You're feeling anxious, worried, fearful or stressed!

God's word to you today, is to, **“Sit still my son/daughter! Rest and allow your heavenly Boaz, Jesus Christ, to work on your behalf, for He will not rest until He has concluded the matter! He knows your every need!”**

*Ps 46:10
Be still and know
that I am God!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

CHRIST: THE GREAT BURDEN BEARER!

Ps 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord! And He shall sustain you.

In the days of Jesus, in the city of old Jerusalem, the streets were very narrow. Carts and other forms of transport could not get through. Instead, men were employed called, 'Burden Bearers'.

They perfected the technique of carrying huge burdens on their backs, but one wrong move and 'crack'!, their necks would break!

In this life, mankind was not created to carry burdens of worry, fear, stress or anxiety. Such things break, exhaust and wear us out.

Step forward the 'Lord Jesus Christ' - He is the 'Great Burden Bearer'. He promises to walk beside us and carry our burdens so we can enjoy peace and rest!

Are you worried, fearful or stressed. Give those burdens to Jesus right now!

"I can't do it" you cry! Yes you can! See yourself casting them on the shoulders of Jesus and leaving them there. Practise this until you are free!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You have promised to carry my heavy load. I ask You to give me the strength to cast this load onto Your shoulders and leave it there, that I may sink back into the peace and joy that You died to give me! Thank You Jesus!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Mt 11:29a
"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me."*

*Mt 11:29-30b
"For I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

*Rom 5:17
Much more those who
receive abundance of
grace and of the gift of
righteousness will reign
in life through the One,
Jesus Christ.*

RIGHTEOUSNESS OPENS THE WAY

Rom 1:17 The just shall live by faith.

5 Benefits of the gift of righteousness:

1) We are 100% as righteous as God!

2 Cor 5:21 That we might become the righteousness of God in Christ!

2) It is contingent on Christ's obedience, not ours!

Rom 5:19 By one Man's obedience (Christ) many will be made righteous.

3) He's made us to stand before Him 24/7

Rom 8:30 Having chosen them, He gave them right standing with himself.

4) It is a faith righteousness not a works righteousness!

Rom 4:5 To him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

5) It is a free gift, it cannot be earned!

Rom 5:18 Through one Man's righteous act (Christ) the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification (righteousness) of life.

Phil 4:8

Meditate (think) on these things.



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

RELEASED FROM PRISON

Paul the apostle teaches that the law was given to keep mankind imprisoned in the jailhouse of sin!

Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound.

The law was given to exacerbate (increase) sin, making it impossible to break free from it!

It's role was to judge, condemn, accuse and kill! The law couldn't forgive or point the way to freedom and couldn't impart life!

1 Cor 15:56 The strength of sin is the law.

We were held prisoners by the law until Christ came to set us free!
(read Gal 3:19-25)

It therefore has become the crime of the ages, that the Church which by grace brought us into freedom in Christ and released us from prison, promptly turned round and sent us back to prison again by preaching the law to us!

Today we have the preposterous example of a Church whose hallmark is to model freedom, peace and joy to the world, now fighting to keep it's own head above water!

The law gospel of today is the one that should be accursed, the one that is false, the one that should be cast out! This is why Paul declared so vociferously to the Galation Church:

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ac 15:10
Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*

*Gal 3:23
Before this faith came, the law held us as prisoners. We had no freedom until God showed us the way of faith that was coming.*



CAUGHT BY PURSUIT

The relationship of Adam and Eve foreshadows that of Christ and His Church.

God defined marriage as a man leaving his parents home and joining himself to his wife!

One of the meanings for 'joined' means to 'catch by pursuit'; The Lord Jesus left His Father's abode and pursued and caught His bride to be, the Church!

You see, He knew about you before you knew about Him! You didn't go after Him, He came after you! He loved/s you first that you might love Him!

Such is the way of grace: The Bridegroom initiates - **The Bride responds!**

The Lord Jesus doesn't stop pursuing you now He's caught you! He's always pursuing always initiating new things with you in mind!

Is your mindset of worship, what you can do for Jesus, how you must show your love for Him! Do you see yourself as the initiator!

The tsunami wave of grace sweeping the global Church today, is the voice of Jesus calling out to you and I, "Stop trying to prove your love for me and let me love you! Simply ask me to teach you how to respond to my love!"

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Gen 2:24
A man shall leave his
father and mother and be
joined to his wife,
and they shall become
one flesh.

1 Cor 6:17
He who is joined to
the Lord is one spirit
with Him.

1 Jn 4:19 We love Him
because He first loved us.

Grace Waves

Devotional

FACE TO FACE - EYE TO EYE!

To be justified means:

1) We have been 'made righteous' by the Father. We are 100% righteous and will never be more righteous than what we are now!

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2) We have been given right standing with the Father! This puts us on level ground with Him and means we can speak to Him face to face and see Him eye to eye! (*Jer 32:4*)

Through the death of Christ, we have been restored to the place from which man fell in the garden, and like Adam now live in God's presence 24/7.

No longer do we have to ask to 'come into His presence'! NO—we are always with Him!

When we pray, we now come 'before His presence', not with a squeak like a mouse, but with boldness like a lion, knowing we are fully accepted by Him!

His gift of righteousness lays a foundation of security and stability which establishes us in Christ! *Isa 54:14 "In righteousness you shall be established!"*

Prayer: Lord, quicken to my spirit the truth that I have been justified, that is, made righteous in Christ Jesus and given right standing with the Father. Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 8:30
Those whom He called,
He justified (made
righteous, putting them
into right standing
with Himself).*

*Heb 4:16 Let us come
boldly to the throne of
grace, that we may
obtain mercy and find
grace to help in time
of need.*

WHEN WE WORK!
GOD RESTS

WHEN WE REST!
GOD WORKS

REST IS THE WAY FORWARD

Ps 116:7 Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

In this Psalm, David is surrounded by pressing problems! He does two things:

1) Speaks Himself Back Into Rest—David realises that no matter how great the problem, the difficulties or the mistakes he's made, God can only work through him to resolve those things, when he's in a place of rest!

2) Reminds Himself of God's Past Help— David stirred hope and encouragement by speaking to himself and reminding himself of the many times The Lord had delivered, helped and provided for him in times past! **SPEAK THESE THINGS TO YOURSELF!**

Today, the Lord Jesus offers this same rest and help to you and I. Joseph Prince says, "If it matters to you, it matters to Jesus!"

His desire is that you give over into His keeping those things that trouble, worry and make you fearful! Let Him take them off your hands and rest in Him! Sink back into His peace and see yourself held tight in His arms!

Deut 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me the desire and strength to leave the issues of life at Your feet. Thank You Lord that no obstacle is too big to overcome when You are in the driving seat of my life! I rest in Your everlasting arms, for You are my refuge! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



IN 'EVERYTHING' GIVE THANKS!

1 Thess 5:18 In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!

Why does God want the believer to thank Him in everything? Because He wants us to look to Him at all times as our source of life and provision!

When we are challenged by redundancy, debt, sin issues, relationship breakdown, health problems etc, we are to thank Him that in those situations:

Rom 8:28 He will work all things together for my good.

Rom 5:20 Where sin abounds, His grace will much more abound in my life.

Isa 53:5 In this sickness I am healed

Rom 8:31 He is for me not against me

His will, is His purpose, His desire and His choice for us! He is our cheerleader willing us on from the sidelines, knowing that as we express our thanks and gratefulness to Him, He can release His best into our lives.

The word, 'you' in this verse is in the singular not the plural! God is zeroing in on you and I as individuals. He is being specific with us, telling us He knows even the smallest details of our lives and wants to help, provide and strengthen us.

Prayer: Thank you Lord, as I determine to thank you in the midst of pressure, You will turn my situations around, and bring life out of death, prosperity out of poverty, good out of bad and healing out of sickness! What a good God You are!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Ps 92:1

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

Col 3:17

Whatever you do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him.

GOD CHOSE YOU AS HIS DWELLING PLACE PT1

Under the O.C. of law, God chose the place where He would dwell. Under the N.C. of grace, God didn't choose a 'place' to dwell, He chose a 'person'. That person is you, my friend! (*Ps 132:14,15. 1 Cor 3:16*)

Under the O.C. Of law, the people had to go to the place of His choosing to worship Him.

Under the N.C. of grace, you don't need go to Him, for He has chosen to come to you! (*Duet 12:5. Jn 14:23*)

Eph 1:4 He chose us in Him, that we should be holy & without blame before Him in love,

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, His own special people!

At the beginning of this New Year, you may be feeling depressed, a failure, unstable, insecure, in need of comfort and strength. You've lost your focus and direction in life!

God says to you, "All your sins and weaknesses have been washed away by the blood of Jesus! Let go of them, put them behind you and choose to forget them!"

"I chose you not on the basis of your success and achievements, I chose you because i love you. I dwell in you not because I have to but because I want to!" Let me love you as you are, not what you think you should be"

"Rest in me today, I say, rest in me today! The only thing that impresses me, is that you come to me as you are!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Jn 4:10
This is love, not that we
loved God, but that
He loved us!*

*Jn 1:29
Look! The lamb of God
who takes away the sins
of the world!*

GOD CHOSE YOU AS HIS DWELLING PLACE PT2

Under the O.C. of law, God's presence with His people was dependant on their obedience to His word. Obey and His presence remained, disobey and His presence lifted!

King Saul experienced this bitter truth! After repeatedly disobeying God's commands, the scripture says, *'The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul.'* (1 Sam 16:14)

After committing adultery with Bathsheba, King David pleaded with God, *"Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me!"* (Ps 51:11)

But under the N.C. Of grace, God's presence with His people is not dependant on their obedience but the obedience of Jesus!

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience (Jesus) many will be made righteous.

His obedience has made us righteous, perfect and holy in the Father's sight, therefore the Father can legally send the H.S. To live in and remain with us forever!

Jn 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever!

Nothing that you or I can do will ever make the Father withdraw His presence from us!

You are the eternal dwelling place of God! He will never leave you!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 13:5a
God Himself has said,
I will not in any way
fail you nor give you
up nor leave you
without support.*

*Heb 13:5b
I will not leave you
helpless nor forsake nor
relax My hold on you!
Assuredly not! (AMP)*

GOD CHOSE YOU AS HIS DWELLING PLACE PT3

Under the O.C. of law, God's glory filling His temple was a visitation. Under the N.C. of grace, God's glory filling you as His temple is an eternal habitation! He's come, He's staying, He will never leave!

When the first Adam fell into sin, he forfeited his right to the glory of God. Mankind inherited a glory-less life! ***Rom 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!***

'Ichabod' = 'The glory has departed', was written over our lives!

But when the last Adam (Jesus Christ) sat down on His throne as king at the right hand of the Father, the glory was restored. We sit there with Him having been glorified with Him!

Jn 17:22 "The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one!"

Rom 8:30 Whom He justified, these He also glorified.

God's design is to fill the earth with His glory through each individual.

Hab 2:14 The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Today, see yourself as the glory of God! You are different from others for you are a glory carrier of God! Just be yourself and the glory will shine through you!

Confession: Thank You Father that I am a glory carrier. You are shining out of me as i go about my daily business. I don't have to try to let Your glory shine, I just have to be myself!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



2 Cor 4:6a
It is the God who
commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has
shone in our hearts.

2 Cor 4:6b
To give the light of the
knowledge of the glory
of God in the face of
Jesus Christ.

1 Cor15:56
The strength
of sin is the law.

THE O.C. MAGNIFIES SIN

- THE N.C. MAGNIFIES

RIGHTEOUSNESS PT1

A key principle of many Christian books that teach discipleship, is that with growth in Christ, comes an ever increasing sense of man's utter sinfulness before God.

Many of the mystics of old, men and women who spent hours in fasting and waiting upon God in prayer, speak of the same experience of feeling unworthy, weak, and insufficient to be or do anything for God, and how this made them ready to be used of God!

Why did they experience such thoughts and feelings? It was and is because of an O.C. concept of God. These sincere people were N.C. believers operating under an O.C. revelation of law, and ignorantly hadn't realised that the law was given to magnify sin.

Rom 7:7 I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

Yes—God turned the spotlight of law upon man to make him become 'sin conscious', forcing him to look inward at his sins and weaknesses and take him on a downward spiral of condemnation, guilt and hopelessness into defeat!

Maybe you are caught in this trap today! Be encouraged. Today is your day of deliverance! Today, Jesus has come to turn you away from sin consciousness and make you righteous conscious! Praise the Lord!

To be continued in Pt 2!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE O.C. MAGNIFIES SIN - THE N.C. MAGNIFIES RIGHTEOUSNESS PT2

Prov 28:1
The righteous
are bold as a lion

God sent Jesus to the cross to eliminate sin once and for all and to exchange man's sin nature for His righteous nature.

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rom 5:19 For as by one man (Adam) many were made sinners, so also by one Man (Jesus) many will be made righteous.

Instead of magnifying sin, N. C. Grace magnifies righteousness. Instead of being sin conscious, grace makes us righteous conscious, so when we sin, instead of looking inward at ourselves, we look outward to the cross to see where Christ has made us right with God.

As we practise being righteous conscious, we will walk out of condemnation, guilt, shame, rejection, hopelessness and defeat and begin to reign in life as kings!

Rom 5:17 Those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

My friend, stop seeing your weakness and unworthiness as a badge of spirituality and start seeing yourself as bold and victorious in Christ! (*Heb 4:16, 1 Cor 15:57*) In ourselves we have nothing, but 'in Christ' we have everything! Praise His name!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



HIGH INACCESSIBLE PLACE

Prov 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

The word ‘trust’ in Hebrew means to ‘run to for protection’. In this verse, the righteous are to run to the Lord’s name to find safety!
(Ps 18:2, 2 Cor 5:21)

The word ‘save’ means to be set on high in an inaccessible place where nothing can touch or harm you?

For the New Covenant believer, the name of the Lord is Jesus Christ and we are the righteousness of God in Him! We are save (d) in Him, seated in the heavenly places. All enemies are under our feet and we are far above every principality and power. This is our inaccessible place!

Eph 2:5-6 He made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

So how do we run to the Lord, our strong high tower, how do we find that inaccessible place where pressure, worry, fear and stress cannot touch us? We run to the Lord by trusting and resting in Him! He becomes our protector, provider and healer!

Prayer: Father, help me to trust in your Son Jesus. Help me to give all my cares and worries over to you. Bring me into the place of your rest that i may live in your peace. Thank You Lord!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



WORK OUT - WHAT GOD WORKS IN PT 1

When a revelation of God's grace is quickened to us, (as we feed this revelation) it will change our heart motivations! We will experience God birthing in us, His thoughts, plans and visions!

He will release, the desire (passion, impetus) and power (ability, strength, provision) to fulfill them!

When God is the initiator of a thing, it will work in us:

a) Faithfulness. **b)** A spirit of excellence. **c)** An overcoming determination. **d)** A success mindset.

As we work out these things, the glory of Jesus and His person is revealed in us and through us to the nations.

The early Church was so successful in revealing Christ that their opponents were forced to proclaim, *"These are they who have turned the world upside down!" (Acts 17:6)*

Ask Him to work in you His purpose for your life that Jesus may be revealed to the world!

Prayer: Father, please reveal in me and through me a revelation of Jesus (the grace of God) that the world may see that you are the living God. Work in me your purposes and plans, that I may work out those things that please You!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Phil 2:12-13a
Work out your own
salvation; For God is
working in you.

Phil 2:12-13b
Giving you the desire
and the power to do
what pleases him.

WORK OUT - WHAT GOD WORKS IN PT2

The critics of the grace revelation that's sweeping the world, say, that grace is too easy, it's cheap and makes people lazy! Let us read what Paul the apostle has to say about this!

It was to Paul that God gave the revelation of the dispensation of grace. (*Gal 3:1-8*) (he too was opposed, criticised, attacked and left for dead) Hence, Paul became the apologist for a whole new movement.

What did Paul have to say in his day to those who said grace was easy, cheap and made men and women lazy:

1 Cor 15:10 By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Paul says that he worked harder than all the other apostles, not because he was better, but because of the grace of God that was with him!

My friend, do not fear to embrace the revelation of grace. It will not make you weird, lazy or licentious, rather it will break your chains of bondage, heal your hurts, wounds and sicknesses and release you to fulfill the will of God for your life.

The grace of Jesus will not leave you empty but fill you with deep satisfaction!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Phil 2:12-13a
Work out your own
salvation; For God is
working in you.*

*Phil 2:12-13b
Giving you the desire
and the power to do
what pleases him.*

REMOVING THE BARRIER!

In order for God to reconcile man to Himself, He had to remove the barrier of man's sin that stood between God and man. It was in the way, a blockage and a constant reminder to God!

God's plan was 3 fold: **1)** Forgive all man's sin. **2)** Remove all man's sin. **3)** Forget all man's sin — past, present and future!

He couldn't remove sin until He had forgiven it, and He couldn't forget sin until He had removed it!

He fulfilled all 3 things, once, for all time and eternity at the cross in His Son Jesus! *Col 2:13, Jn 1:29, Heb 8:12.*

Rom 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all.

Hence, when you and I now sin, we no longer have to come before God, confessing our sin and begging for forgiveness, because God's response is to say to us, "What sin, I don't know what you are talking about!"

Based on the evidence that took place at the cross, our only response to God when we sin, is to receive His forgiveness and be up and on our way! We have now been set free from the bondage of confession of sin and asking for forgiveness!

*2 Cor 5:19
God was reconciling
the world to himself
in Christ, not counting
people's sins against them.*

*Heb 10:17
"Their sins and their
lawless deeds I will
remember no more."*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

Jer 29:11a
“For I know the plans
I have for you,”
says the LORD.

Jer 29:11b
“They are plans for
good and not for disaster,
to give you a future
and a hope.”

MOVE FORWARD!

God spoke these words to Israel who at the time were in captivity for 70yrs in Babylon. Their stubborn, wayward behaviour had landed them in a place of bondage and slavery!

In the natural scheme of things, we would say, ‘serve them right, it’s their own fault.’; and yet God speaks grace to them. He gives to them undeserving favour and hope by telling them His plans for them are ones of good, to give them a bright future!

Today, you maybe in a similar place. You’ve messed up, it’s your own fault and you are to blame!

You’re feeling a failure, hopeless and defeated. One of satan’s demons is sat on your shoulder telling you what a blockhead you’ve been. That you’ll never make it, you’re guilty as hell, you’re finished, kaput!

It’s at such times that we come to know the real meaning of grace, the depth of the sacrifice of Jesus and the unconditional love of the Father, for He says to you in the midst of your mess:

“You are my beloved Son in whom i am well pleased! I have good plans for you, to give you a future and a hope! Therefore rise up out of your mess with my peace and joy. Put the past behind you and start afresh. Shake off the shackles of bondage and walk out into freedom – MOVE FORWARD!”

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Mt 5:14
“You are the light of
the world.”*

*1 Pet 2:9
Proclaim the praises of
Him who called you out
of darkness into His
marvellous light.*

YOU MUST WALK IN THE LIGHT

1 Jn 1:5 In Him is no darkness at all.

This teaching says that if we commit sin, we are living in darkness and are cut off from God! Spend time meditating in these verses until you come away with the revelation that:

‘Once in the light — Always in the light.’

1 Thess 5:2,4,5 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. But you are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Jn 8:12 “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not (double negative) walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

1 Jn 1:7 But if we live in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Phil 2:14-15 Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become children of God in the midst of a perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



KNOW THAT GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME PT 1

At the cross we were made righteous, holy, perfect and complete in Christ! (*Rom 5:19, 11:16. Heb 12:23. Col 2:10*)

God is now legally bound to be '**ALWAYS**' good to us. He can't be anything else even if He wanted to!

Ps 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is GOOD; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Knowing that God is good all the time gives us the confidence to preach a gospel of good news not bad news.

Rom 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of GOOD things!

People are attracted to a gospel of good news, but repelled by a gospel of bad news. As ambassadors for God we are commanded to preach a gospel that declares God has reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, and no longer counts their sin against them.

Let us stop magnifying man's sin and instead magnify Jesus who is the goodness of God.

2 Cor 5:19,20 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, NOT counting people's sins against them, and we are ambassadors for Christ, imploring you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 107:8
Oh, that men would
give thanks to the Lord
for His goodness!*

*Rom 8:28
All things work together
for good, to those who are
the called.*



KNOW THAT GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME PT 2

Knowing that God is good all the time, delivers us from the temptation to blame Him when things go wrong or don't work out the way we would wish.

Knowing that God is good all the time means that we can trust Him to turn around our mistakes, sins and failures and produce something greater that brings honour to His name.

Knowing that God is good all the time infuses us with strength to stand in in the midst of pressure and difficulties.

If anybody had the right to blame God for their mishaps, it was Joseph: Thrown into a pit taken from his home and sold into slavery by his own brothers. Falsely accused of rape and incarcerated in chains in Pharaoh's deepest dungeon.

As Joseph trusted in the Lord, He worked together all these calamities and used them as stepping stones that took Joseph from the dungeon to the throne of Pharaoh and made him the most powerful man in Egypt!

Later, when Joseph came face to face with his brothers, he said, ***“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” (Gen 50:20)***

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Synergy:
The interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements.

Rom 8:28
All things work together (synergy) for good, to those who are the called.

*Acts 20:24a
But none of these
things move me!*

*Acts 20:24b
Nor do I count my
life dear to myself.*

Read Gen 39:1-23

CAN'T DO RIGHT FOR DOING WRONG!

Did you know you can get yourself in a lot of trouble by doing the right thing? Joseph said 'no' to Potiphar's wife when she asked him to lay with her.

He did right in God's eyes—He did wrong in her eyes! He couldn't do right for doing wrong! Subsequently, he was falsely charged, convicted and jailed in chains!

But we find that even in the darkest place, God was with Joseph and prospered him in spite of his circumstances! (*Gen 39:23*)

Why was this? By this time, Joseph had learned how to trust His circumstances to God and rest in Him! Rest means we are freed from ourselves! Freed from negative emotions, freed from negative circumstances and freed from negative people!

When we have a revelation of rest, we are at peace in whatever circumstances we find ourselves! We don't get bent out of shape or get our undergarments in a twist because things are not working out our way! - This disqualifies us from being further used by God!

Friend! Are you between a rock and a hard place today; the answer is to fall back into God's arms of rest and allow Him to go to work on your behalf! Only Jesus can bring life out of death, light out of dark, good out of bad and prosperity out of poverty!

As your Great Shepherd, He goes before you to make a way where there seems to be no way! Let Him fight for you! Let Him be what you cannot be! Let Him prosper you in the darkest place!

Ps 16:8 Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

PUT YOUR FOCUS ON CHRIST

Prov 23:7 For as a man/woman thinks in her/his heart - so is he/she!

God has built into every person a soul comprised of mind, will and emotions. It is programmed to work only one way, like a computer: **1) Mind 2) Will 3) Emotions.**

This reveals the truth that our thoughts (mind) control our will and emotions. Thus our thoughts determine our speech and actions. Hence the scripture: *As a man/woman THINKS so is he/she.*

Question: Are you a law based thinker or a grace based thinker!

Law based thoughts: Focus on self - my weakness, my feelings, my sins, my mistakes, my bad luck, my poverty, my sickness, my stress - it's a long list!

Grace based thoughts: Focus on Christ - His strength, His victories, His riches, His righteousness, His health, His favour, His provision!

Prayer: Dear Father, I ask you by your Spirit to give me the strength and power to turn away from looking at myself with all of it's weaknesses, and in it's place, to turn to the cross of Christ and see everything He has accomplished for me! Help me to become a 'grace based thinker', Thank you Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Col 2:18a
The head (Christ)
nourishes and supports
the whole body through
the joints and ligaments,
so the body grows with
a growth that is from
God.*

SECURE AND STABLE IN CHRIST

Both Paul and Peter spoke of the false doctrines and error that were invading the Church of the day → *(Read Eph 4;13,14. 2 Pet3:14-18)*

It is no different today! Liberal teachings have invaded the media and culture: Family, marriage, sexual identity, abortion, euthanasia, the list goes on!

The last 50 yrs have seen a plethora of teachings released into the global Church, some good, some bad!

Paul the apostle calls false teachings, 'winds of doctrine'! We've all experienced battling strong winds whilst out for a walk. Such winds seek to blow us off our feet and make hard work of walking!

Hence winds of doctrine can bring insecurity and instability and prevent us from moving forwards! Doubt, confusion and fear seek to engulf our thoughts!

Thankfully Peter and Paul give a simple formula to combat all false doctrines:

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Eph 4:15 Let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him (Christ) who is the Head.

Committing ourselves to grow in grace will produce a lifestyle of security and balance!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Col 2:6
As you received Christ
Jesus the Lord, so
continue to live in him.*

*Col 2:7
Rooted and built up
in Him and established
in the faith.*

HOLY IN CHRIST

Rom 11:16 If the root is holy, so are the branches.

Some trees have a central root system called a tap-root. The tree receives its life through this one tap-root. The Bible symbolically likens believers to trees. They too have a single tap root system through which they receive life. His name is Jesus Christ!

Jesus Himself declared that only He is the way, the truth and the life! *(Jn 14:6)*. Only He came to give life and life more abundantly!" *(Jn 10:10)*

Many believers received Christ at salvation and experienced forgiveness, peace and joy. But instead of continuing to look to Christ, they came under a gospel of law that enslaved them to rules, regulations and legalism! The law cannot impart life it can only bring death leading to hopelessness and defeat! Up one day, down the next!

Maybe you are reading this today and recognise yourself in the words that are written! If so, be of good cheer. There is a simple way to return to Christ and receive His life!

Instead of putting trust in your own works to make yourself acceptable to the Father, simply look to Christ and put your trust in Him to make you worthy!

Buy yourself a book on grace by Andrew Womack, Joseph Prince or Paul Ellis. These men will lead you away from the law and into the grace of Jesus Christ!

Eph 3:17 That Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith, that you may have your roots and foundation in love.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

CONFIDENT OF HIS PEACE!

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

In the above verse, the words, 'have been', are in the past tense. These words tell us that when we exercised faith in Christ for salvation, we were, (past tense) justified (made righteous).

This was a once for all done deal, never to be repeated, never to be revoked, so that having been justified, we now have peace with God. The word, 'have' in this instance is not past tense but present tense.

That is, once we have been justified, we will always have peace with God. Hence, in the midst of every circumstance, every problem and every failure, we have (present tense) peace with God.

What mountain, obstacle or hurdle are you facing today! Are you in emotional turmoil, have your thoughts spun out of control, do you feel you have failed God.

The Holy Spirit wants to remind you to stand in your justification, stand in the knowledge that you have peace. This will equip you to reject every negative thought, quell every emotion and cast out every failure, returning you to a place of security and stability!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Isa 32:17a
The work of
righteousness will be
peace*

*Isa 32:17b
And the effect of
righteousness, quietness
and assurance forever.*

NOT HIDDEN FROM US BUT HIDDEN FOR US!

When God created the earth, He buried deep beneath it's surface all sorts of commodities profitable for man's existence and pleasure. Gold, silver, precious stones, coal, gas, oil and minerals of every type!

Why did God put them so deep? Was he hiding them **from** man? 'NO' He was hiding them **for** man. He concealed them in order for man to find them! He was playing hide and seek with man.

Hence, as man continues to dig down into the earth, he is still finding the treasure that God buried for him at the foundation of the world!

God has done the same with His word which He likens to a bottomless ocean.

1 Cor 2:10 c Even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God. The divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny.

As we read and meditate upon God's word, the Holy Spirit within us acts like a sonar beam, searching out the depths of revelation that are not hidden from us but for us.

Prov 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."

WHY NOT START THE SEARCH TODAY!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Cor 2:10 a
Yet to us God has
unveiled and revealed
them by and through
His Spirit.*

*1 Cor 2:10 b
For the Spirit searches
diligently, exploring and
examining everything.*



YOU CAN RELY ON HIM

Ps 23:3 He leads me!

Today, God wants you to know that your future is secure in Christ! David wrote Ps 23 because he himself was a shepherd! He knew that in the east, shepherds lead their flock from the front.

They go ahead of the flock to clear the way of predators and obstacles. They scout out the best pasture land for eating and drinking! The shepherd is so committed to his sheep, he is willing to give his life for them! He is so intimately involved, he gives each of them a name.

What obstacle are you facing today, what is your need? Jesus has already gone into your future! He's dealt with every predator and every obstacle. He's provided the best for you.

Your part is to trust Him and step away! Take your hands off it! Allow Him to remove it. It's too big, strong and heavy for you to deal with it.

Why waste all your energy, time and strength when Jesus can do it for you!

Jesus knows you by name, He is intimately aware of the biggest and smallest details of your life! He knows what you need and what's best for you! Do not be downcast or troubled in mind. Jesus is your hope, therefore look to Him, He will not disappoint you!

Heb 6:19 We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Jn 10:3
He calls His own sheep
by name and leads
them out.*

*Jn 10:11
The good shepherd
gives His life for
the sheep.*

JESUS IS OUR COVENANT

Isa 42:6 I will give You as a covenant to the people.

Let us all breathe a sigh of relief! God has found a man with whom He can make an unbreakable covenant. That man is called Jesus Christ, the last Adam!

Jesus was and is a perfect man who is without sin!

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Jesus as our High Priest and representative made a New Covenant with the Father that can never be broken and is eternal in it's duration!

God gave Jesus as a Covenant to us, the people. For our benefit, salvation, prosperity, healing and deliverance.

What is your need today? God made the New Covenant to cover every aspect of our lives! So bring that need to Him, let Him be the answer, let Him demonstrate His mighty power in your life, let Him be as the Covenant to you!

Heb 13:20 God who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 8:6
He is also Mediator of a
better covenant, which
was established on
better promises.*

*Heb 7:22
Jesus is the one who
guarantees this better
covenant with God.*

LET THE FATHER LOVE YOU! PT1

In a family, the parents don't say to their children, "We want you to show your love to us as a sign of your obedience!" How ridiculous and unnatural that would be; Rather, as the parents show love to their children, the children naturally return that love. They love because they have first been loved!

This is the unnatural message that we have drummed into the Church for decades and it has left many condemned and guilt ridden striving to prove their love for God.

If this applies to you, the Father says to you today, "Stop striving and trying to prove your love for me. I repeat, stop trying to prove your love for me! Allow me to first love you! Rest in me. Ask me to teach you how to receive my love! You have nothing to prove to me, rather, I want to prove my love for you!"

Meditate in the verses below until you come into a revelation of God's love for you!

Jn 3:16 God so loved the world, He sent His Son!

1 Jn 4:10 This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be a sacrifice for our sins.

Gal 2:20 I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Jn 21:17
“Simon, son of Jonah,
do you love Me?”

1 Jn 4:19
We love Him because
He first loved us.

LET THE FATHER LOVE YOU! PT2

Read Jn 21:15-19

When the disciples were having breakfast with Jesus, Jesus asked Simon-Peter 3 times if he loved Him. The first 2 times, Jesus used the word ‘Agape’ which is a sacrificial, unconditional love. Simon responded by saying he loved Jesus, but he used the word ‘Phileo’ which is a friendly, fondness for, type of love.

The 3rd time Jesus asked him, He used the same word Peter had used ‘Phileo’! Peter was grieved by this and said, “Lord, you know I only phileo love you!”

What was Jesus doing? Knowing that Peter had previously denied knowing Him 3 times when he had said he would die rather than deny Him, Jesus was forcing Peter to be honest with himself. He wanted him to admit that his love for Jesus was only phileo (fondness) not agape (sacrificial) love.

Friend, you may have realised that like Peter, your love for Jesus is only shallow and superficial. Do not be despondent but rejoice! You have now become a candidate for the New Covenant love of Jesus! Today is the day for you to realise it’s not your love for Him that counts, but His love for you!

A mature believer is the one who boasts of Jesus love for them!
(Jn 19:26, 20:2)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

Rom 2:4
The goodness of
God leads you to
repentance.

GOODNESS IS OUR INHERITANCE

Jam 1:17 Everything good comes from God. (ERV)

Under the O.C., for God to show His goodness, the people had to fulfil the law! Therefore the release of God's goodness was contingent on the people's obedience.

Under the N.C., receiving God's goodness is not contingent on our obedience, but on our faith! God made the N.C. with His Son because He needed a MAN who would forever be obedient!

Heb 13:20 The God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

In Christ we now become the beneficiaries of all that is promised in the N.C., part of which is the goodness of God! God cannot help Himself, He is legally bound to always pour upon you and I His goodness, not because of our obedience but because of Christ's!

No matter how many times you have failed, sinned or messed up, God wants to pour out His goodness on you today! Your part is to commit those things into God's keeping, leave the outcome with Him and claim by faith the promise of ***Rom 8:28 All things work together for good to those who love God!***

Now: Rest in Christ! Give the Father time to work out His goodness. Stop fighting, striving and struggling and wait for Him to work!

Ps 27:14 Wait on the Lord, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



GOD'S PLAN TO REMOVE SIN!

1 Cor 15:56 The strength (power) of sin is the law.

Question: Why did God remove sin?

Answer: To remove it's power over my life!

God knew that if He did not remove sin completely, once and for all, He would be legally bound to judge it in man, resulting in condemnation and death!

His plan to remove sin off the table was fulfilled in His Son Jesus Christ, at the cross! Jesus took the punishment for ALL the sin of mankind and left it behind in the grave when He rose from the dead! Every believer is now free from the power of sin.

Then why are so many believers still struggling with sin in their lives? It's because they are listening to a gospel of law not a gospel of grace.

The gospel of law resurrects sin in your life by reminding you of it, pointing it out and exposing your weaknesses. Such teaching traps us in our sin because it produces a sense of judgement, guilt and condemnation!

Friends, is this the kind of gospel you are receiving today, God's word to you is to cast it out of your life and in it's place, embrace the gospel of grace! Grace will set you free from sin, grace will give you hope, grace will always point you to Jesus your Saviour!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



BLESSED IN ORDER TO BE A BLESSING

Gen 12:3 And you shall be a blessing!

This promise given to Abraham by God applies to believers today. We are the seed of Abraham through Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:9 Those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

We have the power of blessing working in us at all times! It's the power to bless others by our words, actions and resources, the power to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!

The realisation that God is flowing through us as we bless gives us the spur to touch the lives of people who are in need of encouragement, help and hope!

Prov 25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

We are not just pedlars OF good news, we ARE good news, and God has sent us to the nations to bless the weary, the hopeless and the lost.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to be good news today! Open my eyes to see the opportunities that You bring my way, in order that I may bless others.

Isa 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord! (the favour of God).

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO MORE REMEMBRANCE OF SIN!

On the cross, the work of Jesus regarding the forgiveness of sin was twofold:

1) His shed blood released God's mercy to forgive **ALL** our sin, past, present and future.

Col 2:13 God made you alive together with him, having forgiven us ALL our trespasses.

2) He not only forgave **ALL** our sin, He took away **ALL** our sin.

John 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Under the Old Covenant, animal blood could only cover sin, not take it away, hence it left a **remembrance** of sin, stirring condemnation and guilt!

Heb 10:3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

However, under the New Covenant, the taking away of **ALL** sin, removes the remembrance of sin, freeing us from condemnation and guilt!

Heb 10:16-17 The Lord says, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

The word 'no' in this verse is a double negative, thus strengthening God's promise not to remember sin!

Friends, God is saying, "I have taken away your sin that you may no longer remember your sin! Receive this revelation today and step out into the freedom of the fulness of my forgiveness.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 12:6a
The words of the Lord
are pure words*

*Ps 12:6b
Like silver tried in
a furnace of earth,
purified seven times.*

THE PURITY OF GODS WORD

Prov 30:5 Every word of God is pure.

Silver, when dug out of the earth, is never found in a pure state. It is mixed with 'ore'! Ore is the rock, dirt and impurities that silver has to be separated from, using the smelting process of fire!

God tells us through scripture, that His word is like silver that has been smelted 7 times.

The No7 in scripture speaks of perfection and completeness. In other words, God's word is found in a pure, complete and perfect state. It has no impurities in it such as, lies, manipulation, control, unfaithfulness, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc, etc!

His word can be trusted and is reliable, faithful and true. It is an unchanging word that remains the same to every generation!

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to every generation.

Today, you may be doubting God's word to you. You are doubting His acceptance, love, faithfulness. You are doubting whether you can trust Him, lean on Him and believe Him!

God says to you today: ***"My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips!" (Ps 89:34)***

TRUST HIM TODAY, YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HE CREATED YOU TO BLESS

Rom12:14 Bless and do not curse.

Why are we told to, “Bless and do not curse”? It’s because, to bless is to speak life! To curse is to speak death!

Balak the king of Moab was panicking because the nation of Israel had set up camp adjacent to him and he was in fear in case they invaded his land, so he sent for Balaam the prophet to come and curse them.

When Balaam opened His mouth to curse Israel, blessings came out instead. God would not allow Balaam to speak a curse over Israel because He knew the destruction it would cause. In effect He was saying, “I will not allow you to curse what i have blessed!”

As New Covenant believers, you and I have the same power to bless or curse. The words that flow from our lips have tremendous power to heal, prosper, destroy or kill!

King David knew the power of the words he spoke, and he said, *“I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle.” (Ps 39:1)*

Prayer: Jesus, the next time i am tempted to say negative things about my husband/wife, my boss, my employees, my friends, neighbours, politicians etc, restrain my mouth, pull me up short and help me remember to bless them, to speak well of them!

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Read Numbers Ch’s 22-24

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Prov18:20a
A man’s stomach shall
be satisfied from the
fruit of his mouth.*

*Prov 18:20b
From the produce of his
lips he shall be filled.*

TAB OF MOSES

Under the Old Covenant of law only the Priests were allowed into the Outer Court and the Holy Place in their worship of God. This was worship from a distance; and only the High Priest was allowed entry into the Most Holy Place, and at that, only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Failure to conform to God's strict code of dress and behaviour resulted in death! Hence their worship and approach to God was with fear!

Under the New Covenant of Grace, Jesus our Great High Priest offered Himself as a once for all sacrifice for all sin, thus opening the Holy of Holies for all who have been cleansed by the shedding of His blood.

His sacrifice has removed for all eternity the fear of entering God's presence, in fact we now live in His presence 24/7 and nothing, not sin, not failure, not mistakes, not mess ups can remove us from that presence!

God's word to believers is: ***"Come before me today with boldness, come as you are with no holding back. Allow me to love you, cleanse you, heal you and set you free!"***

Eph 1:6 To the the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GIVE JESUS FIRST PLACE

Prov 3:6 Always let Him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow.

When our daily plans go awry, when we make mistakes, when others let us down, when things don't work out the way we thought; do we panic, become fearful, worried, stressed, hopeless, condemned, guilty, ashamed, etc etc!

Do our words reflect our thoughts! "What will I do now", "So and so will be angry that i've failed them", "I'll lose my job because of this", "I can't afford to pay this utility bill."

When we react this way, we have put ourselves back under the law! Think about it? The outcome now depends on us. Our ability to resolve the issue, our strength to complete the job, our knowhow to get us out of trouble! We've put ourselves under pressure to perform, get the job done, and make right our mistakes!

But when we give these things to Jesus and ask for His help and strength, and trust Him for the outcome; we will:

- a) Come into peace of heart and mind and find rest in the knowledge that He is taking care of our business! *(Mt 11:28-30)*
- b) Experience Him putting right our wrong, Him doing what we can't do and Him clearing the way, enabling us to move forward! *(Ps 37:5)*

This is the way of grace, depending utterly on Jesus to lead, provide, protect and guard!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 5:20
Where sin abounds,
grace does much
more abound.*

*Prov 3:5
Lean not on your
own understanding.*



GOD NEVER CONDEMNNS

Jn 8:11 Neither Do I Condemn You!

Condemnation takes different forms and needs to be identified before it can be dealt with.

Let's look at some:

Self Recrimination: When we make mistakes, mess-up or sin, do we beat up on ourselves, or call ourselves names: idiot, fool, blockhead, dunce, failure, daft etc?

We are now condemning ourselves with words that bring a sense of worthlessness, shame and hopelessness!

Mocking: Do we allow people to speak negative words over our lives - "your memory is shot!, you'll never be successful, you are so lazy!"

We are allowing others to freely condemn our actions and lifestyle!

Law teaching: We can become conditioned by law teaching from the Local Church. Rules, regulations and conditions which if not met imply we are second class, unholy, a follower not a disciple, Jesus is Saviour but not Lord!

Failure to live upto such teaching will bring a lifestyle of guilt and condemnation!

The scriptures proclaim a message that delivers from every kind of condemnation:!

Rom 8:1 There is now NO condemnation to those in Christ Jesus!

As we pursue the revelation of who we are in Christ, we'll find condemnation falls away!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 3:17
For God did not send
His Son into the world
to condemn the world.

Jn 3:18
He who believes in
Him is not condemned.

*1 Peter 5:9
Resist him, steadfast
in the faith.*

*Jam 4:7
Resist the devil and he
will flee from you.*

SATAN THE DEFEATED FOE

Ephesians 6:13 Take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

In this warfare passage of **Eph 6** - The Holy Spirit records the word '**stand**', 4 times! He is showing us that our posture is not one of attack but of defence and holding our ground!

We are not fighting satan in order to defeat him. He is already a conquered foe! Jesus defeated him on Calvary, crushed his governmental headquarters of darkness and stripped him of all power and authority!

Therefore when satan comes to attack, we stand against him using the only piece of offensive armour given to us - The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Remember, satan is already defeated, so how do we use the sword of the Spirit. We use it to remind satan of his defeat at the hands of Jesus. satan cannot bear to be reminded of his defeat!

Example: "satan, you were defeated at the cross. Jesus paraded you through heaven's courts as a conquered slave, stripped you of all your power and authority and put you to shame! You are a liar and there is no truth in you. You were thrown out of heaven, crushed by Jesus and your time is short before you are thrown into the lake of fire!" (Col 2:15. Rev 12:12, 20:10)

Reminding satan of his defeat and downfall is what makes him flee!

Mt 4:4 IT IS WRITTEN!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Heb 3:1
Consider the Apostle
and High Priest of our
confession, Christ Jesus.*

*Heb 10:23
Let us hold fast the
confession of our hope
without wavering.*

A DAILY CONFESSION!

2 Cor 5:21 I am the righteousness of God in Christ

Thank you Lord for your gift of righteousness which means I am:

- 1)** Given right standing before You! (Rom 8:30) NLT.
- 2)** Totally accepted by You! (Eph 1:6) NKJV
- 3)** Unconditionally loved by You! (Rom 5:8) NKJV
- 4)** Freed forever from the law! (Rom 3:21) NKJV

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

RIGHT STANDING IN JESUS CHRIST

Zech 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

Joshua the High Priest is standing before the Lord. Standing beside him to accuse him is Satan his adversary. Why was this? Joshua was wearing filthy garments. Filthy garments speak of sin and gave Satan the legal right to accuse and condemn Joshua!
(Zech 3:3)

Our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ was without sin (*Heb 4:15*) and perfectly obedient to the Father! Because of Jesus' obedience the believer has been made righteous.

Rom 5:19 By one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

We now have right standing with the Father, hence, when we sin, Satan no longer has a legal right to accuse and condemn us because our righteousness is not based on our obedience but Christ's obedience!

Rom 8:29,30 For God knew his people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son. And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself!

Have you messed up today and fallen short! The Father says to you, "Come boldly before me to receive what you need. Throw off all guilt and condemnation for I have given you right standing in my Son, Jesus Christ!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE ENEMY IS UNDER YOUR FEET

1 Sam 17:51-53 David stood over the Philistine, took his sword and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Now the army of Israel arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, and the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Ekron. Then the army of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

We are living in the days when the body of Christ, like the army of Israel, will come into the revelation that David's greater Son (Jesus Christ) has completely crushed and defeated Goliath and the army of Philistines (satan and his hosts) The Church will arise en masse in the revelation of Jesus victory at Calvary to plunder the tents of the enemy (satan's hosts) and take back what rightfully belongs to them: the fullness of salvation, healing and prosperity, and come forth as the victorious 'Sons of God'!

Heb 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children are flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

So many of God's people are hiding in the tents of this world. They are crippled and imprisoned by fear. But praise the Lord, the grace of Jesus Christ is coming to set them free that they might experience the love of God that casts out all fear and sets them free!

Read: 1 Samuel Ch 17

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

REST BRINGS EFFORTLESS CHANGE

Mt 11:30 My Yoke Is Easy!

Have you heard these words spoken, “It’s so **hard** living the Christian life!” Maybe you’ve even declared it yourself? What’s wrong with this statement? It’s at odds with Jesus’ words, “*My yoke is easy!*”

Such people find it hard because they are trying to live the Christian life in their own strength and will power! Defeat, hopelessness and exhaustion are the fruit of such living! They have yet to receive a revelation of grace!

The grace filled life is easy because the changes take place from within by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. As Joseph Prince says, this makes change ‘**effortless**’!

Jesus says to you today, “Stop trying to live the Christian life yourself. Stop your struggling and striving. Stop the self effort and performance mode! Instead, give your life over to me, allow me to work the changes **IN** you. I will then give you the desire and strength to work them **OUT** through you!”

Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Heb 4:10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 John 5:3
His commandments
are not burdensome.*

*1 John 3:23
And this is His
commandment: that we
should believe on the
name of His Son
Jesus Christ*



HONEST WITH JESUS!

In this story, Jesus challenged Peter for 2 reasons: **1)** Peter was to be the leader of the early Church, and a higher standard is expected of leaders! **2)** Jesus knew that for Peter to move forward, he had to have a relationship with him based on truth and honesty!

Peter's denial of Jesus was an unresolved issue that had to be dealt with. Jesus knew that Peter had buried the truth in his heart and it needed to be brought out into the open!

Eventually Peter was honest with Jesus and admitted that his love for Him was only Phileo love (friendship) not Agape love (sacrificial). Peter could now move on!

Because of a law mindset, many believers avoid being honest with Jesus because they fear the consequences! "What will Jesus do if i tell him i don't love Him, if i become angry with Him or swear or curse Him!"

Friends - this is the beauty of grace - we can be honest with Jesus, knowing He loves and accepts us unconditionally. Peter knew it was pointless hiding from Jesus because he knew that Jesus knew **ALL** things about him! (V17) Jesus knows **ALL** things about you so why not bring it out into the light! You know it makes sense!

A true, growing, maturing friendship can only be built on honesty. Honesty is the key to intimacy and sharing within a relationship of mutual trust. You can trust Jesus!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 21:15
"Simon, do you love me
more than these?"
Peter was grieved!

Jn 21:17
Peter replied, "Lord, You
know all things; You
know that I love You."

Read: Jn 21:15-19



YOU HAVE NOW COME TO MT ZION

Heb 11:22 But you have come to Mt Zion

Mt Sinai (earthly Mt) was the place of the giving of law of the O.C. How did God choose to represent this event? It was a Mt ablaze with fire, gloom, darkness and a raging storm. God forbade the people to even touch the Mt on pain of death. In fact, so awful and terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am terrified, aghast and trembling with fear!" (*Heb 12:21*)

Mt Zion (spiritual Mt) was the giving of the Holy Spirit of the N.C. How did God choose to represent this event. It is a Mt of innumerable angels, the 'joyful' gathering of God's firstborn righteous people (the Church), the whose names are written in heaven. The place of Jesus and His shed blood that cries out for mercy and forgiveness!

Scripture makes plain to believers that they have not come to Mt Sinai rather they have come to Mt Zion. They have exchanged the judgement and fear of God for His righteousness and joy. But let's leave the final decision to God. What does He say:

*Ps 132:13-14 For the Lord has **chosen** Zion; "This is My resting place **forever**; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.*

*Ps 87:2-3 The Lord **loves** the gates of **Zion** More than all the dwellings of Jacob. **Glorious** things are spoken of you, O city of God!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



CHOSEN BY GOD

Psa 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Jesus came to be the cornerstone of the new spiritual temple of God. He was rejected by the very people who were looking for their Messiah to come! He came in a form that didn't suit their ideas of a Messiah. Hence they rejected Him! But God **chose** Him to build upon!

The stone that Michelangelo shaped into the statue of David was rejected by the sculptors of his day as having no worth. Michelangelo saw it's potential, **chose** it and shaped it into the greatest ever piece of sculpture.

As a believer, you may feel like that piece of stone. Discarded by everyone as not good enough. Rejected because you don't measure up. You're not cool, savvy or intelligent; but what does God say:

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a holy nation, His own special people!

In Christ, you have been **chosen** by God. He sees how special you are. Trust your future to Him, offer yourself to Him and leave Him to decide the outcome!

By taking your hands off, you allow Him to put His hands on and show to the world why He chose you in the first place!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



MEDITATION - THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Gen 24:63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening

Why did Isaac go out into the field to meditate? Because in Hebrew culture, meditation was not something people did every now and then. No! meditation was a lifestyle!

When Joshua was about to lead Israel into the promised land, God could have given him all sorts of advice and counsel. Instead He said to him: *Jos 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Why did God tell him to keep His word, in his mind and on his lips? It was because He had hid the secret to Joshua's success in the revelation of His word!

Are you a businessman/woman, a teacher, a parent, a doctor. Whatever your vocation in life, God has set before you the secret to your success - meditate in God's word! It is here where you will find the wisdom and guidance you need for doing life!

If you will become intentional about it and give quality time to meditation, the Holy Spirit will make sure it becomes life and health to you. (*Prov 3:8*)

Psa 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Psa 1:2
His delight is in the law
of the Lord, And in His
law he meditates day
and night.*

*Psa 49:3
My mouth shall speak
wisdom, And the
meditation of my heart
shall give understanding.*

NO LONGER UNDER LAW

Deut 17:16 You must never return to Egypt!

God brought the Israelites through the Red Sea and closed it behind them and told them never to return to Egypt again. He wanted them to leave behind all thoughts of slavery and bondage, and of harsh Egyptian taskmasters and enter into a new life of freedom and liberty!

But they couldn't let go and were always pining to return to Egypt, always looking back! Their past became a ball and chain around them, preventing them from moving forward.

The Red Sea is a picture of water baptism. When we as believers come up from the waters having been fully immersed, we are saying our old life has been left behind in the watery grave and we have risen to resurrection life in Christ.

We've died to the harsh taskmaster of the law and have entered a new life of freedom and liberty; and God says to us, "Never go back that way again! Leave the past where it belongs, in the past! Do not keep pining to return, do not keep looking back!"

"Your future is safe and secure with me, therefore look to me alone, put your trust in me. I am your future and I am your life! Your best days are yet to come!" Can you receive it!

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Phi 3:13
Forgetting those things
which are behind, I reach
forward to those things
which are ahead.*

*Phi 3:14
I press toward the goal
for the prize of the
upward call of God
in Christ Jesus.*

HOPE! AN EXPECTATION OF GOOD

Rom 5:5 Hope does not disappoint.

The hope of the world is built on a faulty foundation that cannot be relied on. "I hope so" is the line frequently trotted out.

The hope of the world has no substance to it, no positives and no certainties! Without hope our inward world collapses, people give up, they die, they commit suicide!

Whereas the hope that God gives, never disappoints, never lets us down and can always be relied upon. Why? Because God's hope is rooted in the promises He gives!

- 1) Hope gives us the patience to wait until the promise we have claimed becomes a reality: *Heb 6:12 But imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
- 2) Hope is the spiritual oxygen of the believers life: *1Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*
- 3) Hope maintains joy in our hearts: *Prov 2:8 The hope of the righteous will be gladness.*
- 4) Hope gives us a certain expectation of heaven: *Col 1:27 Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- 5) Hope feeds and fuels our faith: *Heb 11:1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Prov 13:12a
When hope is crushed,
the heart is crushed.*

*Prov 13:12b
But a longing fulfilled
is a tree of life.*

ARE YOU OFFENDED BY THE CROSS

Gal 5:11-12 And I, brothers, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offence of the cross has ceased.

The Jews of Jesus day, rejected Him as the corner stone of the new spiritual temple and missed out on their salvation. Christ had become to them, a stone of **offence**, a stone over which they stumbled because of their unbelief in Him as the word of God.

(1 Pet 2:8)

They stumbled because they sought righteousness by the works of the law instead of by faith in Christ. *(Rom 9:39-33)* This is what Paul calls the 'offence of the cross'.

Many of God's people have received Christ as their Saviour, but are still stumbling over Him. Why! They still want to attain righteousness by the law. Hence when they hear the grace message, they become offended because grace is the polar opposite of the law, and never the twain shall meet!

They become offended because grace challenges and knocks out from under them all their self effort and performance mode, revealing it to be a dead work of the flesh.

Dear friend, are you offended by the message of grace, know that it's because God is pointing you to something greater. That something is called righteousness by faith!

Rom 3:21,22 The righteousness of God apart from law is revealed through faith in Christ.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*1Pe 2:6
I lay in Zion a
cornerstone, and he who
believes on Him (Christ)
will by no means be put
to shame."*

*1 Pet 2:8
The cornerstone has
become, a stone of
stumbling and a rock
of offence.*

WE HAVE DIED TO SIN

Many preachers today who oppose the grace message trot out the line, “It’s giving people a license to live an unholy, sinful lifestyle!” They prove one thing. They haven’t read their Bible, and have reacted out of ignorance!

The Judaizers of Paul’s day levelled the same accusation against him wherever he preached the gospel of grace! So Paul pre-empted the question by asking it for them, *“Shall we continue to sin that grace may abound!”* and then giving the answer, *“How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”*

In fact, if we are asking the same question, it shows we have yet to receive a revelation of grace! This is a bad thing if all we’re going to do is lambast grace preachers!; but is a good thing if we can use this question as a launch pad into searching the scriptures to find out what Paul meant.

In *Acts 17* Paul went to a place called Berea to preach the gospel of grace. What was the response of the Jews who heard him?: *‘They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so; and many believed’ (Acts 17:11)*

If you’re reading this devotional, why don’t you do yourself a favour. Purchase a book on grace and find out what all the fuss is about! You won’t be disappointed!

Rom 6:1-2
What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2
Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE LAW STRENGTHENS SIN IN YOUR LIFE

1 Cor 15:56 The strength of sin is the law.

By preaching law, the Church in its ignorance has built into itself the seeds of its own destruction. We have become blind leaders of the blind and have fallen into the ditch of bondage and defeat!
(Mt 15:14)

When we preach law, we imprison people in their sin! Why is this? The law judges and condemns sin, but cannot deliver from sin. The law gives no power to climb out of sin.

Then why did God give the law? He gave it to not only point out my sin but exacerbate it to such a degree that we might call out, ***“Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death! (Rom 7:24) (Rom 7:13)***

This man realises he cannot conquer sin by himself and needs a Saviour to set him free! Who is that Saviour? He cries out again, ***“I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom 7:25)***

Friends, you and I died to the law at the cross! The law no longer has jurisdiction over our lives! We now live under the New Covenant grace of Jesus Christ. It is the power of grace working in us that sets us free from the bondage of sin.

Are you trapped in debilitating sin today - call on Jesus. He is the great deliverer. Give Him time to work in your life! He will set you free!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 3:23
The Law kept us all
locked up as prisoners
until faith should
be revealed.*

*Gal 3:24
So the Law was in charge
of us until Christ came,
that we might be put
right with God
through faith.*

STOP WEARING YOURSELF OUT

Mt 6:28 Jesus said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin."

Jesus is using a creation principle to teach His disciples a lesson in rest and trust.

Look at the lilies grow, they neither :-

Toil: This word means to wear oneself out with work so we become fatigued, wearied and exhausted!

Spin: This speaks of making cloth. The lily doesn't try to clothe itself!

The lily was created to be at rest and to receive the God given light of the sun, the moisture and nutrients of the soil in order to grow! Jesus said that even Solomon with all the majesty of his kingly robes was not as glorious as a lily!

Are you wearing yourself out, chasing money, promotions and degrees to live a lifestyle that's beyond you? Are you trying to make things happen yourself, seeking to manipulate, and control your environment?

The way of God's kingdom is the way of the lily. Give your lifestyle to Jesus, ask Him to make happen what you can't. Put your trust in Him to be your provider and rest in Him. See what He will do.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 127:2a
It is vain for you to
rise early, come home
late, and work so hard
for your food.*

*Ps 127:2b
Yes, he can provide
for those whom he loves
even when they sleep.*

HEAR ONLY HIM

Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.

In *Mt 17:1-9* Jesus took Peter, James and John upto a high mountain. Moses (the law) and Elijah (the prophets) appeared and were talking to Jesus!

When Peter saw this, he said, *“Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”*

Suddenly, a bright cloud appeared and God’s voice spoke, *“This is my beloved Son, hear you Him.”* When the disciples opened their eyes, Moses and Elijah disappeared!

God was saying that the law and the prophets of the Old Covenant had pointed to the coming of Jesus, and now He was here, their role was finished and a New Covenant had begun. Not a covenant of righteousness by works, but a covenant of righteousness by faith!

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.

Righteousness by law must be earned - Righteousness by faith is a gift to be received!

Rom 4:4-5 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



MEDITATION IS A LIFESTYLE! PT1

Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, “ I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger.”

Christianity has sold us the lie that reading 5 or 10 chapters of the Bible every day will somehow make us into men and women of God.

It's not that there's no benefit from reading in such a way, but we've completely missed the truth that the Bible is not a western book, it's a middle-eastern book!

In the west we tend to read - In the east they tend to meditate!

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening.

Ps 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

Ps 119:148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word.

The word of God only becomes bread to us as we meditate upon it. It's meditation that releases the life that's hidden inside the word. This is called revelation knowledge and it's this that feeds our spirit man, it's this that transforms our life from the inside out, and it's this that makes us come alive in the Spirit!

Prayer: Jesus, help me to meditate your word!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

MEDITATION IS A LIFESTYLE!

PT2

1) Pray and ask God to open the eyes of your spirit to see Christ in His word.

*Eph 1:16-19 Making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge of Him**, the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**.*

2) Meditation cannot be rushed. Instead of reading a chapter, take a single verse and spend 20 mins pouring over each word, lingering over each word, feeding on each word.

On the eve of Passover each family partook in killing a lamb, roasting it over fire and eating it's flesh. *Ex 12:8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire.*

They were feeding on the lamb! When we meditate God's word we are feeding on the lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who is also the word of God! (*Rev 19:13*)

3) Meditation is 2fold: thinking and muttering. Practise verbalising your thoughts. This releases the Holy Spirit to plumb the depth of your spirit and draw upon the deposit of God's word that has been stored up inside you. You have a treasure trove inside you!

4) God releases revelation knowledge and faith together, empowering us to put His word into practise.

Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing the (revelatory) word of God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE SWALLOWS UP SIN

Rom 5:20 Where sin abounds - grace does much more abound!

The words, 'much more' in the Greek is the word, 'hyperperisseuo'. This is 2 words :- **a)** Hyper: Extreme, intense. **b)** Perisseuo: Excessive, more abundant, over and above.

God Himself is telling us in Rom 5:20 that His grace is extreme when it comes to dealing with sin. His grace is far, far more excessive than any sin in our life. In fact it completely swallows it all up without leaving a trace!

Is there a sin/s that you are struggling with today? Something from the past that you cannot shake, a mess up you can't forget, a failure that brings self recrimination or a sin you repeat again and again. Does guilt, shame and condemnation abound in your life.

God has an answer to all these things: His excessive grace will swallow them all, leaving in their wake, the joy, peace and rest of Jesus Christ, who is Himself the grace of God.

Hyper grace gives us an insight into the heart of God. He is a God who is extreme in His giving, a God who wants the best for His children, a God who has gone to great lengths to save the world. Let Him be your God today!

Prayer: Father God, I give my sin and mess-ups to you today. You alone know my hearts desires. Please give me a revelation of your hyper grace that I may know total freedom from sin and be a lightning rod of release for many others. Thank you Lord!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 5:17
Much more those who
receive abundance of
grace will reign in life.

Eph 3:20
To Him who is able to
do exceedingly bundantly
above all that we ask
or think.



THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isa 54:17 My righteousness is from Him!

Every religion in the world is rooted in man's own righteousness. This is so, for every one of their God's demands appeasement, that is, man must do penance in order for their God to provide for them or withhold his wrath and judgement!

This puts the responsibility for mans salvation/deliverance squarely on the shoulders of man. Therefore if man cannot provide what their God is asking, punishment will follow, blessings will be withheld!

Christianity is different in this respect - God makes plain what He thinks of our righteousness, our performance and our self effort:
We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags. (Isa 64:6)

A filthy rag is a woman's used menstrual towel. God has used this crude illustration to show us how much He detests our own efforts in order to be right with Him!

Instead, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to fulfil all of God's demands on our behalf when He died on the cross; and He now says to us, "Receive (ask) my Son into your life and you will receive righteousness as a free gift from me to you. I no longer need be appeased, I will no longer judge you, rather, I long to pour out my love upon you. Come to me today!"

Why don't you receive Him today!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Rom 5:17
Those who receive the
gift of righteousness will
reign in life through
Jesus Christ.*

*Rom 5:18
Through one Man's
righteous act the free gift
came to all men.*

LET THE PEACE OF JESUS GUIDE YOU

One of the most neglected ways of God's guidance is found in the peace of Jesus Christ.

Col 3:15 tells us we are to: ***Let the peace of God rule in our hearts!*** The word 'rule' means, 'be the umpire of'. In a game of cricket, it's the umpire who declares whether the batsman is in or out! The umpire's word is final and it's an unwritten law in cricket that no one challenges that decision!

For us believers, the umpire of our hearts is Jesus. *Eph 2:14* tells us that, ***He Himself is our peace!***

Today you may need God's guidance to make a decision about buying a house or car, applying for a job, joining a new Church etc. When you pray and ask God for guidance, if you have peace about what you've prayed for, that is, you feel good and at rest about it, Jesus, as the umpire of your heart is giving you the green light to move forward.

If you pray for guidance and you have a lack of peace, that is, you have doubts, a sense of foreboding or a check in your spirit, Jesus, as the umpire of your heart is giving you the amber light of, 'no not yet' or the red light of 'no' period! In which case, you are not to move forward.

Look to Jesus today and let His peace or the lack of it, be your guide!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

**ROM 8:28 WE KNOW THAT
ALL THINGS WORK
TOGETHER FOR GOOD. PT1**

Today, you may be looking to God to provide for you or you're facing difficult circumstances or you've made mistakes. God's word tells us that if we will give all these things to Him, He will make them work together for our good.

The words, '**work together**' in Greek is the single word, '**synergy**' in English. Synergy means: **The working together of a number of individuals for greater effect!**

Hence, whatever circumstances we are facing, if we will give them to God (**Phil 4:6**), He will not only make those things work for our good, He will bring out of them something greater than we could ever accomplish by ourselves.

Let me repeat it again. Whether our circumstances be positive or negative, God is synergising them together to produce something greater than we could ever accomplish by ourselves!

Our part is to take God at His word and be expectant and optimistic (hope) (**Rom 5:5**) and trust Him to fulfil His promise to us!

2 Cor 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their answer in Christ. For this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Him to the glory of God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Biblical Hope:
A positive expectation
of good!*

*Jn 10:10
I have come that you
may have life more
abundant.*

ROM 8:28 **WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD. PT2**

Knowing and believing that God works all things together for good, are 2 different things. We all **'know'** that God is a good God, but we don't all **'believe'** He is a good God!

We've prayed, asking God to work in our situation and we quote **Rom 8:28**. The following day the problem intensifies. We change our positive prayer to a negative one, "God, you said you'd work all things together for good, but the problem has worsened!"

What's happened? We're living by sight not by faith. We're allowing natural circumstances to dictate our response, instead of confessing and looking to God's word for the answer.

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We mustn't put a time limit on God answering our prayers. He will work in His time and His way. Our part is to keep our eyes on Jesus and hold firmly to God's promise until such time as we see a manifestation of God's goodness. That may be a day, a week or a year!

Next time our circumstances run contrary to God's word, let's keep reminding and saying to ourselves, "God is working all these things together for my good" (**Rom 8:28**) "He has not left or forsaken me" (**Heb 13:5**), He's for me not against me" (**Rom 8:31**) "I will give you thanks Jesus in all circumstances." (**1Thess 5:18**)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



2 Cor 4:18a
We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

2 Cor 4:18b
For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

LET GOD WORK IN YOU

Phil 2:12-13 Work out your own salvation; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

The great thing about knowing Jesus as the grace of God, is that as we invite Him into our lives, He not only works the revelation of His grace into us, He also gives us the will and desire to work it out in our lives.

The word '**works**' in Greek is '**energeo**' from which we take the English word '**energy**!' It means to energise something to be effectual in producing a desired effect!

This means that the power and energy of the Holy Spirit is working the grace of Jesus Christ into my life, whilst at the same time giving me the energy and desire to work it out through my life into the world.

Are you struggling to live the life of Christ. STOP IT! Instead, invite Jesus into those areas.

Ask Him to work His '**energeo**' into them and stand back and wait and watch what He will do! Now read these same verses out of the Amplified Bible:

Phil 2:12,13 Work out your own salvation, [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energising and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. (AMP)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Acts 6:7
Then the word of God spread, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

Rom 1:5 We have received grace to promote obedience to the faith among the nations.

Under the O.C. righteousness was earned by works as man was **obedient to the law**. As long as man was obedient, he was counted as righteous. (*Rom 10:5*)

Under the NC. righteousness is given to man as a free gift from God, in Christ. (*2 Cor 5:21*) We receive this righteousness by the **obedience of faith**.

Question: What is the obedience of faith.

Answer: It is to trust and rest in the believe that we are made righteous in Christ. (*Rom 5:19*)

Hence when we sin or mess up, our right standing before God remains unaffected and unchanged. We know by faith, that in Christ we are forgiven and accepted of the Father, just as if we had never sinned.

It's this knowledge that we've been made righteous that enables us to come boldly to God to receive His mercy and find grace to help in a time of need. (*Heb 4:16*)

So there is an obedience to righteousness, but it's not an obedience of works, it's an obedience of faith! (*Rom 4:1-5*)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

*Jn 15:4a
Abide in Me, and I in
you. The branch cannot
bear fruit of itself. Unless
it abides In the vine.*

*Jn 15:4b
Neither can you,
unless you abide in Me.*

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT1

When we read Jn 15:4 it is easy to read with a law mindset that says in order to abide in the vine Christ Jesus, I have to live a holy and righteous life. If I don't I won't bear any fruit, worse still, I may be cut off as a fruitless branch and lose my salvation!

Let's read what the scriptures say. The best interpreter of scripture is scripture itself:

1 Jn 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Jn 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Another way of describing this is to say, Christ is in us (*Col 1:27*), and we are in Christ (*1 Cor 1:30*).

A computer has a default setting, that is, whenever it's turned on, it always boots up and opens with the same page every time because it is set to do so!

Whenever we're tempted to doubt our eternal relationship with God, we must return to the default setting of the word of God which always tells us that we are abiding in Christ and Christ is abiding in us!

Our faith must rest in the secure knowledge and revelation of the word of God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT2

Jn15:2,3 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

This verse has brought fear into the lives of countless believers because of bad translation. The problem begins with the Greek word, 'airo', which is translated "taketh away". Its usual meaning is "to raise, to lift up"; "to take away" is a secondary meaning. If a branch is "in Jesus", He will not "take it away" if it does not bear fruit! The context is the same passage where Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you," and "Let not your heart be troubled."

Jesus does not treat His own that He died for like that-- if you are in Him, you are safe in Him. Anyone who knows grapes will tell you that a branch will not bear fruit if it falls into the dirt— it must be raised, lifted back up onto the trellis, not removed!

Unfortunately, the NASB and the NKJV repeat this error, and then compound it by choosing the harshest possible meaning for the next phrase: Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. --NASB and NKJV

Bruce Wilkinson: Secrets of the vine.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 15:2
"Every branch in Me that
does not bear fruit He
lifts up from where it has
fallen; and every branch
that bears fruit He
cleanses, that it may bear
more fruit."*

*Jn 15:3
"You are already clean
because of the word
which I have spoken
to you."*

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT3A

When it comes to living the Christian life, Jesus has one aim for every believer: fruit **(v2)**, more fruit **(v2)** and much fruit! **(v5)**

The branches of a vine cannot **produce** fruit, they can only **bear** (carry) fruit. In fact the wood of the vine cannot be used for any other purpose except as firewood. Their only purpose is to bear fruit! *Jn 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit!*

The fruit is **produced** by the sap (inner life) that flows from the trunk through to the end of the branches. Hence, for believers, we cannot **produce** fruit by our own works, NO! it has to be the flow of the Spirit from our inner life in Christ!

Jn 15:4 A branch can't produce fruit by itself.

All the 9 fold fruit of the Spirit were deposited in our new spirit man when we became born again. As we live out of who we are in Christ, the sap of the Holy Spirit will flow to those areas of need and BOOM fruit will grow.

Let's not make this complicated. The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Christ flowing from within to change us without!

Only grace can produce the quality and abundance of fruit that brings glory to God!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 7:4a
You also have become
dead to the law that you
may be married
to another.

Rom 7:4b
To Him who was raised
from the dead, that we
should bear fruit to God.

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT3B

Now we have the Father removing the branches that fail-- and cutting those that succeed down to a nub! You can't win! However, since pruning is done to dead branches after the growing season is over, it is not what Jesus meant here. Living branches are not "pruned"-- the plant would go into shock and be unable to bear at all. But allowing the leaves to become coated with dust and dirt reduces the crop, so the vinedresser cleans/washes them.

The Greek word 'kathairo' that's translated "to prune" has a usual meaning of "to cleanse". "To prune" is a secondary meaning at best-- it's not even mentioned as a possibility in one of the best Greek dictionaries. 'Kathairo' comes from a root word that means "clean, pure". Jesus actually uses this same root word in the very next verse: ***"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*** -- *John 15:3*

It would make no sense to say, "You are already pruned because of the word which I have spoken to you." Neither does it make sense for a vinedresser to prune living branches. God cleanses us with the water of the Word— He doesn't chop limbs off.

Don't let your heart be troubled. Here's a better translation:

Jn 15:2,3 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He lifts up from where it has fallen; and every branch that bears fruit He cleanses, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

FRESH FLOWING LIVING WATER!

Jer 2:13 For my people have forsaken me, the source of living water, and you've tried to collect water in cracked and leaking cisterns dug in the ground.

There were 2 sources of water in Israel. Man made cisterns dug in the ground that held rain water and were susceptible to leaks and stagnation, resulting in water loss, and underground fresh flowing springs of living water accessed by a well. The term, 'living water' is flowing water that is clean, refreshing and pure!

Jesus has placed within us a stream of living water (Holy Spirit) and promised we can always drink from this stream which will never dry up; yet many believers, knowing this still look to man-made pits, the sources of water that come from the world, that may help but cannot impart **life!** (*Jn 4:10,13,14*)

The life of Christ is 'Zoe life'. Zoe life is eternal life, God's very own life that saves, heals and restores everything it touches!

Rom 6:4 Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (zoe).

Has your Christian life stagnated, has the joy and peace you once knew, leaked away leaving you frustrated and hopeless. Turn to Jesus today. His promise still stands: ***"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst, but it will become in them a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life (zoe)."*** (*Jn 4:14*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



**ECC 3:11 HE HAS MADE
EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME PT1**

Everything God makes is beautiful! In Gen 1 at the close of each day of creation, God surveyed His work and saw that it was **good**. The word good means beautiful. God saw His creation was beautiful. On day 6 He said, "It is very beautiful!" (*Gen 1:31*)

God has never created anything that is ugly, poor or second hand. NO! He has made **everything** beautiful in it's time!

He has created you and I as new creations (*2 Cor 5:17*). He's created us beautiful after the image of His Son Jesus Christ!

The fashion industry has done a successful job of playing on the insecurities of women: size, shape, lack of confidence, perfectionism, air brushed beauty etc. Some women are exhausted trying to be beautiful!

Jesus is calling Christian women to live out of their new creation reality in Christ. They are beautiful and perfect in Him! He's looking for women to proclaim that there is freedom in Christ! Freedom from the yoke of bondage of the law of the fashion industry! (*Gal 5:1*)

*Gen 1:3,4
God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light! And God saw the light, that it was good (Beautiful).*

*Gen 1:31
God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. (Beautiful)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

ECC 3:11 HE HAS MADE

**EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME PT2**

Esther had been entered in a beauty contest to find the most beautiful woman for the king to marry! (*read Esther Ch 2*)

She was under tremendous peer pressure to be the most beautiful contestant, to choose the best designer clothes and beauty preparations!

How did Esther respond to such pressure! She refused to allow others to set the agenda for her life. Esther was at rest and content within herself and trusted God to make a way for her. How do we know this? Because in every which way she turned, the favour of God was upon her.

It was not Esther's beauty that won her the hand of the king in marriage, it was the grace and favour of God.

Esther is a type of the bride of Christ and as such, Christ will make sure His bride has everything she needs.

Let's determine not to allow the world and fashion industry to set the agenda for our life. Trust in the Lord. Be at rest and content in Him and His favour will always make a way for you and provide exactly what we need!

*Est 2:15a
When the turn came for
Esther to go in to the
king, she requested
nothing but what the
king's eunuch, advised.*

*Est 2:15b
And Esther obtained
favour in the sight of all
who saw her.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

ECC 3:11 HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME PT3

There is nothing wrong with being fashionable, up to the minute and stylish in the way we present ourselves!

As Christians we can react to fashion by claiming it is worldly, and after all, doesn't God look on the heart? Yes He does, but He also looks at the whole man, spirit, soul and body!

In our reaction we push ourselves to the opposite extreme and become an anachronism! Lol! You may have to look that up in the dict!

It's when we look into the mirror and highlight the blemishes and imperfections that dissatisfaction, discontentment and hopelessness set in!

But be encouraged, The scriptures show us a better way. They say to us, "Do not look in the mirror of self, instead, look in the mirror of God's word and see yourself as a reflection of Jesus Christ!"

Read the word of God, not to look at what's wrong with you but what's right with you in Christ. He gave His life to set us free from every bondage and to experience contentment and rest in this life!
(Phil 4:11-13)

2 Cor 3:18 We all, beholding the glory of the Lord as in a mirror (the word of God) are being transformed into the same image!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Mirror mirror on the
wall, who is the fairest of
them all!*

*Mirror mirror now I see,
the Christ in me that sets
me free!*

Ps 20:7a
Some trust in chariots,
and some in horses.

Ps 20:7b
But we (I) will remember
the name of the Lord our
(my) God.

A HEART TO HEART RELATIONSHIP

Prov 3:6 Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success.

In this verse, the Father is telling us 2 things:

1) We are to remember Him in all we do. He is not a distant, uncaring, couldn't care less God. NO! He is our Father. Father speaks of relationship and intimacy, and He takes joy in knowing everything about us, down to the smallest detail. He's even counted and numbered the hairs on our head! (*Mt 10:30*)

Instead of looking on prayer as a chore we must do, the Father wants us to see it as a sharing of heart with Him. To share our thoughts, good and bad, joy and sadness, hope and hopeless, needs and wants. It's this that opens the way for Him to move in our lives!

2) He's promised to give us success in every area of life! This word success also means: prosperous, pleasant and straight. He wants to make our journey through this life a prosperous and pleasant journey. We can rest knowing He will guide and lead us down a straight road.

Prayer: Father, prompt me to remember You in all I think, speak and do! Thank You that in Christ, I no longer need fear You but can freely share my heart with You, knowing You care for and love me just as I am! I remind myself that You are a good God and Your thoughts towards me, and plans for my life are precious! Thank You Father.

(Read Ps 139:1-14)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



GRACE PROVIDES

Rom 5:17 Those who receive abundance of grace!.....

Part of Jesus' role in His short 3 1/2 yrs of ministry was to reveal the heart of His Father to mankind. It was and is a heart of kindness, goodness and provision.

He demonstrated for us the principle of the Father's abundance! That when the Father gives, He always gives more than enough:

- a)** He twice filled the nets of the fishermen to overflowing! (*Lk 5:6, Jn 21:6*)
- b)** He provided 180 gallons of the most choice, expensive wine! (*Jn 2:6*)
- c)** He twice multiplied a few loaves and fishes to feed thousands of people till they were filled, and had much left over! (*Mt 14:20, 15:36*)

John testifies that these were just a few of the many ways that Jesus provided for people. (*Jn 21:25*)

What do you need Jesus to do for you today? He tells us to bring our need/s to Him and expect Him to be, the God of abundance and more than enough!

Eph 3:20 To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!

Believe Him for bigger, better, bountiful and over flowing! Ask The Lord to help you raise the bar of your expectations!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 37:25
I have never seen the
righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants
begging bread.*

*Mt 6:33
Seek first the kingdom
of God and His
righteousness, and
all these things shall be
added to you.*



THE GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET

*Heb 4:16 That we may find grace to **help** in time of need.*

The word 'help' in Greek conveys the picture of a ship in a storm. The sailors would frap (wrap ropes around) the ship and had a way of tightening them so that it would hold the ship together and prevent it breaking up!

This word is used one other time in the New Covenant (*Acts 27:17*) where Paul is aboard a ship bound for Malta. It becomes caught in a storm, hence the sailors frapped the ship with ropes which held it together for many days and nights!

What storm are you sailing through today? A storm of relationship, financial debt, sickness, redundancy, weakness, hopelessness, failure? Whatever the storm, God has promised He will wrap (frap) His arms around you so that His grace will not only prevent you from breaking up, but will provide the very thing you need!

*Deut 33:27 The eternal God is your **refuge**, and **underneath** are the everlasting arms.*

God's arms in scripture speak of His might power and strength! His arm also speak of Christ! - *Isa 52:10 The Lord has made bare His **holy arm** in the eyes of all the nations.*

See yourself safe and secure in Christ today; God's holy arm **will** make a way for you where there seems to be no way! Jesus **will** bring you through the storm, and He **will** make the storm add to you, not take away from you! (*Rom 8:28*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO FEAR PT 1

Heb 2:14,15 This is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death. But He also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying.

Adam hid behind the trees in fear of God because he knew the punishment for his disobedience was death. (*Gen 2:17*) Adam passed on this fear of death to all mankind. (*Heb 2:15. Rom 5:12.*)

All fear is rooted in the fear of death - Hence, fear holds power over us because of the punishment attached to it. *1John 4:18 Fear involves torment (punishment).*

If in the New Covenant, God has not given us the spirit of fear, it can only come from one other person, namely satan! He injects his fiery darts of fear into our minds, but it's a fear built on lies. (*Eph 6:16*)

John 8:44 He (satan) does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to discern the fear coated lies that satan seeks to inject into my mind and expose them to the truth of your word. Thank you I no longer need fear any punishment for I worship a God who can only ever love me!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 10:10
The thief does not come
except to steal, and to
kill, and to destroy.*

*Jn 10:11
I have come that they
may have life, and that
they may have it more
abundantly.*

NO FEAR PT 2

Num 13:33 "There we saw the giants and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight."

When Israel saw the giants, fear and hopelessness gripped their hearts and a defeatist attitude set in!

It is fear that makes mountains out of molehills and blows things out of all proportion! Fear made the giants so tall that the Israelites saw themselves as grasshoppers!

Once fear set in, it spread like wild-fire through the camp triggering unbelief, criticism, stubbornness and threats to kill! Out of the **driving force** of fear exploded confusion, disunity and panic! Satan relishes such behaviour!

What is your fear today! God has provided the antidote:

- 1)** STOP!: running around like a headless chicken, stop panicking! (*Prov 14:29 CPDV*)
- 2)** Set aside time to pray and ask God for guidance! (*Phil 4:6*)
- 3)** Keep your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus - He will bring you through this! (*Heb 12:2*)
- 4)** Spend time in praise and worship - In God's tangible presence all fear dies! (*Ps 16:11*)
- 5)** Arm yourself with scriptures that oppose fear and strengthens your resolve in Christ! (*Ps 23:4, 27:1, 46:1,2, 125:1*)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



2 Tim 1:7A
For God has not given
us a spirit of fear
but of power!

2 Tim 1:7b
Of love and of calm
and well-balanced
mind and discipline
and self-control.

READ NUMBERS
CH13&14



GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

NO FEAR PT 3

Heb 13:6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear!"

The great strategy of satan is his use of lies to keep people bound so they are not able to function in life. One way he does this is through fear!

Many are bound with worry, anxiety, shame, guilt and condemnation. The tendency is to think, if only we could deal with these things, we would be free. However, these things are **fruit problems** and if removed will grow back again.

What we need to look for is the **root problem** which is fear! satan deceives us by focusing our attention on the fruit instead of the root!

Roots cannot be seen with the naked eye. They are buried beneath the surface. It takes the revelation of God to expose a root problem!

Eg: **Shame** is wrapped up the fear of punishment - What will others think of me, what will they do to me! Reject me, refuse to speak to me, name call me.

However, when we see the root is fear, we can expose satan's lies by proclaiming the truths of who we are in Christ! he will have to flee because darkness cannot stand before light!; and when the fear goes, the shame will shrivel up!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*2 Cor 11:3
But now I fear that you
will be tricked, just as
Eve was tricked by that
lying snake. I am afraid
that you might stop
thinking about Christ in
a sincere way.*

*2 Cor 2:11
Lest Satan should
take advantage of us; for
we are not ignorant of
his devices.*

Heb 4:16
Let us therefore come
boldly to the throne
of grace.

GOD'S NOT ANGRY WITH YOU! PT 1

Isa 54:9-10 "For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.

Under the O.C. God may have been slow to anger, (*Ps 103:8*) but when He was angry, He was very angry! Why? Because Israel had chosen to live by the law. Subsequently they had to live with the consequences when they broke it! (*Ps 106:29*)

Under the N.C. however, Jesus chose to take upon Himself the punishment of God's anger for the sin of the whole world. This appeasing of God's anger enabled God to substitute His anger for His love, making the cross the greatest demonstration of His love for mankind!

1 Jn 4:10 In this is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

The removal of God's anger paved the way for God's acceptance! Hence, no matter the depth of sin, repeated failure or the many mistakes we make, we are still accepted by the Father. His welcoming arms are always open towards us!

Eph1:6 To the praise of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GOD'S NOT ANGRY WITH YOU! PT 2

Isa 54:9-10 "For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you," says the Lord.

In Hebrew culture, to make a promise was a declaration of intent by the person who made it, but they were not legally bound to keep that promise.

In order to make a promise legal and binding, an oath would be added! An oath meant to call on a higher or divine being to execute sanctions or curses against that person if they reneged on their promise. The Hebrews would invoke The name of Jehovah.

In this verse God is promising to not be angry with the forthcoming people of the New Covenant. To enforce His promise He swears an oath to bind the promise. Because there is no one higher to call on, He swears by Himself! (*Heb 6:13-18*)

To add an oath was a cast iron declaration that the promise would be fulfilled! God loves us so much, He is determined to convince us that He means what He says and He says what He means: **I will not be angry with you, nor rebuke you!**

The next time you are tempted to believe that God is angry with you, for whatever reason, use this promise with God's oath attached to remind yourself and the devil, that God keeps His word under all circumstances.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*2 Tim 2:1
If we are faithless, He
remains faithful; He
cannot deny Himself.*

*2 Cor 1:20
All of God's promises
find their 'yes' in Christ!*

PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

(1JN 4:18)

Many Christians have problems believing that God loves them unconditionally. God loves us unconditionally because He removed all the conditions at the cross.

God is a holy and a just God. If sin has been committed, His perfect character necessitates that that sin must be punished to show that God is a just God. He won't sweep sin under the carpet, wink at it or pretend It didn't happen!

Hence, it was His love for us that sent Jesus to the cross to take the punishment for the sins of the whole world! Once this was fulfilled righteously and judicially, it opened the way for 2 things to happen:

1) God has now taken sin off the table. It is no longer an issue in His relationship with man. He has now forgotten and removed sin, never to be brought back to remembrance!

2) Because sin has been dealt with, God no longer counts our sin against us. He no longer counts it against us because He loves us.

1 Cor 13:5 Love keeps no record of wrongs. (Rom 4:8, 2 Cor 5:19)

God has set us free to luxuriate in His wonderful, perfect and unconditional love! We know longer need fear the punishment of God! Praise The Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Heb 10:16
"This is the covenant
that I will make with
them", says The Lord.*

*Heb 10:17
"Their sins and their
lawless deeds I will
remember no more."*

THE KEY TO REMOVING THE FEAR OF GOD FROM MY LIFE: KNOWING I AM LOVED!!

He died for me. (*Rom 5:6*)

He forgives all my sin, mistakes, failures, mess-ups. (*Lk 7:49*)

He's made me righteous (*2 Cor 5:21*)

His love is unconditional - *Tit 3:3-5 (NASB)*

Nothing can separate me from His love! - nothing - nada! (*Rom 8:35-39*)

He always accepts me as I am no matter what i've done. (*Eph 1:6*)

He is always faithful (*2 Thess 3:3*)

He never gets angry with me. (*Isa 54:9*)

He's created me anew as His son. (*2 Cor 5:17, 1 Jn 3:2*)

He never counts my sin against me. (*2 Cor 5:19*)

He's taken my sin away (*Jn 1:29*)

He never remembers my sin (*Heb 10:16*)

He never rejects me. (*Eph 1:6*)

He never leaves me (*Heb 13:5*)

He never judges or condemns me (*Rom 8:1*)

His intentions towards me are always good (*Rom 8:28*)

He provides for me (*Ps 23:1*)

He protects me (*Ps 91:2*)

He heals me (*Isa 53:5*)

He encourages me (*Jos 1:9*)

He picks me up when I fall (*Deut 33:27*)

He is my best friend (*Jn 15:15*)

He's seated me beside Him at His right hand/most important guest seat. (*Eph 2:6*)

He's made me a King/Priest (*Rev 1:6*)

I co-rule and reign with Him over His kingdom (*Eph 2:5,6*)

Phil 4:8

Meditate (think) on these things.



CONTINUING BY HIS GRACE

Gal 2:19-21 I do not frustrate the grace of God. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

For 25 yrs I lived the Christian life without a revelation of the grace of God. We've made much about being saved by grace but little about living by grace!

Col 2:6,7 Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to live following him. You must depend on Christ only, drawing life and strength from him, continuing to grow stronger in your understanding of Him!

Paul is saying, just as we received Christ by grace at salvation, so we must continue to receive that same grace in order to grow stronger in Him.

By not doing so, we condemn ourselves to living a rules based relationship with Him that never, I repeat, never works!

Check yourself today! The sure sign that we are flowing in the grace of God is a lifestyle of rest and peace. Everything outside of this means we have gone back under the law to make ourselves acceptable to God, fight our own battles and make our own way in life!

Mt 11:28-30 Jesus said, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me and learn the unforced rhythms of grace and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Rom 11:6a
And if by grace, then
it is no longer of works;
otherwise grace is no
longer grace.*

*Rom 11:6b
But if it is of works,
it is no longer grace;
otherwise work is no
longer work*

LOOKING ONLY TO HIM

Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

When kings came to the throne of Israel, one of God's instructions was, "Do not multiply horses to yourselves!" (*Deut 17:16*)

Horses and chariots were like the tanks of our day. God knew they would be tempted to mimic the surrounding nations who used horses and chariots as a sign of their military might and power!

God wanted Israel to put their **full** trust in Him. He would defend them against enemy invasion and win their battles for them!

Things, in and of themselves are good, but it is so easy to put our trust in things, not in God. Things give us a sense of power, security and control over our lives and those of others. This is a recipe for disaster, defeat and failure.

Sometimes we have to learn the lesson that when things are stripped away from us and we stand naked, the only person we can put our trust in is our heavenly Father.

2 Cor 1:9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HE ONLY WORKS TO OUR GOOD

Rom 8:28 All things work together for good

Joseph (17yrs of age) was hated by his brothers, thrown into a pit, sold as a slave in Egypt, falsely accused of rape and incarcerated in Pharaoh's deepest dungeon!

13 yrs later (30yrs), he is promoted in an instant, from the dungeon to the right hand of Pharaoh's throne and becomes the Prime Minister of Egypt, the greatest kingdom in the world!

Suddenly, he comes face to face with his brothers. They are full of remorse and fearful at what Joseph will do to them; Joseph forgives them and says, *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."* (Gen 50:20)

Throughout his ordeal, Joseph had learned the principle of **Rom 8:28**, that by trusting his circumstances to God and resting in Him, He would turn all the stumbling stones of life into stepping stones for Joseph's greater good.

What circumstances are you facing today. God's word to us is that if we will trust to Him our challenges and mistakes, He will turn them around and make them work together for our good. This is the grace of God, to take that which is a mess and make something beautiful that honours His name!

God is working for you, not against you!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

Mt 12:20
A bruised reed He will
not break, and a smoking
flax He will not quench.

Ps 103:1
He knows our frame;
He remembers that we
are dust.

LIVING AND WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

There is a difference between living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit!

Living in the Spirit: *Jn 3:1-6* shows us that at salvation we are born of the Spirit into the kingdom of God. We are now living in the Spirit!

Once we are born into the Spirit, we can never come out of the Spirit. Sin, mistakes and failures cannot alter or change our position of living in the Spirit.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Walking in the Spirit: This takes place when we are trusting and resting in God and His word. As we do such, the fruit of the Spirit grows, is exhibited in our lives and brings glory to God. (*Jn 15:8*)

Eg: We are caught in a traffic jam. We become frustrated and angry. We haven't come out of the Spirit, but we are not walking in the Spirit! Instead of becoming frustrated, as we yield ourselves to God and rest in Him, the fruit of patience and self control is released.

We are now walking in the Spirit!

Living in the Spirit is a fixed, eternal and secure position - Walking in the Spirit is a moment by moment trust and rest in God and His word!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HIS OBEDIENCE MAKES ME RIGHTEOUS

Rom 5:19 By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The first Adam's **disobedience** caused sin to corrupt his nature, hence Adam became a sinner! His sin was passed on to the human race, resulting in all being born with a sin nature. *(Rom 5:12)* We have all been **made sinners** in Adam!

Whatever we say or do, good or bad, it all flows from our sin nature, giving rise to the truth that we sin because we are a sinner!

The last Adam's (Christ) **obedience** released the righteousness of God, so when we become born of the Spirit, our old sin nature is removed and God gives us a new righteous nature. We have been **made righteous** in Christ!

Our righteousness is no longer dependant on our obedience but on Christ's obedience. It is a faith righteousness, not a works righteousness. Therefore even when we sin or mess up it doesn't change our righteousness before God. *(Rom 5:18)*

Have you messed up, failed, sinned, made mistakes - Know today that in Christ, your sin has been washed away and you stand righteous before the Father. You no longer have to battle with guilt and condemnation but can come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in YOUR time of need! *(Heb 4:16)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*2 Cor 5:21a
He made Him who knew
no sin to be sin for us.*

*2 Cor 5:21b
That we might become
the righteousness of
God in Him.*

*Rom 6:14a
Sin shall not have
dominion over you.*

*Rom 6:14b
For you are not under
law but under grace.*

GRACE FOR ALL OF LIFE

Rom 5:20 Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

Many of us have limited this verse to apply to the day of our salvation. “Yes, I was a sinner but Christ came into my heart with His abounding grace and saved me.”

We were wrongly taught that grace was for salvation but now we are to live out our Christian life by the law. Subsequently **Rom 5:20** is left to gather dust on the shelf.

In a perverse way, law builds a mindset that says we have to earn God’s grace by living a holy, righteous lifestyle that is free from sin. Only then can we confidently ask God for His grace and blessings!

The very thing we so desperately need to set us free is kept at arms length, beyond reach and out of touch.

However, a revelation of grace liberates us from the law and shows us that grace is for naughty boys and girls, grace is for when we mess up or make mistakes!

Do you feel trapped today by your weaknesses, faults and failures to overcome the obstacles of life? Jesus says to you, “My grace is for your everyday lifestyle. Receive it from me to meet your every need. My super abounding grace will swallow up all your sin! Invite me into those areas of need. Stop striving to change yourself and let me change you! Rest in me and see what I will do!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Heb 4:4
God rested on the seventh
day from all His works.

Heb 4:10
He who has entered His
rest has himself also
ceased from his works as
God did from His.

MT 11:28 COME TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. PT1

We came to Christ at salvation and the Holy Spirit baptised us into the spiritual body of Christ. We are now in Christ, and in the place of His rest. *(1Cor 12:13, Eph 2:5,6)*

His rest is a 24/7 rest. Every second, every moment, every breath is rest. For our part, we have to work to remain in His rest. *(Heb 4:11)*

Every time we are anxious, worried or fearful, we have come out of His rest! When we are driven by pressure, time or circumstances, we have come out of His rest.

We have come out of His rest into performance mode, have gone back under the law and have fallen from grace and have cut off it's flow into our lives! *(Gal 5:4)*

It is like running a machine without oil, sooner or later, the machine will seize up and break down. We however can choose to be at rest. Rest always releases the oil of the Holy Spirit that prevents us from seizing up and breaking down!

Prayer: Jesus, today I ask you to reveal to me those areas of my life where I have come out of your rest, gone back under law and am being driven to perform. Give me your strength to say NO to pressure of circumstances, no matter how urgent they may be, and remain in your rest, knowing You have gone before me to make a way for me. Thank you Lord for your grace that flows into my life!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 12:2a
Do not be conformed
to this world.

Rom 12:2
Be transformed by the
renewing of your mind

MT 11:28 **COME TO ME AND I** **WILL GIVE YOU REST.** PT2

Question: Where does undue pressure come from?

Answer: The world system.

Question: Who controls the world system?

Answer: Satan and his demonic army.

When we succumb to pressure that forces us out of the rest of Christ, we are allowing ourselves to be moulded by a world system that is driven by satan!

The 2 Key words of *Rom 12:2* are **CONFORMED** and **TRANSFORMED**.

The word **conformed** speaks of **outward moulding**. It is pressure that is applied to force us into a particular shape. Much like the potter uses his fingers to shape a clay pot!

Satan and his hosts work 24/7 to apply pressure that keeps us on the back foot and our lives out of control. This is the strategy that we must resist! (*Jam 4:7*)

The word **transformed** speaks of **inward change**. The Holy Spirit through the word of God renews our minds and gives us the power to live out those words. (*Eph 4:21-24*)

Transformation is change from the inside to the outside. As this change takes effect in our lives, instead of the world changing us, we are changing the world! Praise The Lord!

A transformed life is a life at rest in God!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

ALWAYS LIVING IN THE LIGHT

1 Jn1:7 If we live in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin.

A cursory reading of this verse can lead us to believe that we only live in the light as long as we walk in the light. Failure to be obedient cuts us off from God and leaves us adrift in the no mans land of darkness. Such belief brings fear, rejection, abandonment and hopelessness!

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

1 Thess 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Col 1:13,14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed (carried us across) us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

However, when we compare scripture, being born into the kingdom of God makes us 'sons of light'! Hence, we are not working to become light, we are light by dint of being in Christ, and because we are light we can never become darkness!

In 1Jn 1:7 The word 'cleanses' is in the present continuous tense. Picture yourself stood beneath a fountain of blood that never stops flowing. If we sin the blood immediately washes that sin away. It's the blood of Christ that keeps us walking in the light!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Mt 5:14
Jesus said to His
disciples, "You are the
light of the world."*

*Jn 8:12
He who follows Me shall
not walk in darkness, but
have the light of life."*

EVERYTHING FLOWS OUT OF REST

Ps 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.

There is a practical reason why the shepherd made the sheep lie down and led them to calm waters; sheep can only eat and drink when they are in a place of rest.

Sheep are ruminants, that is, they chew the cud, and chewing and resting aids the process of digestion enabling them to absorb all the nutrients into their bodies!

Sheep do not like drinking from turbulent or rushing water. It makes them agitated, it distracts them! They like to drink from waters that are still or calm!

Hence, believers, need to be in a state of inward rest to meditate (ruminate) and receive revelation from God's word, a state of inward rest to drink the living water of the Holy Spirit in prayer and praise and worship!

Heb 12:2 Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus.

Mt 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest for your souls!

Only by looking to Jesus can we find inward rest and position ourselves to receive from Him!

Gen 49:15 He saw that rest was good!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Mt 5:14
Jesus said to His
disciples, "You are the
light of the world."*

*Jn 8:12
He who follows Me shall
not walk in darkness, but
have the light of life."*



JESUS ALWAYS GOES BEFORE YOU

Ps 80:1 Shepherd of Israel, You lead your people like sheep.

In the west shepherds **drive** their sheep from behind - In the east shepherds **lead** their Sheep from the front.

Question: Why lead from the front?

Answer: The shepherd led the sheep into the wilderness. It was harsh, uncultivated land, with lions, bears, wolves and robbers! Hence the shepherd went before the sheep to find the best pasture and remove any predators!

When the sheep saw the shepherd leaning on his staff (a place of rest) they instinctively knew they could enter His rest, safe from fear and harm, free from agitating dangers!

Jesus our great shepherd leads us through the wilderness of this world. He's already gone before us to clear the way and lead us to the best places! He's conquered every foe on the cross and is now in a place of Rest.

Because He's at rest our part is to trust our future into His keeping and enter His rest. We need not fear any dangers, obstacles or circumstances He will remove them when the time is right!

The shepherd gives his life for the sheep in order to protect them. Jesus our Shepherd gave His life on the cross to protect us, His sheep. We can rest assured He will not allow anything to bring us into harms way! What a great Shepherd He is!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 10:3-4
He calls His own sheep
by name and leads them
out and goes before them.*

*Jn 10:11
"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd gives
His life for the sheep!"*

IDENTITY IN CHRIST! PT1

2 Cor 10:12-13 For we dare not compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise!

In this verse, Paul the apostle is speaking about a clique of people in the church at Corinth who are judging each other by the standards of the world! The world eulogises people's success by their riches, intelligence, physical beauty, family name, giftedness etc, etc!

Is this how we judge ourselves today. Do we measure ourselves against others who are more richer, intelligent or beautiful than we are! If so we are judging by a standard that leads to covetousness, discontentedness, bitter disappointment and hopelessness!

We are seeking to find identity and security in what we **do** - not in who we **are**!

The New Covenant teaches that as sons of God, we find identity and security in Christ!

In Christ we learn that the Father **loves us** for who we **are** not for what we can **do**! Before Jesus had performed a miracle or commenced His ministry, His Father affirmed Him with these words: "You are my **beloved** Son in whom I am well pleased!"

Jesus's identity as a Son was found **in being loved** for who He **was** - not for what He could **do**!

Today, ask the Father to reveal His love for you!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gal 2:20
I live by faith in the Son
of God, who loved me and
gave Himself for me.*

*1 Jn 4:10
In this is love, not
that we loved God, but
that He loved us!*

*Ps 37:7a
Rest in the Lord, and
wait patiently for Him.*

*Ps 37b
Do not fret because of
him who prospers in
his way.*

IDENTITY IN CHRIST! PT2

2 Cor 10:12-13 For we dare not compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise!

Comparing ourselves with others breeds a competitive spirit and discontent! We strive to keep up with the Joneses, we want others to see us as cool, but inwardly we are restless, jealous and dissatisfied with life!

Question: Why am I living like this?

Answer: I am not trusting God to provide for me, to make a way for me, hence I am not living in Christ's rest!

Mt 11:28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Prayer: Father, give me an awareness to recognise those times when self effort, pressure and stress are driving me to perform, that I may cease from striving, put You first and trust in You to make a way for me!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



MARRIED TO MR LAW OR MR GRACE PT1

Rom 7:3 So if, while her husband lives, she unites herself to another man, she will be called an adulteress!

In Romans Ch 7 Paul symbolises law and grace as two husbands. As New Covenant believers he shows that we once were married to Mr Law, but when we came to salvation we died to Mr Law and became married to Mr Grace.

However, if we still insist on living by the law, we are committing adultery with Mr Law. The law teaches that if while married to one man, a wife marries or unites herself to another man, she is committing adultery!

Today many believers are living schizophrenic lives. They want the love, freedom and strength that Mr Grace gives, but are pulled back by the judgemental, controlling and condemning Mr Law! They are committing adultery with Mr Law!

The Galation Church began their Christian life joined to grace, but were enticed to return to living by law. The lure of the flesh proved to much!

Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? It behoves us not to make the same mistake!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*ADULTERY
Sex between a married
person and someone who
is not that person's
legal partner!*

*DIVORCE
Complete separation
or severance!*

MARRIED TO MR LAW OR MR GRACE PT2

Rom 7:1 The law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

If we insist on living by the law, we bring ourselves under the dominion of the law. Dominion means to 'rule over, dominate, influence'. We have no choice in the matter, like it or not, we are forced to obey the commands of the law! You must do this, you shall do that!

Living by law means we'll never truly come to know God as Father, and our relationship to Him will be one of distance, fear, insecurity and unworthiness!

Grace is the polar opposite of law. Grace gives a person free will to choose a relationship rooted in love, respect and acceptance.

Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through me!" Jn 14:6.

We can only know God as Father when receive the revelation that we are not slaves but sons! Only pursuing a relationship with Mr Grace (Christ) will set us free to know God as Father!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as I look to You, please open my eyes to see myself as a son and to see God as a Father. Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Rom 8:15a
For you did not receive
the spirit of bondage
again to fear.*

*Rom 8:15b
but you received the
Spirit of adoption by
whom we cry out,
"Abba, Father."*

MARRIED TO MR LAW OR MR GRACE PT3

'Self Imposed Laws'

An aspect of the law that needs unmasking is called, '**self imposed laws!**' Self imposed laws are those laws that have been passed down to us by parents and society!

Examples: I must keep the house tidy at all times, I must not shame the family name, I will never go into debt, I will not show weakness (Men), I cannot allow anyone to see me without make-up applied and hair in place (Ladies)!

Without realising it, we can live with a host of self imposed laws that condemn, control, judge and dominate our lives and behaviour, leaving in their wake, guilt, fear, shame and rejection!

Behaviour that gives ground for self imposed laws to flourish would be, rescuing others (*Prov 19:19*), perfectionism (*Gal 3:3*), people pleasing (*Gal 1:10*), comparing ourselves with others (*2 Cor 10:12*).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to step out of the bondage of self imposed laws. Give me strength to trust you and step into the freedom of being myself!

JESUS, COME INTO MY HEART!

Jn 10:10 Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly.”

There is a temptation to think that when Jesus says He came to give us ‘**life**’, that this life is the same life we live now but in a greater capacity!

However, the word ‘**life**’ in this verse in the Greek, is the word ‘**Zoe**’. Zoe life is God’s life, it is eternal life and vastly different to the life we live today.

In Zoe life there is no sin, no death, no sickness, no poverty, no pain and no tears! Praise The Lord!

Rom 5:17 Those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life (Zoe) through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:17 tells us that this same Zoe life equips us to reign or rule over this life’s circumstances; to rule over sin, death, sickness, poverty and pain and replace these with eternal life, righteousness, health, prosperity and joy!

Question: How can I receive Zoe life?

Answer: By inviting Jesus to live in your heart!

Prayer: “Jesus, thank you that Your Zoe eternal life triumphs over this life in every way. I ask You to come and live in my heart that I may experience the abundance of Your Zoe life and know You as my Saviour, Lord and friend.” “Thank you.”

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



SELF HELP OR JESUS HELP PT1

The book market today has a plethora of 'self help' books! How to be a better leader, manager or person. How to exercise, diet and improve ones life!

Such books and guru's encourage us to feel good about ourselves, release our inner strength, believe for good things, do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

Question: Why are these books dangerous for Christians?

Answer: The danger is in the ethos, 'self help!' Such books encourage us to build a life of our own making, overcome in our own strength, see ourselves as our own 'Saviour', thus making ourselves into little gods! (*Gen 3:4,5*)

Col 2:8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Whereas the New Covenant invites us to find such life in Christ:

Col 2:6,7 Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him.

Christ is our Saviour and God, our life, strength, healer, helper, deliverer and future hope.

Jn 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



SELF HELP OR JESUS HELP PT2

Using self help philosophy to build our life upon drives to 2 extremes:

- a) We win, are successful, we've reached our goal. We're elated, pleased with ourselves!
- b) We lose, we fail, we fall away. We're defeated, hopeless, miserable, depressed!

Jer 17:5 Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man (self) and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.

Both these extremes are rooted in pride! It is our **self ability** that has either won or lost and constitutes them as dead works!

Does that mean the self help industry cannot help the believer. Of course not! Much of self help material contains biblical principles! The key is to first pass all things through the grid of trusting Christ. We look away from self to Christ. Hence, when we win, we praise and honour Him. When we lose, we look to Him to get back up and praise Him for His strength and hope!

Jer 17:7,8 "Blessed is the man who trusts and hopes in the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river. Its leaf will be green, and it will not cease from yielding fruit!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



JESUS GIVES PEACE!

Prov 14:30 A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body.

The medical profession tells us that the No1 killer today is 'stress'. Stress is pressure applied to our physical, emotional and mental state of being.

We all need stress as a motivating force to accomplish life's goals, but extreme stress that leads to worry, fear and anxiety is destructive stress. It builds up internal pressures that our psyche cannot cope with, exhausting our strength and zest for life!

Jesus foresaw the pressures coming upon the world and said to His disciples: ***"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (Jn 14:27)***

Check your heart and mind today. Is there turmoil, anxiety or fear, if so, we have buried the peace **Jesus gave us** at salvation. **Return to Him this moment**, give over your troubles to Him. Remind yourself that nothing is too big for Him to deal with. Remember the past times when He has delivered you from the jaws of the lion; if He's done it once, He will do it again and again, and again!

As we leave our cares at His feet, His peace will arise and still our troubled heart!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Isa 30:15
Thus says The Lord: "In
returning and rest
you shall be saved; In
quietness (peace) and
confidence shall be your
strength."*

*Isa 26:3
You will keep him/her in
perfect peace, whose
mind is stayed on You,
because he/she trusts
in You.*

GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

*What part of the
word 'once' do we not
understand!*

JESUS

Heb 10:12 Once offered Up Himself as High Priest, then sat down forever!

Heb 7:27 Once offered Himself as a final sacrifice, the last ever sacrifice to be offered!

Heb 9:28 Once bore (carried) our sins upon the cross!

1 Pet 3:18 Once suffered for the sins of the whole world!

Rom 6:10 Once died unto sin!

Heb 9:26 Once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself

Heb 9:12 Once entered into the Most Holy Place with His own blood!

Heb 10:10 Once offered His body to sanctify us!

Heb 10:2 Once purged our consciences of sin by His blood!

Heb 10:14 Once perfected forever those who are sanctified!

Jn 19:30 "It is finished!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

SINNER OR RIGHTEOUS PT1

Many who are embracing the grace message have not found full freedom because they have still not answered the question: “Am I a sinner or am I righteous?”

Those living under the Old Covenant of law were sinners! How do we know this?

When Adam, the first man fell into sin, sin corrupted his nature! The whole future human race (who were, so to speak, in Adam’s loins [1 Cor 15:22]) now inherited his sin nature!

Rom 5:12 Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned!

Because man has a sin nature, all his thoughts, speech and actions flow out of his nature thus constituting man a sinner! Hence, man sins because he is a sinner, he cannot help himself!

By introducing the law, God’s intention was to make man aware of his sin nature and his inability to overcome sin by his own strength. This knowledge led man to an awareness of his need for a Saviour!

Rom 3:20 By the law is the knowledge of sin.

Gal 3:24 The Law served as our guide to lead us to Christ, that we might be declared righteous and put in right standing with God through faith.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Rom 7:7
I would not have known
sin except through
the law.*

*Rom 7:7
I would not have known
covetousness unless the
law had said, “You shall
not covet.”*



SINNER OR RIGHTEOUS PT2

Rom 6:6 Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

We must now as it were, gaze into the Spirit realm to see what took place at salvation!

Rom 6:6 tells us the moment we came to Christ, our nature of sin (old man) was crucified with Christ on the cross. This is our identification with Him. We died and went down into death and the grave with Him.

When He rose from the dead, we rose with Him, leaving behind in the grave our old sin nature. As we rose with Christ, God created in us a new righteous nature (new man), a new spirit.

2 Cor 5:17 *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Common sense: If God has exchanged our old sin nature for a new righteous nature - we are no longer a sinner, we are righteous!

Rom 5:19 *For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience (Christ) many will be made righteous.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Rom 6:7
For he who has died
has been freed from sin.*

*2 Cor 5:21
He made Him to be sin
for us, that we might
become the righteousness
of God in Him.*

SINNER OR RIGHTEOUS PT3

Under the law, if we sin, our conscience immediately registers the guilt of wrongdoing! Hence, guilt makes us **'sin conscious'**.

Sin consciousness always turns the spotlight on ourselves in a negative, destructive way and provokes thoughts such as, "I'm not good enough, I'm a failure, I'm an addict, I'm a sinner, God is not pleased with me, I'm condemned, therefore He won't accept me! We've now cut across our relationship with God, we're running away from Him and hiding!

Under grace, if we sin, we **know** we're forgiven and Christ's blood has washed the sin away; we **know** we are no longer a sinner, we are righteous, so we turn the spotlight away from ourselves to the work of the cross and practise being **'righteous conscious'**. We flip the coin, "Thank you Lord, I'm good enough, I'm a winner, I'm addict free, I'm righteous, God is always pleased with me, I'm not condemned, I'm accepted at all times! Yippee!

Prov 23:7 As a man/woman thinks in his/her heart - So is He/she!

Our relationship with God remains unbroken, we run towards Him knowing we are 100% accepted and have right standing with Him!

This is true and complete freedom from the effects of sin!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



JESUS CHANGES OLD DOGS

Man has invented statements, to keep himself a victim so he can stay in his comfort zone!

“Well, yer know, you can’t teach an old dog new tricks!”

We could equate this statement with the law. The law keeps men imprisoned in their sin, and try as much as they like, they cannot escape. The law produces people who are set in their ways. It takes away all hope, creates a defeatist attitude and makes life miserable!

Gal 3:23 Before faith came, we were perpetually kept in custody and guarded by the Law.

The law makes hard work of Christianity, in fact, many give up because they’ve come to the conclusion: It’s impossible to live the Christian life!

Because of the law, we have millions of old doggie Christians who remain unchanged!

But when an old dog is exposed to grace, hope rises, expectancy kicks in - why? They suddenly realise they don’t have to change themselves, that Jesus will change them from the inside out. They stop struggling, fighting and striving and instead they rest, they lean, they trust!

Old habits, bondages and strongholds are changed by the power of the grace of Jesus until they realise, ‘Old dogs **can** learn new tricks!’

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 92:12,14
The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. Growing in grace they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap, spiritual vitality and rich in the verdure of trust, love, and contentment. (AMP)*

IN CHRIST I AM RIGHTEOUS

**60 secs of every minute,
60 mins of every hour,
24 hrs of every day,
365 days of every year,
For all eternity!**

Can you say, hand on heart, that the above statement is true in your life? If the answer is **'yes'**, then you will know unbroken peace with God!

***Rom 5:1** Therefore, having been made righteous by faith, we have peace with God!*

If the answer is **'no'**, God bids you come to His Son Jesus Christ. In Him and Him alone will you will find God's righteousness offered to the whosoever:

***2 Cor 5:21** For He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Christ).*

Prayer: Father, as I read your word to me, open the eyes of my spirit to see I have been made righteous in your Son Jesus Christ and can enter into unbroken peace with you!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Col 1:20
To reconcile all things to
Himself, having made
peace through the blood
of His cross.

Ps 85:10
Mercy and truth
have met together;
righteousness and peace
have kissed.

LET THE FATHER FIGHT FOR YOU

Ps 110:1 "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

As believers we are **seated** in Christ at God's right hand. Seated speaks of rest. We are to rest in Christ! Ruling and reigning from a place of rest!

Question: Why can we rule from rest?

Answer: The battle has already been won.

Jesus defeated all enemies at the cross: Sin, satan, sickness, poverty, and death etc!

That victory has to be enforced. Who is the enforcer? Not Christ! He is seated in rest! Not the believers! They are seated in rest!

In this verse, the LORD (Father) says to my Lord (Son) - **"I will crush your enemies."** It's the Father who enforces the victory of Jesus over His enemies! It's the Father who enforces the victory of Jesus over our enemies!

Our part is to give our battles, problems, finances, bodies, marriage, family and work to God and rest in Him and allow Him to enforce Jesus' victory in every single area. Nothing has been left out. Jesus victory was completely complete and perfectly perfect!

What are your enemies today, what are you battling. STOP! Go back to the place of rest. Climb back onto the throne and SIT DOWN! Give your battles to the Father. He will enforce for you - **just give Him time!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Ps 110:1
The LORD said to my
Lord, "Sit at My
right hand."*

*Rom16:20
The God of peace will
crush Satan under your
feet shortly.*

THE GARMENT OF PRAISE! PT1

Prov 17:22 A merry (joyful) heart does good, like medicine.

The pressure to live in our world today becomes more intense as each year passes! Upheaval surrounds us: Family breakup, job loss, financial debt - the list is never ending.

At such times, God never leaves us to our own devices and tells us to get on with it! He gives us keys that unlock His power and healing in our lives. One such key is the power of praise.

Praise empowers us by stirring up and releasing the fruit of joy into our lives! **Joy is God's medicine** for our whole being of spirit, soul and body!

Jesus was anointed with the oil of joy above every other human being! (**Heb 1:9**) He needed the strength that joy released to take Him through the pressures of life and the cross! (**Heb 12:2**)

Joy is God's prescription for weariness, lethargy, low spirits, depression, fear, etc!

Believers used to get by, praising God one day a week. This can no longer cut it in today's society. NO: God is calling every believer to develop a lifestyle of praise & worship!

Ps 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE GARMENT OF PRAISE! PT2

Isa 61:3 "The Lord has anointed Me to give them, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!"

Jesus is here giving us a rock solid guarantee, that if we will take hold of His garment of praise and put it on, we will see the spirit of heaviness lift off our lives!

But therein lies the rub! Many give up to soon and cry off dismissing it as to difficult. This is a lack of ignorance (understanding) on their part! (*Hos 4:6*)

Just as it takes time to put on a jacket, so it takes time to put on the garment of praise! Our emotions cannot be changed by the flick of a switch. It took time for heaviness of spirit to come upon us and it will take time for it to lift off.

This is why it's called a 'sacrifice of praise!' We choose (determination of will) to take our eyes off ourselves and instead focus our thoughts, rigidly upon Him!

As we sing our songs of praise and lose ourselves in the words, slowly our heaviness, fear, worry and anxiety will be replaced by His peace, joy and rest, and that burden will lift off our shoulders!

Try it why don'tcha!

As Smith Wigglesworth used to say, "*Isn't He a lovely Jesus!*"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Neh 8:10
Be not grieved and
depressed, for the joy
of The Lord is your
strength!*

*Heb 13:1
By Him let us
continually offer the
sacrifice of praise to God.*

BREATHE OUT HIS GRACE

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ.

What did Paul the apostle mean when he said, “**For me to live is Christ!**” Was he talking about a religious lifestyle of rules, restraint, self denial, living a reclusive life in a monastery, on a mountain top or a desert place.

NO! He was talking about the most natural lifestyle a person could wish for. A relationship with Christ that was expressed through grace!

The grace of Christ is not something we have to work up by getting a sweat on!, it’s not forcing ourselves to remember when to pray or read the bible. As grace takes hold of us it naturally permeates every part of our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical being.

The word **live** means to **breath** - we naturally breath out grace in our words, attitudes, manners and actions.

The word ‘**grace**’ in Greek also means: gratefulness, rest, joy, graciousness, thankfulness, peace, mercy, acceptance etc. All these aspects will be expressed through and reflected by our lives of grace.

Prayer: Father, come into every part of my being with your grace. I open myself to You, knowing You will not embarrass, shame, expose, condemn or hurt me! I remind myself that You are a good God who only wants the best for me, so I rest in You!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE LAW IMPRISONS - GRACE SETS FREE! PT1

Rom 7:1-3 tells us that the law is a husband that we used to be married to!

The husband of law always pointed out my weaknesses, always judged me for not living up to his standards. He was always demanding and when I failed would never give me hope, never encourage me, and worst of all never lifted a finger to help me.

The law was a lousy husband because he could never save or deliver me. He couldn't speak life or liberty, only death and condemnation! (*2 Cor 3:7,9*)

1 Cor 15:56 *The strength of sin is the law.*

Condemning my behaviour without showing me a way out only served to trap and imprison me in a cycle of guilt and defeat and hopelessness! (*Gal 3:22,23*)

What was I going to do? I was married to Mr Law till death us do part. Only if one of us died would I be released from his oppressive and controlling manner and legally be set free to marry another!

Rom 7:4 *You also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another. (Rom 7:6)*

Thank God that I died to the law when I was crucified with Christ on the cross! I died, was buried and resurrected together with Him and now legally set free to be married to Him!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Neh 8:10
Be not grieved and
depressed, for the joy
of The Lord is your
strength!

Heb 13:1
By Him let us
continually offer the
sacrifice of praise to God.



THE LAW IMPRISONS - GRACE SETS FREE! PT2

Rom 7:4 You also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another. (Rom 7:6)

When we rose from the dead with Christ, we became betrothed (engaged) to Him. Our marriage to Him will take place when He returns. Until then we are to live as if married to Christ!

Mr Grace is the polar opposite of Mr Law! When I make mistakes or fail, He always forgives me, loves me and encourages me! He only ever speaks life and liberty over me!

He is never demanding or judgemental, in fact he is a wonderful husband who always affirms and wants the best for me!

When married to Mr Law, I could never rise to meet his expectations because he always judged me on my behaviour. Mr Grace however, is always pleased with me because he relates to me on the basis of who I am, not what I do. Hence, when I make mistakes, when I fail or sin, I am assured he still loves and accepts me.

With Mr Grace's support and strength, I am able to overcome my weaknesses and rise to fulfil my deepest desires.

Being married to Mr Grace has brought me a life of peace, joy and rest!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

*Ex 12:5
Your lamb shall be
without blemish, a male
of the first year.*

*Eph 1:4
He chose us in Him,
that we should be holy
and without blame
before Him!*

PASSOVER PT1

*1 Pet 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb
without blemish or spot!*

On the feast of Passover each house had to take a lamb that was without spot or blemish. Anything other than perfect: a broken leg, bruising, a piece bitten out of an ear etc was not acceptable to God!

In God's eyes, if the lamb was perfect, He counted the people perfect, making them also acceptable to God. The lamb's perfection as it were, passed into them!

The words 'without blemish' mean to be without fault or blame. The words 'without spot' mean to be free from censure, irreproachable!

Jesus Christ as our Passover lamb, was perfect, pure and whole - neither man nor God could find any fault in Him. Therefore, He was accepted by the Father!

Hence when a person comes to Christ, His perfection, purity and wholeness is imparted into them, making them perfect, pure and acceptable to God. They are free from blame censure and reproach!

Now we are accepted in Christ, if we fall short in any way, God does not judge us based on **our imperfection**, but on **Christ's perfection!** Therefore let's throw off all guilt, blame condemnation and accusation and come to God knowing we are accepted of Him!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

PASSOVER PT2

Ex 12:13 When I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not destroy you.

The people of Israel were to slay the lamb and strike a blood soaked bunch of hyssop on the 2 side posts and lintel surrounding the door so when the destroying angel saw the blood, he would pass-over their homes!

This story is full of the symbolism of Christ: Christ is the door! (*Jn 10:7*) In Him is safety and protection. The lintel was a cross piece made of wood, speaking of the cross (*Jn 19:17*) The lintel and side posts were struck with hyssop dipped in the blood of the lamb, so Christ was struck on Calvary and His blood flowed down (*Mt 26:28*).

The blood of Christ was 100% **pure blood**, untainted by sin! This is why it was so readily accepted by the Father who had been waiting 4000 yrs to open the sluice gates of grace, mercy and forgiveness to flow down upon the world!

“When I see the blood!” Let us not leave out in our preaching and teaching the blood of Christ! It’s the blood that washes me clean from all sin, it’s the blood that cleanses me from all unrighteousness, it’s the blood that redeems me (to buy back) and restores me to divine favour! (1 Pet 1:18-20)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

*Ps 37:3
Trust in the Lord and
feed on His faithfulness*

*Gen 24:63
Isaac went out to
meditate in the field in
the evening.*

PASSOVER PT3

Ex 12:6-9 The whole assembly of Israel must slaughter their lamb at twilight. They must roast the meat over a fire and eat it, the whole animal—including the head, legs, and internal organs—must be roasted over a fire.

Every family was to sacrifice a lamb, roast it over a fire and eat it! They fed upon the lamb!

Jesus Christ as THE lamb of God suffered the fiery punishment of God's judgement upon the cross. The previous night at Passover, Jesus broke the bread and said, "This is my body, broken for you!" *(1Cor 11:24)*

His broken body speaks of healing. By His stripes we are healed *(Isa 53:5)* How do we receive healing? Like Israel, we must feed upon the lamb, feed upon Christ if we are to receive healing of the body, healing of the mind and healing of the emotions!

We feed by meditating on scriptures that show us our completeness in Christ! *(Col 2:10)*

Many read scripture as if eating in a fast food restaurant! - eat and go! This will never unlock the revelation of God's word; No! We must read scripture as if eating a 3 course meal - taking our time, chewing our food, digesting it!

Meditating in God's word, if done properly, will always yield the results we are looking for!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



PROSPERITY PT1

Gen 12:2 I will bless you with abundant increase of favours, and you will be a blessing, dispensing good to others!

God's promise to Abraham from God was twofold: **1)** I will bless you. **2)** Out of the overflow, you will bless others!

This is plain common sense! How can we meet the needs of others unless we have more than enough to meet our own needs.

Us Church Brits have a problem with prosperity! We like to take certain scriptures that seem to demonise money and wealth.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

1 Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare.

1 Tim 6:17-18 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

None of these verses say it is wrong to have money. They teach both a misuse and a proper use of money. The misuse is to spend it **only** on ourselves. The proper use is to build the kingdom out of the overflow.

Isa 55:10 The rain comes down from heaven to water the earth, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



WE ARE LIVING IN THE DISPENSATION OF HIS GRACE TODAY

Isa 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, to announce the year of his grace, [the day of vengeance of our God]"

Isaiah's prophesy (above) proclaims the coming Jubilee ministry of Messiah Jesus. When Jesus came, He told the people this prophesy was fulfilled in Him! (*Lk 4:18-21*)

However, on repeating the prophecy, He deleted the last line, 'The day of vengeance of our God.' Why? Isaiah's prophesy was in two stages:

First coming of Christ to save! (*Mt 8:25*) - To announce the advent of the age of grace which has lasted for over 2000 yrs!

Second coming of Christ to judge! (*2 Tim 4:1*) - When Christ returns He will judge every person on the basis of whether they received or rejected Him. If they received Him, they will go into everlasting life. (*Jn 5:24*) If they rejected Him they will go into everlasting destruction! (*2 Thess 1:9*)

To inaugurate the age of grace, Jesus dealt with and removed all sin at the cross. God no longer counts men's sins against them! (*Rom 4:8, 2 Cor 5:19*)

This knowledge emboldens us to preach a good news that is attractive, free from judgement and filled with the love of God!

Let's get to it!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 1:29
The Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of
the world!

Heb 10:17
"Their sins I will
remember no more."

Mt 6:27
*Has anyone by fussing in
front of the mirror ever
gotten taller by so much
as an inch?*

Ps 31:15
*My times are in
Your hand!*

YOUR FUTURE IS GOD'S BUSINESS!

*Jn 21:22 Jesus answered, "If I want him (John) to live until I come back, **that is not your business.** You follow me."*

If we allow what we think will happen in the future to generate fear, worry and anxiety, we have brought ourselves under a controlling spirit that immobilises our life and moves us away from God's guidance!

When Jesus had commissioned Peter to, "Feed my sheep and my lambs!" instead of ruminating (pun) on Jesus call to him, he immediately changed **focus** and wanted to know Jesus' will for John's life!

In a polite but firm way, Jesus said to Peter, "It's non of your business." "You follow me!"

Is my **focus** on things, people, circumstances that are non of my business- Am I worried about world events, fearful of losing my job, consumed about what others think of me. Does my imagination run riot, thinking of what may happen in relationships and events.

All these things seek to bring the future into the present, and Jesus is clear, "Non of these are your business! It is not for you to know the times and seasons of what is to come!"

Prayer: Jesus, uncover my wrong thinking re the future. Help me pull down the strongholds of lies, half-truths and deception and leave the future where it belongs that I may live my life fully in the present! Thank you Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



YOUR PRESENT IS SECURE!

*Mt 6:31,32 **Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the nations seek!***

We need to be constantly reminded of these timeless words spoken by Jesus. They are current coin for every generation!

There are tremendous pressures building up in the earth today that affect everyone from Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers to the man on the street! No one is exempt!

The advantage for the believer is that we have someone to trust who will help us! His name is Jesus Christ! The word **trust** means to, **'run to for protection and refuge!'**

God the Father has promised that if we will run to Him and Him alone, He will give us the help, protection and provision we need. He and He alone is our **source!**

Are you running around like a headless chicken, wringing your hands in desperation, fear and worry. God's word for you today is, **"STOP! BE STILL! CALM DOWN!** Run to me, look to me, lean on me for all you need! Put your trust in me — I will never fail you!"

*2 Sam 22:3 **The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and refuge; My Saviour, You save me from violence!***

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Prov 3:5
Trust in the Lord with
all your heart, And
lean not on your own
understanding.*

*Prov 3:6
In all your ways
acknowledge Him, And
He shall direct your paths*

YOUR PAST IS FORGIVEN!

If anyone had cause to hold onto the things of the past, it was Paul! He was the arch persecutor of the Early Church! Yes! The Paul we all love was a brutal evil man!

Acts 22:4-6 I persecuted this Way (Church) to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women; and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished!

He could have been screwed up with guilt and shame over the way he punished and abused God's people! But because Paul had a revelation of God's total forgiveness, he was able to put those things behind him. He could look forward instead of looking in his rear-view mirror!

Are you holding onto things of the past: divorce, the loss of a loved one, mistakes, missed opportunities, failed relationships! Do you replay the video in your mind!

God's word to you today is: *"Your sins and your lawless deeds I will remember no more! (Heb 10:17) "I have forgotten your sin and I want you to forget your sin!"*

Question: How do I forget my sin

Answer: I choose not to remember it!

Every time thoughts from the past re-surface, I must choose to give them to God and replace them with thoughts that are good, pure and lovely! *(Phil 4:8)*

Paul told Timothy to practise these things - You see, they are learnt behaviour! *(Phil 4:9)*

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



HE WILL MAKE YOU TO STAND

Eph 6:11 That you may be able to stand!

Christians are called to proclaim the gospel, heal the sick and cast out evil spirits; apart from this mandate, every battle fought against satan in spiritual warfare is not offensive but defensive! It is not outward attack but an inward stance!

4 Times Paul mentions the word 'stand'. Why stand? We are to stand against the attacks of demonic activity because the victory over satan has already been won by Jesus on the cross!

Believers have entered into Jesus victory. Therefore they are not fighting **to gain** victory, they are fighting **from a place** of victory.

Hence when believers engage the enemy, it is to enforce Jesus victory over him! When the enemy comes against us, we are to 'stand our ground' and use the sword of the Spirit to rout the enemies attacks. The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive piece of armour.

How do we use it? We remind satan of his defeat at the hands of Jesus - this is what causes the enemy to flee. He cannot stand to listen to his defeat, he cannot stand to hear the name of Jesus!

*Eph 6:13
That you may be able to
withstand in the evil day,
and having done all,
to stand.*

*Jam 4:7
Resist (stand against)
the devil and he will flee
from you.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HOPE THE OXYGEN OF LIFE

1Thess1:3 Remembering your faith and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

The world's understanding of hope is based on shifting sands. It's blind, unstable and insecure. A hope born of desperation that clings to chance and pot-luck! A hope without promise, foundation or assurance!

Hope is the oxygen of life. Without it even the strongest wither, wilt and die; but the good news for believers and unbelievers alike is the **certain** hope we find in Jesus Christ!

Heb 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.

The word, 'hope' in this verse is an **expectation of good** coming from Jesus Christ, an expectation that becomes the anchor (stay) of our soul, and is sure and steadfast.

Only by placing our hope in Christ can we be assured of a good outcome. Our life now becomes secure and stable, we can see a way through our problems and impossible circumstances. The oxygen of hope means we can breathe again!

Hymn: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus name.

Chorus: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand! (*Edward Mote*)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



SERVANT OR SON PT1

Heb 3:5-6 Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are.

Under the O.C. of law, Moses was a servant **in** God's house. A servant has no say in what they do; they are there to obey the commands of their master. They have to serve whether they like it or not!

Under the N.C. Of grace, Christ is a son **over** God's house. He gets to say what goes on in the house because He is (so to speak) the inheritor of the family business; and as a son, Christ still serves, but he serves because he wants to not because he has to.

As sons of God, believers belong **in** the house. They share the inheritance of the family business. They still serve, but they serve because they want to, not because they have to.

There are many believers today who although they are sons, still have the mentality of servants. Why are they like this? They are still living under the law. They still see the Christian life as a performance.

Their watchword is 'obedience.' They think they have to ratchet up the brownie points in order to earn God's blessings.

Let us of the grace community, pray that God will give them a revelation of sonship!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



SERVANT OR SON PT2

1 Jn 3:1 What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

When we first come to Christ, we have a tendency to superimpose an identikit picture of our earthly father onto our heavenly Father! When we messed up, if our earthly father become angry and distanced himself from us. Ditto when we mess up as a Christian. The Father **must be** angry, the Father **has** distanced Himself from me.

Fear, guilt, rejection and shame now become a cloud that separates between me and my heavenly Father! Hence peace, joy and rest become fleeting experiences!

Only a revelation of Jesus finished work at the cross will remove our wrong conceptions of a father and reveal the true Father.

John 14:6 Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Through Christ's work on the cross the barriers can be removed between us and the Father. True sonship is knowing the unconditional love of the Father and that nothing can separate between us and Him.

Listen to what The Father says: *“You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!”*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gen 1:31a
God saw every thing that
He had made!*

HE (GOD) HAS MADE EVERYTHING 'BEAUTIFUL' IN ITS TIME! PT1

*Gen 1:31b
And indeed it was very
good (beautiful)!*

Our God is a perfect God! He is a beautiful God! He is the creator God, and everything He creates is a reflection of His perfection and beauty!

When God looked upon His finished creation in Gen Ch 1 He declared it all to be very good (Hebrew: Very beautiful)! Especially in regards to His creation of man!

Gen 1:26 God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness!"

But when man sinned, the beautiful became marred, the excellent became tarnished, and opened a fault line that ran throughout creation from top to bottom!

God had to wait 4,000 yrs before He could create again! But this time it would be a perfect eternal creation incapable of being marred by sin! When Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" (Greek: Tetelestai), His voice echoed to the farthest reaches of the universe, proclaiming that through the work of Jesus on the cross, God was able to create anew those that came to Him for salvation!

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!

Now close your eyes and picture the perfect man: Jesus! See Him as perfectly perfect and completely complete—That is a picture of every believer! They have been created in Christ Jesus; He is the new creation, the new man, and as 'HE IS', so are 'YOU'! (*1 Jn 4:17; Eph 2:10; Col 2:10; Eph 4:24*)

Eph 4:24 The new man, created in true righteousness and holiness!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Gen 1:31a
God saw every thing that
He had made!*

HE (GOD) HAS MADE EVERYTHING 'BEAUTIFUL' IN ITS TIME! PT2

*Gen 1:31b
And indeed it was very
good (beautiful)!*

The moment you and I became born again we were created anew as a beautiful being! Ecc 3:11 tells us He created 'everything' beautiful!

The emblem of the new creation is the butterfly the perfect example of beauty!

Rom 12:2 Be transformed (Greek: Metamorphosis) by the renewing of your mind!

Metamorphosis: The changing of a caterpillar into a butterfly! My friend—If you are a new creation, you have been 'Butterflied' (made beautiful) by God; and you are perfect and complete in Christ!

"But Pete, when I look at myself, all I see are my weaknesses, faults and flaws!" It's because you are focusing on yourself; To focus on yourself is 'a truth' but it's not 'the truth'! This is 'the truth':

Heb 10:14 By one offering He has 'perfected' forever those who 'are' sanctified!

Col 2:10 You 'are' 'complete' in Him, who is the head of all principality and power!

The words 'perfected' and 'complete' are in the perfect tense! The perfect tense is a statement that is made in the past that cannot be changed or revoked! You were perfected and made complete in Christ on the cross, 2000 yrs ago!

The word 'are' is in the present continuous tense, that is, an unchanging state of affairs! So these verses double down on who you are in Christ, perfect and complete!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Gen 1:31a
God saw every thing that
He had made!*

*Gen 1:31b
And indeed it was very
good (beautiful)!*

HE (GOD) HAS MADE EVERYTHING 'BEAUTIFUL' IN ITS TIME! PT3

Looking inwardly at ourselves makes us sin conscious, law conscious and the judge of our weaknesses, failures and flaws!

The gospel of grace points us away from ourselves to the cross of Christ! As we behold, gaze upon and meditate the work of Christ, thoughts of 'SELF' drop away!

Keeping our focus upon Christ and His work is the place of trust and releases His grace to transform our lives into His likeness and beauty!

2 Cor 3:18 We, beholding as in a mirror (Bible) the glory of the Lord Jesus, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord!

Heb 12:2 Looking away from all that will distract and focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of faith!

2 Cor 4:18 Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen! The work of grace has to be all of Christ and nothing of us! Only trust and rest in Him can make this a reality; even this we need to ask Him to work into our lives!

Anything less than this gives 'SELF' a foothold to brag about what it has done!

1 Cor 1:30-31 But of Him (God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord!"

Pray: Father! Teach me to look to Christ alone as the means of my transformation; how to look away from all distractions and focus only on Him! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



PONDERING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT! PT 1

Before thinking about the fruit of the Spirit, we must come to the assurance that our abiding in the vine is by our position (In Christ) not by condition! (The law)

We cannot grow the fruit of the Spirit by ourselves or by obedience to the law! Fact is, we are only bearers, not producers of the fruit! As we abide in the vine (Christ) the sap (Holy Spirit) flows from the vine into the branch of our life and produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control which we now bear!

Jn 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit!"

As previously stated, we abide in the vine 24/7 but we don't always bear the fruit! The fruit is produced as we trust and rest in Him! Example:

Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but by prayer let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

By giving our anxieties and prayers to God and trusting them to Him, we come into the place of rest! The fruit of His peace will now naturally flow into our heart & mind! But if we allow our mind to take back those anxieties and focus upon them, we have gone back into the flesh and lose His peace! The answer is to keep giving those anxieties back to God, again and again until we learn to leave them permanently with Him!

Pray: Lord Jesus! Please give me the inner strength & determination to leave my fears and anxieties with You!
Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

PONDERING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT! PT 2

In Jn 15:2,5 Jesus mentions 3 stages of fruit bearing: Fruit—More Fruit—Much Fruit!

Many of us were raised under the law gospel, and saw little fruit of the Spirit in our lives, because the law cannot give life it can only bring death!

2 Cor 3:6 For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life!

Living under law is the polar opposite of grace and so resistant is it to the life of the Spirit that many gave up on bearing fruit and settled for living the religious life! The Law is a dry, barren tree, an infertile husband, yet many insist we must live by it!

Rom 7:5 As long as we lived that old way of life, sin called the shots! The law code hemmed us in, and all we gave birth to was miscarriage and stillbirths! (Message)

God knew that the only way we could bear the fruit of the Spirit was to die to the law (at the cross) and marry a fertile husband (Christ) who could inject us with His life!

Rom 7:4 You also have become dead to the law, that you may be married to another –to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God!

As we live in union with Christ, feeding on His word, fruitbearing becomes natural and effortless, and we experience what Jesus said it would be—full of joy!

Jn 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that your joy may be full!”

The Father is now truly glorified in our lives because the work of producing fruit is all of Him and nothing of us, and we are excited because the thing we desire most (to bear much fruit) is now within our reach!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Jn 15:8
By this My Father is
glorified, that you
bear much fruit!”*



PONDERING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT! PT 3

The glue that holds the grace revelation together, is the gift of righteousness! It is righteousness that is the catalyst for bearing the fruit of the Spirit! (*Rom 5:17*)

Gen 2:9 The tree of life was in the midst of the garden!

In the Garden of Eden God planted the 'tree of life'! This is a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the tree of life and He is also the righteousness of God! (*1 Cor 1:30*)

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life!

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ and it is His righteousness that is the source of this fruit!

Prov 12:12 The root of the righteous yields fruit.

When we received Christ at salvation, we received His righteousness! We became as it were, planted in Him, with our roots going down deep into His righteousness!

Col 2:6-7 As you received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him!

Therefore as we live out of His gift of righteousness, we will not only reign in life but bear the fruit of the Spirit!

What are the benefits of this gift: **a)** Right standing!
b) Unconditional acceptance! **c)** No guilt or condemnation!
d) Unconditional perfect love! **e)** Victory over life!

(Rom 8:30; Eph 1:6; Rom 8:1; 1 Jn 4:17; 1 Cor 15:57. Please meditate these verses)

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 92:12-15
The righteous will flourish like the date palm! Growing in grace they will thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; They will be living memorials to declare that the LORD is upright and there is no unrighteousness in Him!
(AMP)*



PUT YOUR FOCUS ON CHRIST!

God has built into each person a 'soul' comprised of mind, will and emotions! It is pre-programmed to work only one way, like the default setting of a computer:

1) Mind 2) Will 3) Emotions!

This reveals the truth that our thoughts (mind) control our will and emotions; thus thoughts determine speech and actions: **As he 'THINKS' so is he!**

This why Paul tells us to renew our mind (thoughts) to the word of God! (*Rom 12:2*)

Question: Are you a law based 'thinker' or a grace based 'thinker'?

Law Based Thoughts: Focus on self—my weaknesses, my failings, my sins, my mistakes, my bad luck, my poverty, my sickness, my stress—it's a long list!

Grace Based Thoughts: Focus on Christ—His strength, His victory, His riches, His, righteousness, His health, His favour, His provision, His forgiveness!

Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life!

Law based thinking '**always**' produces a '**victim**' personality that blame-shifts, makes excuses, refuses to take responsibility and lives in the flesh!

Grace based thinking '**always**' produces a '**victor**' personality that gives to Christ their blame, excuses, irresponsibility and receives in it's place, His life and Spirit!

Phil 4:8
Whatever things are true,
noble, just, pure, lovely
and of good report

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

There is only one remedy for darkness—Light! The first words God spoke over an earth filled darkness were, “Light! Be!”

Darkness in scripture speaks symbolically of misery, destruction, sin, death, sorrow, ignorance, wickedness and obscurity!

Today our world is moving into deep darkness—but I have good news for you! Paul says, ***“For you were once darkness, but now you ‘are’ light in the Lord!” (Eph 5:18)***

We’re not becoming light—We are light!

1 Thess 5:5 You ‘are’ sons of light!

No matter how much we dislike it, the light only grows brighter as the dark increases —People can only see the light of our lives as deep darkness covers the earth!

Every believer is a lighthouse shining their beacon of light over the darkness of the seas, guiding the ships of people’s lives into the safe harbour of Jesus Christ!

The above is poetic language but is true nonetheless! The Lord Jesus gave the Church a goal and a focus: Go into all the world! ***(Mk 16:15)***

Every day you leave your front door, you are going into all the world—begin to see yourself as light, as the answer, as the light of the gospel of Christ! Just be!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Isa 60:1-3
“Arise, shine; Your light has come! Darkness shall cover the earth, deep darkness the people; But the Lord arise’s over you! His glory will be seen upon you, and the Gentiles shall come to your light!”

2 Cor 4:3-4
If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them!

Grace Waves

Devotional

GRACE ABOUNDS MUCH MORE!

Have you failed, messed up or made a mistake today, or repeated the same sin for the 500th time! If so, God's word to you today is this: "Under no circumstances must you go back under the law!"

To travel the 'law way' is to meet with condemnation, guilt, shame, fear and rejection! Please read Rom [5:20a](#) 5 or 6 times until you are convinced that the 'law way' will only exacerbate your sin; that is why the law was given! ([Rom 3:20; 7:7](#))

Not only so, we also died to the law at the cross, therefore the law no longer has any jurisdiction over our lives! Indeed the only option left for New Covenant believers is the 'grace way' of living!

Please read Rom [5:20b](#) until you are convinced that grace abounds much more than law! Why is this! Because the law can only judge sin, but grace delivers from and swallows up sin!

Grace is God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves, and grace says, I have not only forgiven all your sin, but have removed all your sin and no longer count it against you! I repeat, I no longer count it against you! Capiche!

2 Cor 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them! (Jn 1:29; Col 2:13)

Which gospel will you believe? Man's gospel that tells you to keep short accounts with God—Or God's gospel that says He doesn't keep short accounts with you!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Rom 5:20a
The law entered
that the offense
might abound!

Rom 5:20b
But where sin
abounds, grace
abounds much more!

IN RETURNING AND REST YOU SHALL BE SAVED!

Jesus is using a creation principle to teach His disciples a lesson in trust and rest!

LOOK at the lilies, HOW they grow, they neither:

TOIL: This word means to wear oneself out with work, becoming fatigued, wearied and exhausted?

SPIN: This speaks of making cloth! The lily doesn't try to clothe itself! The lily was created to be at rest and to receive the God given light of the sun!

As a flower it was given the moisture and nutrients of the soil in order to grow!

Jesus said that even Solomon with all the majesty and glory of his kingly robes was not as glorious as a lily!

Are you wearing yourself out chasing money, promotions and degrees to live a lifestyle that's beyond you? Are you trying to make things happen yourself, seeking to manipulate and control your environment!

The way of God's kingdom is the way of the lily! Give your lifestyle to Jesus! Ask Him to make happen, what you can't! Put your trust in Him to be your provider and rest in Him; see what He will do!

Isa 30:15 Thus says the Lord! "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Ps 127:2a
It is vain for you to
rise up early, come home
late, and work so hard
for your food!*

*Ps 127:2b
Yes! He will provide
for those whom He loves,
even while they are sleep!*

*Mt 6:28
Consider the lilies of the
field, how they grow: they
neither toil nor spin!*

GIVE JESUS FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE! PT 1

Giving Jesus '**first place**' is not something you '**have to do**', it has to be something you '**want to do**'! Have to is of the law—Want to is of grace!

Phil 2:13 Not in your own strength, for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you, energising and creating in you the power and desire, both to will and to work for His good pleasure!

Phil 2:13 explains how to become a '**want to**' person:

1) Strength - As we feed on Christ in the scriptures, the Father's strength is released empowering us to live out His word!

2) Will - The Father not only gives us strength but also His will ! We find ourselves naturally and purposely wanting to do the things we previously avoided!

3) Desire - The Father adds to His strength and will, His desire! His desire now becomes in us a desire to please Him in all we do!

His strength, will and desire becomes a 3 fold chord that creates in us a 'want to' attitude of giving Jesus '**first place**' in our life!

Let us not try to make happen what only He can do! Anything other than God changing us from the inside out, is a dead work of the flesh and a waste of time, energy and strength!

If you are still a 'have to' person, why not invite Jesus to change your heart to become a 'want to' person! Only He is capable of changing your heart, giving you fresh desires, and birthing in you a passion to give Him '**first place**'!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Gal 5:1
It is for freedom that
Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and
do not let yourselves be
burdened again by a yoke
of slavery!*

GIVE JESUS FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE! PT 2

The law prevents us from giving Jesus **'first place'** in our lives because it doesn't allow us or give us the freedom to make choices for ourselves!

Paul likens the law to a 'Tutor' in Roman culture! From childhood to adulthood the boys in a Roman household were supervised by one of the servants who was called the Tutor!

The Tutor's main role was to escort the boys from home to school where they received instruction from a Schoolmaster! Because of the evil and temptation in Roman culture, the Tutor kept them on a tight leash! They were told what and what not to do and how they were to behave!

Once the Boys reached the school, the authority of the Tutor finished and they were handed over to the Schoolmaster who gave them instruction and teaching!

Gal 3:24-25 The law was our Tutor to bring us to Christ (schoolmaster), that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a Tutor.

If we are still living under the law (Tutor) today, we are restrained from making our own choices! The law does it for us! You must do this but you can't do that!

Living under such a regime means giving Jesus **'first place'** in our lives is seen as a law not a choice, a burden we cannot carry! But grace, working in us, frees us to make our own choices! This leads us to say, 'I want to' give Jesus **'first place'**!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



IN THE LIGHT!

I'M 'IN' AND I'M NOT COMING OUT! PT 1

Paul tells us two things in Eph 5:8 -

1) We were once darkness (past tense) but now we are (present tense) in the light!

Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and 'conveyed' us into the kingdom of the Son of His love!

To be 'conveyed' is to be transported out of one kingdom into another kingdom!

2) Now you are 'in' the light - walk as children of light! But we know we don't always walk as children of light because we still sin! Does it mean that if we sin, we become unlight and go back into the kingdom of darkness? No! A thousand times No! Comparing these verses shows that once in the light - always in the light!

1 Thess 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness!

Mt 5:14 "You are the light of the world!"

Jn 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall 'not' walk in darkness, but have the light of life!" The word '**not**' is a double negative!

We are in the light because we are in Christ! Therefore we are in the light by our position of being 'in Christ', not by the condition of fulfilling the law (performance)!

2 Cor 4:6 God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Phil 3:3
For we are the
circumcision, who
worship God in the
Spirit, and have no
confidence in the flesh!*

IN THE SPIRIT!

I'M 'IN' AND I'M NOT COMING OUT! PT 2

When a mother gives birth, the baby is born 'into' this world! It is now 'in the world'! Similarly, when we are born 'into' the Spirit realm, we are now 'in the Spirit'!

Jesus reflects this truth in *Jn 3:1-8* and declares: *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit!” (Jn 3:6)* Scripture amplifies this:

Rom 8:9 You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you!

Paul declares in *Eph 5:8* that we live in the light and are to walk in the light!—He also declares we now live in the Spirit and are to walk in the Spirit!

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!

When Jesus said to the woman at the well, that the time had come for people to worship the Father in Spirit and truth, and the Father was seeking such to worship Him!” He wasn't declaring that the Father was looking for those who spent 10hrs a day in worship and lived a Holy lifestyle! (*Jn 4:23-24*)

He was stating that before Him, people could not worship God in the Spirit because they were not born of the Spirit and truth of God's word! But now we are born of the Spirit and word, and live in the Spirit 24/7, and whenever we worship the Father we always worship Him in the Spirit!

Let us not complicate the truth: Once born of the Spirit, we are always in the Spirit!

*Rom 2:29
He is a Jew which
is one inwardly and
circumcision is of the
heart, in the spirit!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

IN HIS PRESENCE!

I'M 'IN' AND I'M NOT COMING OUT! PT 3

There were 3 compartments in the Tab of Moses: The Outer Court, The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place! The Priests were allowed into the first two, but only the High Priest was allowed into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year!

To enter the Most Holy Place unannounced was to invite death by the fire of God's holiness and become burnt toast like Aaron's sons!
(Lev 10:1-2)

As High Priest of a better Covenant, Jesus by His crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection and ascension, changed all this by dealing with and removing the very thing that kept Man apart from God: SIN!
(Jn 1:29; Col 2:13; Heb 8:6)

Heb 9:24 Christ has entered into heaven, to appear in the presence of God for us!

But He didn't get to experience this all by Himself! No! He took us in there with Him!

Eph 2:6 He raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus! (Rom 6:1-11, Col 3:3)

We experienced all He went through on the cross in union with Him, without the pain! We became His finished work—His new creation; and now live in the Father's presence 24/7 for all eternity with Him! *Col 3:3 Hidden with Christ in God!*

We no longer need pray, "Father I come into Your presence by the blood of Jesus", for we have never left His presence! Whether in Church or out of Church, in sin or not in sin, in defeat or victory, we can never, ever come out of His presence again!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



1 Cor 6:17
But She/He who is
joined to the Lord is
one spirit with Him!

IN CHRIST JESUS!

I'M 'IN' AND I'M NOT COMING OUT! PT 4

In Pt's 1-3 of this series, we have seen that we are eternally, in the light, in the Spirit and in His presence and nothing can change that position; and we are all these things because we are 'In Christ'!

This is our unchangeable position in Christ—We are created in Him (*Eph 2:10*) We live in Him! (*Gal 2:20*) We abide in Him! (*Jn 15:5*) We are one with Him! (*1 Cor 6:17*) We are seated with Him! (*Eph 2:6*) We are hidden with Him! (*Col 3:3*) Shall I go on.....!

To be in Christ, is to be everything He is: *As He is, so are we in this world!* (*1Jn 4:17*)

The word 'is' in *1Jn 4:17* is in the present continuous tense, therefore as He is 'now', so are we!

Christ the man is righteous, holy, perfect, healthy, prosperous, victorious, accepted, loved, etc, etc! Therefore, as He is, so am I!

Speak this out with me: "I _____ (insert your name) am righteous, perfect, holy, healthy, prosperous, victorious, accepted and loved, because I am in Christ!"

In the natural we may still be sick and defeated, but as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, all these things will begin to manifest in our lives! (*2 Pet 3:18*)

Friends! This is our inheritance to be enjoyed **now!** We don't have to wait for it till we get to heaven for we are heaven on earth **now!** Christ died to freely give us all things **now!**

Rom 8:32
He who did not spare
His own Son, but
delivered Him up for
us all, how shall He not
with Him also freely
give us all things?

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

WE NO LONGER NEED SEEK FOR THAT WHICH WE ALREADY HAVE!

Mt 6:33
Seek first the kingdom
of God and His
righteousness, and all
these things shall be
added to you.

In this passage, (*Mt 6:33 above*) Jesus is teaching His disciples how to receive the provision of God! It was a promise with a condition, that is, they were still living under the law and it was pre the cross!

But at the cross, a sea change took place! Jesus fulfilled the conditions of the law on our behalf, hence all the promises now belong to you and I without any conditions! (*Mt 5:17*)

2 Cor 1:20 All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and Amen, to the glory of God!

When we interpret this promise through the interpretive key of the cross, we see:

1) Seek First The Kingdom: At salvation we were born (again) into the kingdom of God! We no longer need seek for it—We have it! (*Jn 3:3-8*)

2) Seek His righteousness: At the cross, Jesus took our sin upon Himself exchanging it for His righteousness! We are now the righteousness of God in Christ! (*2 Cor 5:21*)

Paul combines these experiences for the believer when he says: *The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!* (*Rom 14:17*)

So how do we claim this promise as a New Covenant believer! We thank Jesus that the conditional parts of this promise have been fulfilled in our life by Him and trust Him to make good on His promise that He will add to us those things we need and want!

Phil 4:19
My God shall supply
all your need!

Ps 23:1
The Lord is my Shepherd
I shall not want!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

HONESTY WITH GOD QUALIFIES NOT DISQUALIFIES!

One of the reasons why Jesus spoke to Peter in this way was to bring him to a place of honesty for his failure to follow through on his promise to go to death with Jesus!

Peter's honesty brought reality to the situation! He admitted he only phileo (friendship love) loved Jesus not agape (sacrificial love) loved Jesus!

You would think his honesty of failure would disqualify him from any further role in the work of the Church! But once he admitted it, what did Jesus say to him: "Peter! Go feed my sheep! In fact Jesus said it on all 3 occasions! ([Jn 21:15-17](#))

Peter's honesty qualified him to move forward and become the leader of the early New Covenant Church, and play a dominant role in the first 10 Chs of the book of Acts!

Why is this story so important? Because God can only work with the truth! When we cover up, or hide behind the trees like Adam and Eve, we think God can't see us, we think He doesn't know our thoughts—But He knows us better than we know ourselves

In fact, He loves us to be honest and true with Him! But let's be clear, it's not an honesty of confessing our sins in order to be forgiven, for He already forgave our sin on Calvary!

No! It's an honesty of sharing our heart with Him knowing we no longer need fear Him! It's the freedom to speak our mind, to express our emotions (positive or negative)!

Friend: Open your heart to the Father today! Decide once and for all that you will be honest with Him! This is true relationship! This is what the Father desires above all else!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 21:17
"Simon, do you love Me?" Peter said, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You!"
Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep!"

RIGHTEOUSNESS UNDER LAW OR GRACE!

- 1) **Under Law - Righteousness is what we do for God!**
Under Grace - Righteousness is what God has done for us!
- 2) **Under Law - We have to earn righteousness by works!**
Under Grace - We are given the gift of righteousness for free!
- 3) **Under Law - Righteousness is a state of doing!**
Under Grace - Righteousness is a state of being!
- 4) **Under Law - Righteousness is external by works!**
Under Grace - Righteousness is internal by faith!
- 5) **Under Law - Righteousness is active!**
Under Grace - Righteousness is standing!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

*Mark 11:21
Peter said to Jesus, look!
The fig tree You
'blessed' has sprung to
life and is loaded down
with fruit!*

BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE! PT 1

I've taken preacher's license with the verse above! We've become so enamoured with the miraculous authority of Jesus to curse the fig tree, we forget the other side of the coin, which is blessing!

Jesus was much more caught up with blessing than cursing! In the story of the 5 loaves and 2 fish, He 'blessed' the loaves and fish before He broke them! As a result multiplication took place!

Mk 6:41-44 When He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, 'blessed' and broke the loaves! So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

A guesstimate is there were well over 10,000 people there, who ate till they were 'filled' with 12 baskets (Doggie bags) of fragments left over!

Paul tells us in Rom 12:14 'Bless and do not curse'! He knew the power that lay behind the words we speak!

Without anybody teaching us, we've become experts at cursing the life around us!

We're soaked in the language of the world system; but today, God is restoring the revelation of speaking the language of the kingdom through His new creation people! Here's just one sample:

1 Thess 5:18 In (not for) all things give 'thanks' for this is God's will for you in Christ!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Prov 18:21a
Death and life are
in the 'power' of
the tongue!*

*Prov 18:21b
And those who love
it will eat its fruit.*

BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE! PT 2

*Gen 1:28 Then God 'blessed' them, and said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it!"*

Have we yet to realise the authority of the spoken word to produce in people's lives? Prov 18:21 teaches that the 'power' to change things resides in our tongue!

James tells us the bit (tongue) in a horse's mouth turns and directs its whole body, and the rudder (tongue) of a ship turns and directs the whole ship even in a storm!

The first words God spoke over mankind were to bless them with fruitfulness and multiplication! In the Greek, the word 'bless' means to prosper! Hence, when we bless others we are speaking prosperity over their lives!

It's not so much that God has given us the 'power' to bless and curse, it's that it just is! When we open our mouths, it is to bless or curse! It is inherent in our tongue!

Prov 18:21a Death and life are in the 'power' of the tongue!

We are innately created with the power to bless (speak life) or curse (speak death) and today God is challenging us to put it to good use, for ourselves and the world!

The true 'power' to change things lies not in how strong we are or how intellectual we may be, or how rich we've become but in how we speak life or death!

*Prov 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver
(redemptive)! Silver in scripture speaks of redemption! (Eph 4:29)*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE NEW THING WAS 2000 YRS AGO!

In this parable, Jesus contrasts the difference between the Old and New Covenants!

The Old is like a worn out wine skin which has become rigid and brittle through repeated use! It is no longer capable of taking up the expansion of the fermentation process of new wine and would shatter losing both wine and wine Skin!

Whereas a new wine skin is soft and supple and can take up the expansion, thereby preserving both wine skin and wine!

There are those who teach this parable differently, saying, "Are you ready for the new move of God that's coming to the Church! Have you lost your first love! Is there sin in your life!" etc, etc!

"Is this you? If so, God wants to change you into a new wine skin in order to take the new wine!"

Dear friend, do not be moved by such teaching! The new thing of God took place 2000 yrs ago at the cross of Calvary where God laid aside the archaic, rigid and brittle wine skin of the Old Covenant and replaced it with the soft and supple wine skin of the New Covenant and filled it with the new wine of His spirit!

The moment you received Christ you became a new wine skin and received the new wine of His Spirit! Do not let anyone take this away from you! Do not be intimidated by teaching that forces you to look to your performance as a means of acceptance with God! Instead, look to the cross where God made you perfect, righteous and holy in His Son! [\(1 Cor 1:30. Eph 1:6. Heb 10:14\)](#)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Mt 9:17

"They do they put new wine into old wineskins, else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved!"

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH!

He was to build it all from start to finish!

In this portion of scripture, God has called Zerubbabel to lay the foundation of the Temple, to rebuild the Temple and to put in place the top or capstone of the Temple!

When Zerubbabel brought out the capstone to complete the Temple, the people shouted, "Grace to it! Grace to it!"

Zerubbabel is a picture of the Lord Jesus building the spiritual Temple of God, the Church!

He is the foundation stone of the Church! He is the builder of the Church, and lastly He will put in place the capstone, that is He will bring the Church to completion in preparation for His second coming! (*1 Cor 3:11; Mt 16:18; Col 1:18*)

This is significant for believers today when we consider the grace revolution that is sweeping round the global Church like a great tsunami wave!

Why is this? People are desperate to come out of religion, legalism and bondage into the glorious liberty (freedom) of the sons of God! (*Rom 8:29*)

It's my belief that this grace movement is the capstone of Christ's Temple the Church, and is bringing it to completion in preparation for Christ's second coming!

*Zech 4:7-9
Zerubbabel shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of, "Grace, grace to it!" The Lord said: "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it!"*

*Rom 8:19-21
The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Jn 15:4
Abide in Me, and I in
you. The branch cannot
bear fruit of itself unless
it abides in the vine.
Neither can you, unless
you abide in me!*

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT 1

It is easy to read [Jn 15:4](#) with a law mindset that says in order to abide in the vine Christ Jesus, I have to live a holy and righteous life. If I don't, I won't bear fruit and worse still, I may be cut off as a fruitless branch and lose my salvation!

My friend, we are saved by grace and kept by grace! Our salvation is not dependant on our performance! A Bible concordance study of the word 'abide' in the New Covenant confirms this truth! The best interpreter of scripture is scripture itself:

1 Jn 4:15 If we confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God!

1 Jn 4:13 We know we abide in Him, and He in us, because He's given us of His Spirit!

Jn 8:35 A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

Another way of describing this is to say, Christ is in us ([Col 1:27](#)), and we are in Christ ([1 Cor 1:30](#)).

A computer has a default setting, that is, whenever it's turned on, it always boots up and opens with the same page every time because it is set to do so!

Whenever we're tempted to doubt our eternal relationship with God, we must return to the default setting of the word of God which always tells us that we are abiding in Christ and Christ is abiding in us; and our abiding is by position not performance!

Jn 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Our faith must rest in the secure knowledge and revelation of the word of God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT 2

Jn15:2,3 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

This verse has brought fear into the lives of countless believers because of bad translation. The problem begins with the Greek word, 'airo', which is translated "taketh away". Its usual meaning is "to raise, to lift up"; "to take away" is a secondary meaning. If a branch is "in Jesus", He will not "take it away" if it does not bear fruit! The context is the same passage where Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you," and "Let not your heart be troubled."

Jesus does not treat His own that He died for like that-- if you are in Him, you are safe in Him. Anyone who knows grapes will tell you that a branch will not bear fruit if it falls into the dirt— it must be raised, lifted back up onto the trellis, not removed!

Unfortunately, the NASB and the NKJV repeat this error, and then compound it by choosing the harshest possible meaning for the next phrase: Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it.

Bruce Wilkinson: Secrets of the vine.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 15:2
“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He lifts up from where it has fallen; and every branch that bears fruit He cleanses, that it may bear more fruit.”*

*Jn 15:3
“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”*

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT 3

Jn Ch 15 can only be understood properly by unravelling the first 3 verses! In times past they have been heavily interpreted as law verses! As you can see from V2 above, if a branch is not bearing fruit it is cut off, and thrown into the fire V6! (heavy stuff)

The alternate translation to the words 'takes away' are the words 'lifts up'! A vine tree is grown against a trellis and it's branches tied to the trellis to support them! But branches can fall off onto the floor get covered in dirt, and the sun and oxygen fail to reach them!

A vinedresser will tell you that a branch not bearing fruit is never cut away! Instead, it is tenderly picked up, washed clean with a sponge and water and tied back to the trellis! The sun and oxygen can now reach them and they 'naturally' bear fruit again!

Many believers live face down in the dirt of this world because of the prevalence of law teaching! They are not bearing fruit! But praise the Lord! The grace revelation sweeping the global Church today enables our Father, the heavenly vinedresser to pick them up, wash them with the water of His word and tie them to the trellis of the Local Church!

They are once again naturally bearing fruit to God's glory! Fruit, more fruit and much fruit!

Jn 15:8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit!

Friends! The law gospel introduces insecurity to our salvation because we can't live upto it's standards! The grace gospel is the polar opposite and speaks eternal security! The Father does not cut away, that's law! He lifts up and restores! That's grace!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Jn 15:2
*“Every branch in Me
that does not bear fruit
He lifts up from where
it has fallen!*

Jn15:2
*Every branch in Me that
does not bear fruit He
takes away!*



ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT 4

Let us take away the fear of losing our salvation! If we are 'in Christ', we are a living branch, not by our performance but by our position of being, **'IN CHRIST'**

Therefore a 'living branch' is never in danger of hell fire! Only dead branches are thrown into the fire! **(I refer you to Pt 1 of this series and the truth of abiding!)**

Jn 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned!

Also living branches are "not pruned" -- the plant would go into shock and be unable to bear. The word 'prune' is the same root word for 'clean' that is found in v3!

Jn 15:3 You are already 'clean' because of the word which I have spoken to you!

The vinedresser does not prune fruitful branches he cleanses them with water and a sponge, that they may become more fruitful! Hence Jesus says:

Jn 15:2 Every branch that bears fruit He cleanses, that it may bear more fruit!

It is the washing by water (revelation) of the word that enables us to bear more fruit of the Spirit! In fact, we need the washing with water by the word to cleanse away the law teaching of *Jn 15:1-3* that has so confused and made fearful, many believers!

As we feed on the grace revelation we will find ourselves effortlessly bearing the fruit that brings glory to God!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 15:2,3
"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He lifts up from where it has fallen; and every branch that bears fruit He cleanses, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*

*(A Translation by
Bruce Wilkinson:
Recommended reading
'Secrets of The Vine')*

Rom 7:4a
You have become dead to the law that you may be married to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

ABIDING BY DEFAULT PT 5

In living the Christian life, Jesus has one aim for every believer: fruit (v2), more fruit (v2) and much fruit! (v5)

Jn 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear ‘much’ fruit!

The branches of a vine cannot **produce** fruit, they can only **bear** (carry) fruit. In fact the wood of the vine cannot be used for any other purpose except as firewood. Their only purpose is to bear fruit!

Jn 15:16 I appointed you and chose you to ‘bear’ fruit

The fruit is **produced** by the sap (inner life) that flows from the trunk through to the end of the branches. Hence, for believers, we cannot **produce** fruit by our own works! It has to be the flow of the Spirit from our inner life in Christ!

Jn 15:4 A branch can’t produce fruit by itself.

When we came to Christ, the 9 fold fruit of the Spirit was deposited in our new spirit man! As we live out of Christ, the sap of the Holy Spirit will flow to those areas of need and BOOM! Fruit will grow!

The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Christ flowing from within to change us without! Only grace can produce the quality and abundance of fruit that brings glory to God!

Mr Law as a husband cannot produce fruit because he is infertile! He can only judge and condemn sin, not bring life! This is why we had to die to the law at the cross that we might be married to Mr Grace (Christ)! He produces an abundance of life in and through us!

Jn 15:5
“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit!”

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Prov 19:12
The king's wrath
is like the roaring
of a lion!*

*Prov 19:12b
But his favor is like
dew on the grass!*

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH!

1 Pet 5:8 The devil walks about 'like' a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour!

1 Pet 5:8 says, '**like**' a roaring lion! That makes satan a counterfeit lion! It means he's not the real deal, he is only '**like**' the real deal! Therefore, he has no:

1) Bite! He can only make the noise (roar) of a lion but cannot bite like a lion! He was de-fanged by Christ on Calvary! he's the one singing the song, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth!"

2) Power! The lion is king in the animal kingdom! When he roars it strikes fear in their hearts! They know he's awake and on the prowl; Because satan has no power over you, he uses the roar of a lion to strike fear into your heart! He likes to make a noise because that's all he can do!

Jesus is the 'Lion of The Tribe of Judah'! He is the authentic lion! All power and authority belong to Him! *Mt 28:18;Rev 5:5*

The Father exhausted all His wrath upon His Son at Calvary; Under the New Covenant, Jesus can only ever roar out the Father's love and goodness! In fact, the Father's love has been perfected in us through Christ, and is a love that casts out all fear!

1 Jn 4:17-19 Love has been perfected among us! There is no fear in love, but perfect love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror!

Pray: Father! Give me a revelation of Your perfect love for me; The love that expels all fear out of my life! Thank You that nothing can ever separate me from Your love!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

LEARNING TO PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD!

The righteousness of the law - Does! The righteousness of faith - Speaks!

Rom 10:5-6 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

2 Cor 4:13 Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak!

Mk 11:22-23 Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

JESUS MY STRONG TOWER! PT 1

In Biblical times, a high tower was built on top of the corner of the city walls as a defense against enemy attacks and a place of refuge; If the enemy broke through the walls, the people ran to the top of the tower! A place that was inaccessible and safe!

The verse above says, 'The name of the Lord is a strong tower'! His name is far above all other names: *Eph 1:20-21 He seated Him far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named!*

As believers, we have been baptised into the 'name' of Jesus! We are in Him and He is in us, and we are seated with Him, far above all other names; That makes His name inaccessible, and if He is inaccessible, it makes every believer inaccessible!

As we rest in Him, nothing can touch us, no pressure, no trial, no sin, no failure, no demon, nothing! Non of those things can reach high enough to pull us down, to steal our peace or crush our hope!

Col 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

You and I have been born from above! We have been created to live in the heavenly places! It is where we breathe the oxygen of the kingdom, the life of Jesus!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



JESUS MY STRONG TOWER! PT 2

In Pt 1 we saw that the 'name' of the Lord is Christ Himself! He is our strong high tower, and we are seated with Him in the heavens in the 'safe' place! Safe means 'inaccessible' in Hebrew! A place high and far above all other names, where no other name can reach!

Under the New Covenant, we no longer need 'run' to Christ because we live in Him and He lives in us 24/7! Let's settle it once and for all that there can never be any distance between us and Jesus!

You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God! (Col 3:3)

The word 'run' in Hebrew, simply means to 'trust' in a person or thing, so although we are in Christ, we must activate our trust in Him to receive the benefits of being in a strong tower; the benefits of peace, safety, protection and rest!

So often in a crisis or time of pressure, we beg and plead with the Lord for His help, whilst at the same time we are consumed by fear, worry and anxiety! Is this how Jesus would bid us live? No! A thousand times No! He gives us the answer in one word: **TRUST!**

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Trust leads to rest and rest leads to peace! This is the divine instruction for every circumstance, pressure, difficulty, confusion, impossibility and obstacle—**TRUST!**

Pray: Lord Jesus! Teach me and reveal to me through Your word, how to trust in You! How to look away from every distraction and keep my eyes rigidly focused on You alone! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: RIGHT STANDING! PT1

In scripture, the words 'Righteous' and 'Justified' mean virtually the same thing! The difference is that righteousness is a noun! A noun is a person, place or thing!

Righteousness is therefore a 'thing'!

The word justified is a verb which is a doing or action word and means to be 'made righteous'! Therefore believers are justified, that is, they have been made righteous by the 'gift of righteousness' given to us at salvation!

Rom 5:17 Those who receive the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ!

To be justified also means to be given 'right standing' before God, that is, we are 100% righteous so we can stand before Him knowing we will be accepted by Him!

Rom 8:30 Having chosen them, He gave them 'right standing' with Himself!

When we know we have right standing before God, it gives us a boldness in approaching Him, in fact it is God who says to us: ***"Come 'boldly' to the throne of grace!" (Heb 4:16)***

The gift of righteousness has built into it the knowledge that:
a) All our sins have been forgiven and removed! **b)** We are righteous apart from our works! **c)** We are perfect in the eyes of God!

Dear friend, we can go through the whole of our Christian life without knowing we have been given the gift of righteousness! If that is you, I challenge you today to seek God through prayer and meditation in His word until you receive this indispensable revelation!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: THE GREAT EXCHANGE PT2

For 27 of my 40 yrs a Christian, I did not know about the 'gift of righteousness' until 13 yrs ago I turned on Daystar TV and watched Joseph Prince preach grace!

I quickly came into a revelation of grace and realised why the gift of righteousness was so important—It is the glue that holds grace together!

It is very simple! On the cross, Jesus '**exchanged**' His righteousness for my sin! The Father took my sin nature and placed it on His Son, He took the Son's righteous nature and placed it on me; so now, I don't just have righteousness, I am righteousness!

*1 Cor 1:30 You are in Christ Jesus, who became for us
righteousness from God!*

I am not covered over by a robe of righteousness! That is Old Covenant! No! A Thousand Times No! I am now innately righteous, created 100% righteous in Christ Jesus!

*Rom 5:19 By one Man's (Christ) obedience the many will be
constituted righteous (made acceptable to God, brought into right
standing with Him). (AMP)*

Christ's righteousness in me is not contingent on my obedience but His obedience! Therefore if I sin, fail, make mistakes or mess up, I am still 100% righteous and therefore 100% acceptable to the Father who only ever sees me as perfect in Christ!

Example: I become bitter and unforgiving, but knowing I am still righteous in Christ and acceptable to the Father, I run to, not away from Him, that I may receive His mercy & help!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*2 Cor 5:21
For He made Him who
knew no sin to be sin for
us, that we might become
the righteousness of
God in Him.*

*Heb 4:16
Therefore, come boldly to
the throne of grace, that
you may obtain mercy
and find grace to help in
time of need.*

*Grace Waves
Devotional*

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: NO CONDEMNATION **PT3**

We have established in Pt's 1 & 2 that those who are in Christ are the righteousness of God! Let us look at the benefits of being righteous—The first of which is:

No Condemnation: In Christ we died to the law: *My fellow believers, you died to the Law through the body of Christ! (Rom 7:4)*

Let's be logical about this—If there is no law, there is no judgement! If there is no judgement, there is no condemnation! If there is no condemnation, there is no guilt!

Believers are no longer under the jurisdiction of the law, therefore if we sin, we cannot break the law, and if we cannot break the law, we cannot be condemned!

Rom 5:13 Sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law!

If we do not have a revelation that we died to the law, when we sin or fail, satan will always use our ignorance against us and condemn us on the basis of the broken law!

Rev 12:10 The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

The early believers, armed with the knowledge that they had died to the law: *Overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev 12:11)*

They knew Christ's blood had washed away all their sin, and had the testimony of the word, that they had died to the law! My friend, when you know you have died to the law you will be an overcomer and throw off the condemnation of satan every time!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Eph 1:6
To the praise of the glory
of His grace, by which He
made us accepted
in the Beloved.*

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: ACCEPTANCE PT4

To be righteous is to be 100% perfect! Anything less is unacceptable to God! So let's celebrate the Good News that 'in Christ' we are 100% perfect and righteous!

Many struggle with this! They **'want'** to look inward and see themselves as unworthy, ashamed or sinful! My friend, if this is you, spend quality time meditating on the verse above! Until you see that there is nothing you could ever do to make yourself acceptable!

Only the Father can make you acceptable, and did so when He made you righteous in Christ Jesus! I'll repeat again, He made you righteous in Christ Jesus!

The Father wants you to change places with yourself! He wants you to stand where He stands and look at yourself from His position and see you as He sees you—perfect, complete, beautiful and without sin!

When we realise we are righteous apart from works, it opens our eyes to see we are accepted at all times! We're accepted when we're up and accepted when we're down!

We're accepted in victory and accepted in defeat, we're accepted in sin and accepted without sin! We are accepted, accepted, accepted! We're accepted! Capische!

To be able to run to Him when I am struggling to forgive, have sinned the same sin for the 100th time or am bumping along on the bottom of the barrel of hopelessness, is such a freeing beautiful thing!

It is only when the **'fear of God'** is removed that we can be truly intimate with the father!

*2 Cor 6:2
Behold, now is the
'accepted' time; behold,
now is the day of
salvation.*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE PT5

In Pt 3 we saw that we are always accepted by the Father, because our acceptance isn't based on our works but on who we are - righteous in Christ Jesus!

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When we know we are accepted in Christ we're now positioned to receive the Father's unconditional love! It is unconditional because there are no strings attached! Under the law, man had to fulfill the condition of loving God first before God would love him!

Deut 6:5 You 'shall' love the Lord your God with all your heart!

If man failed to reach the standard of loving God, punishment would follow! Hence it was a love rooted in fear! However, at the cross, God flipped the order around and promised to love man with all His heart!

1 Jn 4:10 This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Today, the Father is saying, "Come to me just as you are and let me love you! You no longer need to fear falling short in your love for me, for I have perfected my love in you!"

"Stop trying to love me and let me love you! Let my love sink into the depths of your being and bring healing to your wounds and break the bondages that have held you back!"

Gal 2:20 The life which I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*1 Jn 4:18-19
There is no fear in love;
but perfect love casts
out fear, because fear
involves torment. But he
who fears has not been
made perfect in love. We
love Him because He
first loved us.*

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS PT6

Forgiveness before the cross Forgiveness after the cross

When Jesus walked the earth, He was a Jew preaching to Jewish people! To some He spoke law, to others He spoke grace! We know when He spoke law because a condition was attached! That's what the law is - conditional!

Mt 6:14-15 "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses!"

This has become the most destructive verse of the Bible and has wreaked havoc in thousand's of believers lives as they have struggled to fulfill the conditions!

THIS WAS FORGIVENESS BEFORE THE CROSS!

At the cross Jesus 'FORGAVE AND REMOVED **ALL** OUR SINS' and replaced the law with grace! Now after the cross, He says, "Because I've forgiven you, you can forgive others!"

Col 2:13 God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our sins!

Jn 1:29 "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Eph 4:32 Forgive one another, even as God in Christ forgave you!

Can you see the absence of conditions for forgiveness under the New Covenant! Knowing we are 'unconditionally' forgiven releases His grace to empower us to forgive, and throw off condemnation and guilt as we work through the process of forgiveness!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Gen 3:19
“In the sweat
of your face you shall
eat bread!”

Heb 4:16
Let us therefore come
boldly to the throne of
grace, that we may obtain
mercy and find grace to
help in time of need!

DON'T SWEAT IT! PT1

Sweat in the scriptures, speaks of one thing above all else,
'self effort'! Self effort is not very far from 'self help'! Both of these
are means of fixing our own life without God!

Adam fell into the sweat stained life after his fall and expulsion
from the garden! He went from trusting God as His all-in-all to
relying on his own ability and strength to make his way.

Sweat is the outworking of the sin nature in a person's life!

The Priests in the Tab of Moses had to wear garments of fine white
linen which kept them cool and prevented them sweating, because
He would not allow anything connected with the sin nature to
function in His presence!

*Ez 44:18 They shall have linen turbans on their heads and linen
trousers on their bodies; they shall not clothe themselves with
anything that causes sweat.*

The gift of righteousness that God gives us in Christ is a faith/
righteousness as opposed to the works/righteousness of the law!
The difference is that we are not righteous because we wear a robe,
we are righteous by nature! We are a new man in Christ Jesus!

As believers we are called not to look within and summon up the
self help resources of our own strength, peace, love and joy! These
are all a sweat stained life without God!

Sweat is of the old creation and was nailed to the cross with Christ!
Rather, the gift of righteousness gives us right standing with God
and boldly calls us to look to Him for His help, strength, rest, peace
and joy etc!

Accept No Substitute But Christ!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 23:2a
He makes me lie down in
green pastures!*

*Ps 23:2b
He leads me beside the
still waters!*

DON'T SWEAT IT! PT2

Question: Why is a revelation of 'rest in Christ' so important when it comes to the truth of 'Don't Sweat it'?

Answer: Scientists use the modern word 'stress' to define negative emotions such as worry, fear, hopelessness, rejection and shame etc! The moment these emotions kick in, our body begins to sweat!

Sweat is a reaction to a negative emotion and is a sign that 'we are trying' to do something about our circumstances!

This reaction is mirrored in the Spirit realm! E.g.: When negative circumstances come, if we trust the outcome to Jesus, we are able to rest in Him! But the moment we allow fear to kick in, we have come out of rest and into sweat. Sweat is the flesh life!

The flesh is the old thought patterns and habits of the mind left over from our old sin nature! This is why Paul tells us to renew our mind to the word of God! (*Rom 12:2*)

We tend to think that 'rest' is only for the crises moments in our lives, but it goes much, much deeper!

As the revelation of rest takes hold within us, we realise even the smallest actions can be driven by frustration, pressure to perform and our own attention seeking! As we eliminate these, a deep seated peace takes over and produces a quality of life unknown before!

Prov 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NO MORE REMEMBRANCE!

The Father removed all my sin in Christ at the cross so it could not be brought back to remembrance again, not just for my benefit but His as well!

If He could remember just one of our sins that would be sufficient to bring His judgement upon us! But the scripture says He remembers not one of our sins anymore!

In fact, He gives us a cast iron guarantee He will remember our sin no more by making the word 'NO' into a double negative in the Greek! A double negative strengthens the denial of the word 'NO'!

We could read it thus: ***Their sins I will remember never, no never more!***

Believers who struggle to receive God's forgiveness, do so because although God remembers their sin no more, they apparently are determined to remember them!

They have been raised as a Christian on the mantra of: ***'We must keep short accounts with God!'*** This necessitates having to confess every sin and ask God's forgiveness!

But what does God's word say: ***2 Cor 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them! (NLT)***

Dear friend! The Father has made it clear in scripture that He removed all your sin, past present and future, so He wouldn't have to remember it; and because He doesn't remember it, He no longer has to count it against you! Let these truths wash over you!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Hebrews 10:16-17
"This is the covenant that I will make with them says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them!" Then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember 'no' more."

THE WHOLE BURNT OFFERING! (MAKE THE EXCHANGE) PT1

Of the 5 major animals sacrifices offered in the Tabernacle of Moses, only the 'Burnt Offering' was completely and wholly burnt on the alter!

The words 'burnt offering' in Hebrew is 'Holocaust' and means the whole burnt offering was to go up in smoke as a sweet smelling fragrance to the Lord! (*Ex 29:18*)

The alter of sacrifice is also first and foremost called, 'The Alter of Burnt Offering', showing how it was to be the dominant sacrifice! (*Ex 30:28*)

All the above details speak of a person offering total dedication to the Lord of every aspect of their lives and all of it is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ! He totally gave everything of Himself as a 'burnt offering' to be a sweet smelling fragrance to the Father!

Eph 5:1-2 Christ has given Himself for us, an offering to God for a sweet-smelling aroma (fragrance)! (Heb 10:5)

Salvation is for the whole man, and Christ gave Himself that we might exchange every part of ourselves for every part of Him!

He exchanged: His righteousness for our sin! (*2 Cor 5:21*) His riches for our poverty! (*2 Cor 8:9*) His health for our sickness! (*Isa 53:5*) His grace for our disgrace! (shame) (*1 Pet 2:6*) His life for our death! (*Rom 8:2*).

Pray: Father! Today, I come before Your Son to exchange any or all of my lack and receive His fullness! Thank You Father for Your free gift of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Gen 8:21
The Lord smelled
a soothing aroma!

THE WHOLE BURNT OFFERING! (MAKE THE EXCHANGE) PT2

S of S 4:11
The fragrance of your
garments is like the
fragrance of Lebanon.

We saw in Pt 1 that the 'burnt offering' speaks of total dedication to God of every aspect of life, and that Christ became that offering for you and I!

In similar fashion we are called to offer ourselves as living sacrifices by allowing Christ's life to be lived out through us!

Rom 12:1-2 Friends, present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy & acceptable to God, and be transformed (inwardly changed) by the renewing of your mind!

This is the life of grace! From a place of **'being'** in Christ—we are empowered to **'do'** Christ! The more grace takes hold of our lives, the more we **'do'** Christ!

Hence, the life of Christ flowing out from us, releases the same fragrance of His sacrifice!

2 Cor 2:14-16 Thanks be to God, who always leads in triumph and uses us to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved, an aroma that brings life!

Friend! If we have a revelation of grace, wherever we go, we are like one of those room air fresheners! We naturally release the fragrance of Christ! It's a fragrance of life, love, hope, rest, joy and peace!

'**What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love**', is a great song, but a better song is, '**What The World Needs Now Is Christ**!' See yourself as a carrier of His fragrance where ever you go! You are changing the atmosphere from one of death to life!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Meditate and feed on these verses:

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a 'NEW CREATION'; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, 'CREATED' in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them!

Eph 4:24 Put on the 'NEW MAN' which was 'CREATED' according to God, in true 'RIGHTEOUSNESS' and 'HOLINESS'!

Christ is the new man we have put on! Adam is the old man we have put off! We are no longer a sinner in the line of Adam, but righteous in the line of Christ! (*Rom 13:14. Gal 3:27. 1 Cor 15:22*)

We are now righteous and holy in Christ, for the Father created us in Christ Jesus in 'true' righteousness and holiness!

When Jesus uses the word 'true', He negates all other things that came before it! He is the 'true' light, testimony, bread, witness, vine!

So today we 'are' the true righteousness and holiness of Jesus, thus negating Old Covenant righteousness and holiness!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Eph 2:6a
He raised us up together,
and made us sit together!*

*Eph 2:6b
In the heavenly
places in Christ Jesus!*

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED!

As believers, we are co-seated together with Christ in the heavenly places! We are resting in the 'finished work of Christ'!

We are called as Kings, and seated on the throne, we rule and reign from a place of rest!

That's what Kings do—reign from a sitting position on the throne! If a King wants his evening meal, he doesn't get up and make it himself, he has servants who do that for him!

So, as Kings, if we allow worry, fear, anger, resentment, unforgiveness etc, to enter our lives, we have stood up and left our throne! We have become unseated, lost our rest and are no longer ruling and reigning over life's circumstances!

Ours is an inner rest! Therefore when we 'worry', it means we are trying to do something about our circumstances! We have stood up instead of being sat down! We have stopped resting and are now working!

Ps 110:1 The Lord (Father) said to my Lord (Son), "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

In the same way the Father defeated all His Son's enemies, while the Son remained seated at rest on His throne, so the Father will do for us as we remain seated and at rest in Christ upon the throne!

**When we work - The Father rests!
When we rest - The Father works!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*Ps 16:8a
I have set the Lord
always before me*

*Ps 16:8b
Because He is at my
right hand I shall not
be moved.*

HOLDING FAST THE FAITHFUL WORD!

When all around is confusion, uncertainty, doubt, unbelief, fear, worry or chaos - There is only one thing that will keep us secure, strong, in hope, in peace and at rest - The 'faithful word of God'!

Jesus who is the word of God, is our anchor in the storm! (Rev 19:13)

- 1) Confessing God's word out loud releases the latent power within it! *(Ps 91:2)*
- 2) Confessing God's word, releases faith from our spirit man to believe it! *(Rom 10:17)*
- 3) Confessing God's word keeps us believing in the truth, enabling us to throw off the lies and deception of satan! *(Jn 17:17)*
- 4) Confessing God's word gives us guidance to move forward! *(Ps 119:105)*
- 5) Confessing God's word releases Him to fulfill His word in our lives! *(Ps 119:170)*

Heb 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul!

Confessing God's word empowers us to keep our mind fixed on Christ, so no matter the wind, waves or noise of the storm, we are kept secure and stable!

The scientists tell us that there is a place in the middle of a cyclone, about 30 miles in diameter, where all is calm and at rest! It is called, '**The Eye of The Storm**'!

God has given us this picture to show us that in Christ, no matter the storm surrounding us, we can be calm, in perfect peace, and at rest in Him!

*Col 3:3
Your life is hidden
with Christ in God!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

GRACE IS A PERSON—HIS NAME IS JESUS!

Meditate (think+mutter) on these words: Gracious, acceptance, benefit, favour, gift, joy, liberality (generous), pleasure, thanksgiving, worthy, delight, sweetness, loveliness etc!

These are all words we have heard before, but what makes them special to every believer is that they all flow from one word 'Grace'! As Joseph Prince is fond of saying, "Grace is a person, and His name is Jesus"; and that same Jesus lives inside us, and all His traits of grace are to flow in us and out through us!

But you may say, "I've been a Christian for 20yrs and I don't see much evidence of those traits in my life! How can I get them to flow!

Please answer this question—What or whom are you feeding on! What makes up your spiritual diet! What we feed on determines who we will become!

To flow in grace, we have to feed on grace, and the best grace food is found in the letters of Paul, the apostle of grace! To him was given the revelation of grace for the Church!

It is as simple as this! If we will feed (memorise, meditate, confess) on the scriptures of who we are in Christ, grace will begin to flow in our lives! Jesus Himself will change our hearts from the inside out, causing us to live a victorious, successful, restful Christian life!

What is incredible today are the number of believers who reject this teaching of grace because they have settled for the status quo and religion! If that is you, I implore you to look again at the Jesus you follow and see if the life you live measures upto the life of Jesus you see in the scriptures! Honesty sets us free!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Gal 3:3a
Are you so foolish?
Having begun in
the Spirit!

Gal 3:3b
Are you now being
made perfect by the flesh?

Heb 13:9
It is good that the heart
be established by grace!

Grace Waves

Devotional

REPENTANCE

In our relationship with God, we've made repentance a negative thing! We sin and people say, "You'd better repent for that!" meaning if we don't, God will be angry and punish us!

We've also made repentance a forgiveness issue: "Repent! Confess your sin and ask God to forgive you!" No! Repentance isn't a forgiveness issue, it's a change your mind issue!

To repent means a change of mind!

So, if repentance is a 'change of mind'! How does it take place? Repentance in our relationship with God, can only take place through the revelation of God's word!

We are talking about a change of mind we cannot make for ourselves! Only God can do it, through His revelation! This is grace! God doing for man what he cannot do for himself!

In fact, we cannot choose to repent—repentance is a gift from God!

Acts 11:18 "God has also granted (bestow a gift) to the Gentiles repentance to life!"

Acts 5:31 To give (bestow a gift) repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Repentance is the goodness of God to man in giving him the gift of repentance!

Rom 2:4 The goodness (not the judgement) of God leads us to repentance!

Repentance is not negative, not a thing to be fearful of or pull away from—Repentance is a positive, beautiful thing that we should run towards and embrace with joy!

Greek: Repentance—Metanoia—A change of mind!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



HE SAT DOWN - THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST!

When Jesus ascended to heaven and sat down on His throne, He wasn't only sitting as King—He was also sitting as Priest!

The High Priest of the O.C. had to 'stand' continually to offer up animal sacrifices to God!

Their work was never 'finished' because animal blood could only cover sin—not take it away! **'THERE WAS NO CHAIR IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES'**!

Heb 10:11 Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

But when Jesus came as High Priest, He offered up Himself on the cross as a 'once for all' sacrifice for sin, past, present and future! His one sacrifice brought to an end and abolished the whole of the O.C. sacrificial system!

Heb 10:12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God! To 'sit down' means to rest—Forgiveness is now a 'finished work'!

It means that Jesus is not handing out any more forgiveness, therefore, we no longer need come to Him to confess our sin and ask for His forgiveness (that is now a '**dead work**'!) No! we simply receive what He has already done and thank Him for it!

We may say, "I know I'm forgiven for all my sin, but it helps me to still confess my sin!" To utter such words means we are not living in the fullness of the revelation of forgiveness!

Why not take a step of faith in the revealed word of God and say, "From today, I will no longer confess and ask for forgiveness everytime I sin! Instead, I will receive Christ's forgiveness, arise and move forward!" Friends! This is the true freedom!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



Rom 12:2a
Do not be conformed
to this world!

Rom 12:2b
Be transformed by
the renewing of
your mind!

WHY WE NEED THE REVELATION OF GOD'S WORD!

When we read the Bible we accumulate what's called head knowledge! Head knowledge will not transform our life, but is still a vital part of the change process!

Head knowledge becomes the seeds of God's word which are planted in our spirit when we read the Bible!

The Holy Spirit waters these seeds until the day when the life in the seed breaks out of its hard outer shell and comes forth as revelation knowledge; This knowledge leaves our spirit, rises up into our mind and changes and renews our thinking!

God also releases faith to enable us to live it out this word! Hence—our life is transformed! Meditate on this verse: ***Rom 10:17 Faith comes by the (revelatory) word of God.***

It is revelation knowledge lived out that creates passion, hope, joy and strength in following Jesus! This is the knowledge Jesus meant when He said, ***"I am the bread (word) of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger!" (Jn 6:35)***

Revelation knowledge feeds our inner man, keeping our relationship with Jesus, fresh and alive! Without it we overtime lose our passion and motivation! Christianity becomes boring and we slip into the 'status quo' and become religious!

Pray: Father! Create in me a desire for your living word! Teach me how to meditate in Your word and receive a continuous flow of the revelation knowledge of Jesus, who is the word of God! (Rev 19:13) Thank You Lord!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

THE SECRET PLACE

(Think spiritual) Imagine yourself safely tucked up in the hand of Jesus! You are completely enclosed in His hand!

The Father now comes and wraps His hand around the hand of Jesus! Jesus is now fully enclosed in the Father's hand and you are fully enclosed in Jesus' hand!

This is the meaning of Col 3:3 Your life is hidden — with Christ — in God!

Let's put it another way! You are a letter that is placed inside an envelope and sealed! You are now fully enclosed within the envelope!

That envelope is picked up and placed inside a bigger envelope and sealed!. The first envelope is fully enclosed in the second envelope!.

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise!

Col 3:3 Your life is hidden — with Christ — in God!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Col 3:3
Your life is hidden with
Christ in God.*

*Jn 10:28-30
I give them eternal life,
and they shall never
perish; neither shall
anyone snatch them out
of My hand. My Father,
who has given them to
Me, is greater than
all; and no one is able to
snatch them out of My
Father's hand. I and My
Father are one."*

NEW COVENANT OBEDIENCE IS ONE OF FAITH NOT WORKS! PT 1

Under the New Covenant, we are called to obey parents, bosses, government etc.

This is an obedience of behaviour, action and works! But when it comes to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, our obedience is one of faith not works!

Rom 1:17 For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Our 'faith' is in the obedience of Jesus, not in the obedience of ourselves! He was obedient to fulfill every jot and title of the law on our behalf!

So now, we don't live by what we do but by what we believe! We are made righteous by what we believe! It is a faith righteousness, not a works righteousness!

Rom 3:21-22 The righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe.

Everything we receive from God under the New Covenant, we receive by faith, faith in His word; this includes righteousness!

Rom 10:8,10 The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach). For with the heart one believes unto righteousness.

Confession: Thank You Father that my obedience to You as a New Covenant believer, is always an obedience of faith in Your word! It is faith in Your word that establishes Me in Your righteousness!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



NEW COVENANT OBEDIENCE IS ONE OF FAITH NOT WORKS! PT 2

In Pt 1 we saw that New Covenant righteousness is by faith (not works) in Jesus Christ, who is Himself the 'word of God!' (*Rev 19:13*)

Isa 42:1,6 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, I have called 'You' in 'righteousness', and I will give 'You as a covenant' to the people and a light to the Gentiles!"

The Father made the New Covenant exclusively with Jesus! Why! Because sinful man was incapable of keeping a covenant, and would break it!

Here we see the beauty of God's wisdom in restoring man's lost relationship to a place where it could never be broken again!

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into the one body of Jesus Christ!

At salvation the Holy Spirit baptised us into the spiritual body of Jesus Christ! We now become partakers of everything Jesus is! (*1Jn 4:17*)

Because He is righteous, we become righteous! But it's His righteousness, not ours! So if we sin, fail or mess up we cannot break the covenant because it doesn't rely on our obedience, it relies on Christ's obedience! (*Rom 5:19*)

Friend, the next time you sin, simply receive His forgiveness, confess not your sin, but your righteousness in Christ, pick yourself up and move on! Capiche!

Prov 24:16 For a 'righteous' person may fall seven times and rise again!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



THE SERVANT 'HAS TO' - THE SON 'WANTS TO'!

Under the O.C. Moses was faithful to build God's house (Tabernacle)! But the law had made him a servant. He built God's house because he **'had to'**! The Law demanded it!

A servant had no say in how the house had to be built or in its maintenance! They were told what to do by the Master!

Heb 3:5 Moses was faithful in His house as a servant

Under the N.C. Jesus was also faithful to build God's house (the Church), not as a servant, but as a Son; He still served, but as a Son, not a servant! As a Son, the house was His inheritance, and He served because He **'wanted to'**, not because He had to! (Ps 2:8)

Moses was faithful in His house as a servant, but Christ as a Son was faithful over His own house! (Heb 3:5-6)

Today many N.C. believers serve God with an O.C. mindset, and are chafing beneath a yoke of law that says they **'have to'** serve! They are serving under duress and it breeds rebellion, bondage and apathy which produces shoddy and unfaithful service!

A revelation of grace shows us that we are sons not slaves and creates a **'want to'** attitude that produces excellent, successful and joyful service and shares in Christ's inheritance!

Let us remember, that we cannot attain to the height and fullness of ministry, without taking on the mind of Christ and becoming a servant! It is only from this place of humility that God can promote us and use us to build His kingdom!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



WHO'S COUNTING!

Mt 10:30 The very hairs of your head are all numbered.

The Father has counted all the hairs on your head! Quite an undertaking when a human head contains on ave 130,000 hairs!

Ps 147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

The Father has not only counted the number of stars, He has given each one a name! Quite an undertaking when there are 100 billion stars!

Ps 139:17-18 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand!

The Father has undoubtedly counted the number of His thoughts towards us! Quite an undertaking when they are more than the grains of sand on the beach!

2 Cor 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them!

Scripture shows that God is very much into counting the smallest details of His creation! But when it comes to counting the sins of the world, which are multiplied billions, He has declined! Why is this? The answer is simple — They no longer exist!

Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Jn 1:29
The Lamb of God who
takes away the sins of
the world!*

*Mic 7:19
You will cast all our
sins into the depths of
the sea!*

*Lk 1:7
But they had no child,
because Elizabeth was
barren, and they were
both well advanced
in years.*

GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!

Zechariah and Elizabeth were Senior Citizens in Israel! It's that time when the world throws such people on the scrapheap of life! It's that time where many people think that they are finished! There's nothing else for them to accomplish!

Friends—That's the way culture thinks, but it's not the way God thinks! There is no 'finish' in God's kingdom for it is 'eternal'!

By Elizabeth offering her barren womb to God, He took their emptiness, turned it around and filled their lives with fresh hope!

2 Cor 8:12 If there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

When we give what we have to Jesus, He always multiplies it!

Many people do their greatest work for God in their senior years: Moses 80, Aaron 84, Caleb 84 yrs of age! Winston Churchill became Prime Minister when he was 65 yrs of age!

He said, "I felt I was walking with destiny, as if all my life had been a preparation for this!"

My friend—Don't you dare give up! Don't you dare lay down and die! Your greatest work lies ahead of you! You are a wanted person—Wanted by God!

Pray: "Lord Jesus, I offer myself to you afresh to be used by you! My desire is to enter heaven in full sail! Show me what you would have me do! Thank You Lord!"

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



DEVELOPING AN ATMOSPHERE OF FAITH!

The words we speak develop a surrounding atmosphere to our life which we carry with us wherever we go! Complaining, criticising, cursing and negative statements will kill the atmosphere of faith injecting fear, doubt and unbelief!

Whenever Jesus was confronted by doubt and unbelief, He removed Himself from those kind of people because He knew it would destroy the atmosphere of faith!

When He arrived at the ruler's house to raise his daughter from the dead, the house was filled with the mourners who had come to the funeral! They filled the atmosphere with talk of death and negativity!

What did Jesus do to counteract this—He put everyone of criticism, doubt and unbelief, out onto the street! ***Mt 9:25 When the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. (Read Mt 9:23-26)***

Think about it—If we always complain about the weather, we cannot hope to develop our faith because we destroy it by our words! It's what scripture calls an evil report!

Rather, let us speak the promises of God's word! This releases an atmosphere of hope, faith, revelation and expectation!

Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 3:12
Beware, lest there be in
any of you an evil
heart of unbelief!*

*Phil 4:8
Whatever things
are of good report,
meditate (think) on
these things.*



*Pet 1:18
You were not redeemed
with corruptible things,
like silver or gold but
with the precious blood
of Christ!*

THE POWER OF THE REDEMPTIVE TONGUE!

Silver in scripture speaks of redemption! To redeem something was to buy it back! The currency of the day was silver coins! Jesus redeemed you and I from the market place of sin! He paid the redemption price by shedding His precious blood which is worth more than 'silver' or gold!

Prov 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver!

Choice silver is pure silver - all the impurities have been taken out; hence a redemptive tongue has had all the impurities removed such as gossip, backbiting, sowing discord, lying! A redemptive tongue speaks life & blessing, it encourages and breathes hope!

We live in a fallen world with a fallen language! The people of the world speak death, discouragement, hopelessness and negativity! they don't know any different, but we do!

Col 4:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt!

As believers we cannot develop a redemptive tongue by ourselves, but as we feed on the grace of Jesus Christ, His power will transform our tongue from the inside out; and we will find ourselves effortlessly speaking words that purify the atmosphere, that make attractive and speaks wisdom! Can you see how powerful is the redemptive tongue!

Pray: Lord Jesus, I give my tongue to you today! Change it to speak Your words of grace! Teach me how to be redemptive and be a power for you in this world! Thank You Lord!

*Ps 141:3
Lord, help me control
my tongue; help me be
careful about what I say!*

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

LET YOUR TONGUE BE THE COMPASS THAT GUIDES YOU!

We must settle it in our hearts that storms are a fact of life that we go through! But God has not left us bereft or hopeless at such times!

He's given us something very, very special that will take us through any storm life throws our way! It's that little organ of speech we call the 'tongue'!

Jam 3:4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

James likens our tongue to the rudder of a ship! A rudder, like the tongue is a small piece of wood approx 3ft in length, yet it can turn and direct a ship in the fiercest of storms!

At such times, the Captain never deserts his watch but constantly keeps his hand on the tiller (rudder), turning it in the direction the ship should go!

We are so to speak, the captain of our own ship, and we determine the course of our life by the words of our mouth! ***Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue!***

When storms come, instead of collapsing under pressure, let us stand by our watch, and continue proclaiming God's word over our life, it will take us through the storm and produce the desired outcome!

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*God's word in my mouth,
is the same as God's
word in His mouth!*

*Gen 1:26
God said, "Let Us make
man in Our image,
and likeness!"*

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME & ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD

The scriptures declare that on the one hand, God is righteous and holy! He is the Judge and He is truth; but on the other hand, God is love, good, grace, mercy, faithful, etc, etc!

God keeps these two sides of His character in tension with each other, therefore under the Old Covenant, God's mercy and love forgave and covered man's sinful lifestyle; but if man continued to sin, God had to be true to His character, and eventually His righteousness and judgement kicked in and punished man's behaviour!

Under the New Covenant, God expressed His righteousness and judgement upon man's sin, past, present and future by punishing His Son Jesus Christ on the cross! Hence from God's view, sin has now been removed completely—it no longer exists!

Therefore, under this dispensation of grace, there is no longer a need for God to express His judgement for there is nothing to judge, in fact, legally, God can only ever express His goodness and love!

Knowing this truth removes all fear of God from our hearts and gives us the assurance of His goodness upon our lives! Even if we sin or fall short, His word declares: ***Rom 8:28 We know that all things work together for 'good' to those who are the called according to His purpose.***

Let us open our hearts today to receive His goodness, in fact, let us expect His goodness in everything we do; For He is good all the time & all the time God is good!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Ps 23:6
Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life!*

*Ps 27:13
I believe to see the
goodness of the Lord in
the land!*

CUTTING THE COVENANT PT 1

In Biblical times a covenant between two people was made by cutting an animal in two **from top to bottom!** The two halves were laid opposite each other with a path between!

The people walked between the two halves of the animal in the shape of a figure eight! The No 8 in scripture speaks of a 'new beginning' (*Gen 17:12. 2 Pet 2:5*)

When Jesus died on the cross as a man, He offered Himself as a covenant lamb that was cut in two! He and His Father so to speak, walked between the two halves of His body to cut a New Covenant (No 8) between God and man!

Mt 27:51 Then, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom!

His body was symbolic of the veil of the Most Holy Place where the presence of God resided, to which only the High Priest was allowed access! Any person attempting to do the same would be struck down dead by the fire of God's holiness! (*Lev 10:1-2*)

This way into the presence of God had been barred to man since Adam had been shut out of the garden after his sin! But when Jesus took the punishment for the sin of mankind on the cross, He opened up a '**new and living way**' into God's presence that all men could not only enter but live forever!

Dear Christian! No longer ask permission, or the cleansing of Christ's blood to enter God's presence, for you live there 24/7! Today, celebrate what Jesus has done for you!

Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy.

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Heb 7:22
Jesus has become the
certain guarantee of a
better covenant, one that
will never be replaced
or annulled.*

CUTTING THE COVENANT PT2

God has made numerous covenants with man throughout history, but man has never been able to keep his side!

The New Covenant is different in that God had to find a man who would never break it, a man who would always be faithful to keep it! Step forward the Lord Jesus Christ!

Here was a man who would be obedient, was without sin, and totally righteous!

Rom 5:19 By one Man's obedience!

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin!

1 Cor 1:30 Christ Jesus, who became righteousness!

The good news is that at salvation, God placed us into Jesus Christ, to receive all the benefits of the covenant, without having the responsibility of keeping it! Christ has done it for us!

We no longer need to fear when we sin, or mess-up! his obedience to keep the covenant no longer devolves on us, but on our Lord Jesus Christ! He keeps the covenant for us.

'This is not (as some say) a licence to sin, rather it produces a freedom in the believer to allow Christ to live His life through us as we rest in Him!

The Old Covenant of law forces people to stress about sin and puts pressure on them to resolve such in their lives!

The New Covenant of grace invites people to look to Christ alone for His power to overcome sin.

Rom 5:20 Where sin abounds, grace super abounds!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



YOUR SIN - TAKEN AWAY!

The reason God removed 'all' our sin at the cross was because He knew the remembrance of it immediately registers in our conscience as a wrong-doing producing condemnation and guilt!
(Col 2:13. Rom 5:18)

The author of Hebrews explains that the sacrifices of the Old Covenant could only atone for sin! Atone means 'cover over'! Their sin had been covered but not removed, hence the remembrance of it in their conscience, made them 'sin conscious'!

Heb 10:2-3 For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

At the cross, Jesus forgave and removed, not just our sin, but our sin nature; and in its place created in us a new nature of righteousness!

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Dear friend, the next time you sin, see yourself as already forgiven and your sin taken away! See yourself as perfect and righteous before the Father! This is the kind of thinking that stills the condemning voice of your conscience and produces joy and peace!

Practise being righteous conscious by confessing 2 Cor 5:21! When you do so you are remembering not your sin but your righteousness!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 9:14a
Christ's blood makes us
completely clean from the
evil we have done.*

*Heb 9:14ab
It gives us clear
consciences so that
we can worship the
living God*

*Jn 1:29
Look! The Lamb of God
who 'takes away' the sin
of the world!.*

REST IS NOT DRIVEN BY CIRCUMSTANCES!

In 1588 the Spanish Armada was sailing towards the coast of Britain intending to invade!

The Armada was spotted by an English sea captain who hurried to relay the news to Francis Drake, the Vice-Admiral of the navy! Drake was playing a game of bowls!

Whether the story is myth or not, the principle of the story holds true! While everybody got into a panic and flapped around, Drake continued to finish his game of bowls!

Drake knew nothing could be done until the English tide ebbed out to sea, hence, he wasn't going to allow himself to be driven by circumstances he had no control over!

From all accounts, Drake was a Christian and certainly was here employing the Biblical principle of rest! The story is now folklore along with his and Britain's greatest sea victory!

As Christians, we need to ask ourselves the question, 'Am I driven by circumstances'? If the answer is yes—I have 'good news' for you! Jesus the Master and giver of rest says to you and I today: ***"Come unto ME and I will give you rest!" (Mt 11:28)***

The 'rest' of Jesus has built into it the power and fruit of self control and peace! A control that enables us to throw off all fear (the root of panic), commit our way to the Lord and trust and rest in Him—The result—a life of peace and joy! ***(Rom 14:17. Gal 5:22-23)***

Pray: Lord Jesus, You promised if I came to You, You would give me rest! I ask You today, to work Your rest in me and develop the Spiritual fruit of self control and peace! Thank You Jesus!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Prov 3:5
Trust in the Lord with
all your heart, and
lean not on your own
understanding!

Prov 3:6.
In all your ways look to
Him, and He shall
direct your paths.

THE GARMENT OF PRAISE! PT 1

The pressure to live in our world today becomes more intense as each year passes!

Upheaval surrounds us: Family breakup, job loss, financial debt - the list is never ending.

At such times, God never leaves us to our own devices and tells us to get on with it! He gives us keys that unlock His power and healing in our lives. One such key is the power of praise.

Praise empowers us by stirring up and releasing the fruit of joy into our lives! **Joy is God's medicine** for our whole being of spirit, soul and body!

Jesus was anointed with the oil of joy above every other human being! (*Heb 1:9*) He needed the strength that joy released to take Him through the pressures of life and the cross! (*Heb 12:2*)

Joy is God's prescription for weariness, lethargy, low spirits, depression, fear, etc!

Believers used to get by, praising God one day a week. This can no longer cut it in today's society. NO: God is calling every believer to develop a lifestyle of praise & worship!

Ps 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Neh 8:10
The joy of The Lord
IS your strength.*

*Prov 15:13
A joyful heart makes
a cheerful countenance.*

*Prov 17:22
A merry (joyful) heart
does good, like medicine.*

THE GARMENT OF PRAISE! PT 2

Jesus is here giving us a rock solid guarantee, that if we will take hold of His garment of praise and put it on, we will see the spirit of heaviness lift off our lives!

But therein lies the rub! Many of us give up too soon and cry off dismissing it as too difficult. This is a lack of ignorance (understanding) on our part! (*Hos 4:6*)

Just as it takes time to put on a jacket, so it takes time to put on the garment of praise! Our emotions cannot be changed by the flick of a switch. It took time for heaviness of spirit to come upon us and it will take time for it to lift off.

This is why it's called a 'sacrifice of praise!' We choose (determination of will) to take our eyes off ourselves and instead focus our thoughts, rigidly upon Him!

As we sing our songs of praise and lose ourselves in the words, slowly our heaviness, fear, worry and anxiety will be replaced by His peace, joy and rest, and that burden will lift off our shoulders!
Try it why don'tcha!

N.B. A sacrifice of praise is not a dead work, of the flesh nor putting people back under the law! *Heb 13:15* says, 'By Him', that is by Jesus we are to offer a sacrifice of praise!

Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus. (CEV)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Neh 8:10
Be not grieved and
depressed, for the joy
of The Lord is
your strength!

Heb 13:15
By Him let us continually
offer the sacrifice of
praise to God.

Isa 61:3
“The Lord has anointed
Me to give them, the oil
of joy for mourning, the
garment of praise for the
spirit of heaviness!”

THE GARMENT OF PRAISE! PT 3

In this story, Paul and Silas had been stripped, beaten many times with rods, thrown into prison, and their feet fastened in stocks! We are talking 'extreme physical pain'!

Yet, at midnight (the darkest hour), they began singing praises to God! Why? They knew the principle of a 'sacrifice of praise'!

This was a witness to the prisoners who were looking on and hearing them sing praises to God, in the most difficult of circumstances!

But Paul, don't you know in such circumstances you are to grumble, become a victim, criticise, complain and moan and groan about how mistreated you are?

Friends! We may live in this world, but we are not of this world—we are citizens of the kingdom, and kingdom principles teach we are to give thanks in (not for) **'all'** things, rejoice in the Lord, **'always'** and offer **'sacrifices'** of praise! (*1Thess 5:18. Phil 3:20 4:4*)

Are you going through a 'midnight experience' today! God's word to you is, "Put me first in your circumstances by rejoicing, thanking and praising me! By doing such, you are proclaiming that I am your source of deliverance and provision!"

"Let the 'fruit of your lips' be about my majesty, wisdom, power and authority! As you hold fast to my word, you will experience Me turn your circumstances around!"

Phil 2:16 Holding fast the word of life!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

Heb 13:15
Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Read Acts 16:16-34

Acts 16:25
At midnight Paul and Silas were singing praises to God!

2 Cor 5:17
*Therefore, if anyone is
in Christ, he is a new
creation. Old things have
passed away; behold, all
things have become new!*

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION PT1

The scripture proclaims boldly that if we are 'in Christ' we are a 'New Creation'! I put it to you, that even as believers in the modern grace movement, we have only scratched the surface of living the new creation life!

The new creation is our new 'spirit man' created in us by God at salvation! He took away our old man (old creation) and replaced it with a new man!

Eph 4:24 Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Our new spirit man is actually 'Christ in us'! If you can see your spirit as a man, it will help you to grasp better how to function as a new creation being!

1 Cor 15:45,49 It is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. As we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

This new spirit man, lives in a different kingdom, speaks a different language and lives a different lifestyle! This new spirit man is in the world but not of it!

This new spirit man is perfect, whole, righteous, holy, glorified, filled with light and is prosperous, joyful and lives in perfect peace and rest! What's not to like!

In the next Grace Waves, we're going to look at this exciting, bold and strong spirit man in a way that will challenge and give hope and expectancy to each one of us!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION PT2

As mentioned in Pt 1, the new creation spirit man speaks a different language from this world, a world that has fallen!

Think about these statements: "I could die for a McDonalds meal!" - "My heart stopped when i saw you" - "I'm exhausted and worn out from a heavy day at work!"

There are hundrens of like statements that we use every day, and are unaware we are speaking death and curses over ourselves and each other!

Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you, they are the spirit and they are life!" (Jn 6:63)

Paul said, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that if may impart grace to the hearers!" (Eph 4:29)

Friends! It's time to change our vocabulary, our speech, and language! We are called to speak life and grace! We are called to speak the language of the new creation spirit man!

Only Jesus can change our vocabulary to speak the language of the New Covenant, the language of the new man, that is, who we are in Christ!

Pray: Lord Jesus, James tells us that the tongue is an unruly evil and no man can tame it! But You can! Praise the Lord! So Jesus, I invite You to change me and teach me to speak words of life and grace! Teach me to live out of my new creation being, my new man!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION PT3

An ignorant mistake in our relationship with Jesus, is to live out of our old man instead of our new man—live out of the old creation instead of our new creation!

Although our old man was crucified and died with Christ on the cross, we still retain some old thought patterns and habits of the mind, which is why scripture exhorts us to renew our mind and reckon our old man as dead! (*Rom 6:6,11. 12:2*)

Eph 4:22-24 Put off the old man and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness!

As we receive revelation from God's word, our mind is renewed and we are empowered to put off the old man and put on the new man!

An absence of the revelatory word of God means we will turn to the the world for answers rather than turn to Christ; self help, medicine, worldly counselling, etc, etc!

We can receive a lot of help from such means, but let us remember that in doing so we are simply patching up the old man, and as such it becomes a dead work!

Anything without Christ in it is a work of the flesh and cannot glorify Him because it does not acknowledge Him as our source, our help, strength and health!

Rather, a good work is trusting Jesus and relying on His word—Hence His 'zoe' eternal life flows out of our new man, becomes our answer and establishes us 'In Christ'

Rom 13:14 Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



*Heb 10:23a
Let us hold fast
the confession of our
faith without wavering!*

*Heb 10:23b
For He who promised
is faithful!*

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION PT4

The 'kingdom of God' operates by faith in the truths and promises of God's word! Faith does not look at circumstances, faith only looks to God's word and holds fast to it until the manifestation appears! Let's look at a simple example:

Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow (pursue) me all the days of my life!

We begin confessing this promise over our life, "Thank You Lord that Your goodness pursues me every day!" "You work all things together for good in my life!" (*Rom 8:28*)

All seems to be going well until we hit a bad patch of circumstances! If we are living in the sense realm of this world, we will collapse like a house of cards, because we are '**seeing to believe**'! We are walking by sight (5 senses) not by faith! (*2 Cor 5:7*)

Whereas, the faith person is '**believing to see**' and looks only to God's word, and holds fast to their confession of it, in spite of the circumstances!

Their holding fast releases God to work through His word to slowly turn the circumstances around and release His goodness into their lives! They have learnt that it is through faith and '**patience**' that they inherit the promises! (*Heb 6:12-15*)

Friends, we give up too quickly! We live in a world of instant gratification and expect God to respond the same! No! God marches to the beat of His own drum, and we must learn to march to it too!

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace.

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

*1 Jn 3:1
Behold what manner of
love the Father has
bestowed on us.*

*1 Jn 4:10
This is love, not that
we loved God, but that
He loved us.*

HIS LOVE FOR ME!

Song of Songs 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.

In this verse, love is a flame, a flame of passion! It is speaking of Jesus love for us and no matter the circumstances, His love for us can never be quenched (snuffed out)!

For too long we have been taught an Old Covenant gospel that majors on our love for Him!

Deut 6:5 'You shall love' the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

In vain we have sought to sustain our love for Him, only for the deep waters, the waves of problems, failure, difficulties, bitterness, unforgiveness etc to snuff out our flame, leaving us exhausted, flat, empty, knocked down and hopeless!

Then we heard the voice of grace whisper to our heart, "It is not your love for Him! It is His love for you!"

1 Jn 4:19 We love Him 'because' He first loved us.

Then we realised that deep waters cannot quench or snuff out His flame of love for us! His love truly is the '**Eternal Flame**'!

Are you going through deep waters today? come confidently to Him in worship, open your heart to Him and receive His love afresh, again and again and again!

Pray: Father, thank You that I can always rely on Your love for me! Thank You Your love is eternal and never runs out! Teach me how to receive Your love so it brings security, stability and life! Draw me into intimacy with You! Thank You Lord!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*

Heb 13:9a
Do not be led astray by
strange doctrines!

Heb 13:9b
It is good that the heart
be established by grace!

A LOVE ESTABLISHED BY GRACE!

Are you tossed around, fearful, worried and stressed by the strange doctrines of today, both inside and outside the Church? Maybe it's political correctness, the new asexual family unit that grows more bizarre by the day, or seemingly weird Church teachings!

If we are affected by such things, it's because the foundation of our life is insecure, unstable and affected by every wind that blows!

But take heart, let fresh hope flow into your being! There is an antidote that will still the inner anxieties, worries and phobias! His name is Jesus and He is the grace of God!

We are tossed around because we have moved away from Him! He is our foundation stone and we are to build on Him and Him alone; not the latest self help book or secular counselling service!
(Heb 13:8-9. 1Cor 3:10,11)

Question: How do we return to Christ?

Answer: By feeding on grace!

The pure water is always found at it's source, the place of it's beginning! It can become tainted further upriver by dead animals, bacteria or pollutants!

The pure river of grace has been polluted by the strange teaching & doctrine called 'law'! It is the law that makes us insecure and fearful, has treated us like slaves instead of sons and imprisoned us instead of setting us free!

Can you hear the voice of Jesus today, calling you to return to your first love? Not your love for Him, but His love for you! *(Rev 2:4)* If you are desperate enough, He will hear your heart cry and lead you back to the source of grace—Himself!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



Grace Waves

Devotional

GRACE WAVES DEVOTIONAL

*Rev 1:5a
To Him who loved
us and washed us!*

*Rev 1:5b
From our sins in
His own blood!*

I AM HIS!

Mt 3:17 A voice came from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

It is incredible, that the Father (so to speak) was taking time out from running the universe to attend His Son's graduation day! His launch into ministry!

So proud was the Father that He wanted the whole world to know about it, '**A voice came from heaven!**'

In doing so, the Father was, affirming, encouraging, supporting, and most importantly loving Him! He didn't call Him His Son, He called Him, His "**beloved Son!**"

The Father was modelling a principle for all future Fathers to follow, that affirmation, encouragement and support—flow out of love! These are not just words—They are heart expressions!

He was saying to His Son—"Before you perform any preaching, healing, deliverance or miracles, I want you to know that I love You for who You '**are**', not what you can '**do**'!

The knowledge that His Father loved Him empowered Jesus to overcome all obstacles!

Today the Father says these same words to you, in Christ: "You are my 'beloved son!"

1 Jn 4:17 As He is, so are we in this world.

The knowledge that the Father loves us, not for what we can do, but for who we are, empowers us to overcome all obstacles, and get back up when we are knocked down!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



LIFE WITH JESUS IS GOOD!

An embracing of the New Covenant revelation of grace means we can look forward to a longer, happier and more fulfilling lifestyle! Praise the Lord!

Let's think about this! We are born into this world as a baby, reliant on our parents to do everything for us! For most of us, our childhood was free from responsibility and care!

Adulthood followed and with it came pressure, cares, responsibility and pain! These are things that if not dealt with appropriately, age us, steal energy and strength, mess up our relationships, bring sadness, regrets and tears!

Medical science reports that the overwhelming root problem of all sickness and disease, stem from the mental problems of a failure to get to grips with everyday life!

The New Covenant of grace reverses the process! Jesus calls us to come to Him as little children! This means we are born into the Kingdom as spiritual babes because we humbled ourselves and became reliant on Christ for salvation!

Unfortunately many of us were then parented by law teaching which forced us to behave like unbelievers again in resolving life's problems and responsibilities!

Today through the modern grace movement, Jesus is calling us to return to Him as little children, that is, trusting Him to resolve life's issues, freeing us from cares, fear and worry!

The result: A longer, happier, fulfilling lifestyle of trust, rest, peace and joy!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.

Lk 18:16-17
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, for of such is the kingdom of God. I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it!"

Ps 91:16
With long life I will satisfy him!

YOU WERE CALLED TO PEACE!

Because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, whatever God says to us, He is legally and judicially bound to speak one way and one way only, that of 'peace'!

Ps 85:8 I will hear what the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people!

He will never speak fear to us: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Tim 1:7)*

He will never speak rejection to us: *To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Eph 1:6)*

He will never speak condemnation to us: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Rom 8:1)*

In fact, the reason Jesus died was to make peace between God and man: *Having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Col 1:20)*

Today In Christ, we not only have peace 'with' God—We also have the peace 'of' God: *Rom 5:1 We have peace 'with' God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Col 3:15 Let the peace 'of' God rule in your hearts and be thankful.

Start your day proclaiming aloud that you have peace with God and possess the peace of God! Ask Jesus to give you a revelation of His peace, after all, it is why He died for you!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Included in the Abrahamic Covenant was the blessing of God that made Abraham a prosperous and wealthy man! He blessed him for a purpose! That he in turn be a blessing to the world by giving of his wealth!

We believers are the true sons of Abraham and inheritors of his covenant; The blessing that fell on him, fell on Christ 2000 yrs later and on us who are in Christ, 4000 yrs later!

Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ!

As believers we are blessed to be a blessing! We have been given to that we might give to! But we should never give because we have to! That puts us back under the law!

Grace works in us and changes the 'have to' to a 'want to'!

Phil 2:13 Yes, God is working in you to enable you to 'want to' do what pleases him. Then he gives you the 'power to do' it.

This 'want to' kind of giving flows from the heart and is a giving motivated by love! The same agape love of the Father that motivated Him to give to the world His only Son!

As we give (bless) out of a 'want to' heart, we naturally trigger the covenantal promise of the Father to give (bless) to us again, setting up the natural cycle that Jesus proclaimed:

Lk 6:38 Give and it shall be given unto you!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Mk 4:25
Whoever has, to them
more will be given!*

*Prov 11:25
She/He who waters
will also be watered
him/herself.*

*Gen 12:2
I will bless 'you' and 'you'
shall be a blessing.*

Mt 12:28a
“If I cast out demons
by the Spirit of God.”

Mt 12:28b
“Surely the kingdom
of God has come
upon you!”

YOUR KINGDOM COME ON EARTH

Friends! You and I are the answer to the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray: *Your kingdom come! Your will be done! On earth as it is in heaven! (Mt 6:10)*

We were ‘born again’ spiritually into the heavenly Zion! We were born from above! Our names are written in the heavenly register (book of life). *(Heb 12:22-24)*

Jn 3:3 Jesus said, “I say to you, unless one is born again (born from above), he/she cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Ps 87:5-6 Of Zion it will be said, “This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her.” The Lord will record, when He registers the peoples: “This one was born there.”

We are seated together with Christ in heavenly places at the Father’s right hand! *(Eph 2:6)*

We are the only people who can be in two places at one time—in heaven & on earth!

You and I are the answer to the needs of this world! As you go about your daily business:

- 1)** See yourself as God’s ambassador with the good news story of life in Jesus Christ!
- 2)** As you lay hands on the sick and demon oppressed see God’s power flow down from above, into you and through you!
- 3)** See yourself as the releaser of God’s kingdom upon earth; a carrier of God’s glory, light and righteousness!

How we see ourselves is reflected in how other people see us!

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



GRACE SUPPLIES - THE LAW DEMANDS!

The law not only demands from us, “**Thou shalt do this—Thou shalt do that!**” It also turns us into slaves that keep us on the treadmill of performance and self righteousness!

Grace however, is the polar opposite to law! Grace never:

1) CONTROLS - Grace never turns people into puppets to be worked by God! Grace never manipulates or deceives! NO! Grace leads—The law controls!

Rom 8:14-15 As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear!

2) DEMANDS - Grace never says, “You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours!” NO! Grace gives on a ‘no questions asked basis’!

In *Lk 17:11-19*, Jesus healed 10 lepers, but only one came back to thank Him and give glory to God! Jesus didn’t say, “Right! That’s it! They’ve not returned to thank me, I will withdraw my healing from them!” NO! Grace supplies without asking for a return!

Friends, we are no longer slaves, we are sons, made in His image; and as His grace takes hold, instead of controlling, we will set free! Instead of demanding, we will give without expecting a return! It will be the nature of Jesus flowing out through us to the world!

1 Jn 4:17 As He is—So are we in this world!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



NEVER TO LATE TO LOOK TO JESUS

God's word for today is to never give up hope on your family & Friends finding Christ as their personal Saviour! The desire of Jesus to save men and women is so strong, He is willing to leave it till the last second for them to turn to Him for salvation.

The story of the thief on the cross is a great example of this! He is hanging at the side of Jesus! He has minutes to live, but turns and looks to Jesus and says, "Lord remember me when You come into Your kingdom?" Jesus replies, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise!" (*Lk 23:42-43*)

Notice he didn't go into the whole, "Jesus, I'm sorry for my sins! Please forgive me?" Neither did Jesus respond, "I forgive you my son!"

There wasn't time for such things! This man was hovering on the brink of death and knew he could pass from this world to the next because he had made peace with God!

In our hearts, we can pour scorn on what we call, 'deathbed conversions'! Let me challenge you today not to allow scorn to build inside—it leads to unbelief!

All it needs is for the dying person who wants to be saved, to say the name of Jesus! If they can't speak, the Lord knows the intention of their heart and will write their name in His 'Book of Life'.

Isa 45:22 "Look to Me, and be saved! For I am God, and there is no other."

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE DOES MUCH MORE ABOUT PT1

The story of the Prodigal Son beautifully describes the ‘gospel of grace’! Let’s look:

1) Acceptance: After wasting his Father’s inheritance, the son must have thought his Father would have nothing to do with him ever again! What happened?

Lk 15:20 But when he was still a great way off, his Father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Maybe you have turned away from the Father, or you’ve committed horrendous sins, and you’re thinking, “Will the Father ever accept me back again?” *Lk 15:20* gives you the answer! Our heavenly Father will fall on your neck and kiss you, so to speak!

As human beings, we doubt the Father’s acceptance because we view acceptance from the angle of performance! If we do right, we’re accepted—do wrong, we’re rejected!

This is called ‘Phileo love’! It’s a friendship type love that is rooted in the feelings and emotions! Bottom line, do right and I’ll love you—do wrong and I won’t love you!

Like the young lady pulling off the petals of a flower, “He loves me—He loves me not!”

It breeds insecurity, doubt and rejection into relationships! Whereas the Father’s love is ‘Agape love’! This love is rooted in the will and is a sacrificial, unconditional, unchanging and unwavering love! It is not moved by feelings, emotions or behaviour!

Today, the Father says “My love for you is always ‘agape’! I accept you as you are, with no strings attached! Because you are in my Son, I see you as perfect & complete! (*Eph 1:6*)

Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.



GRACE DOES MUCH MORE ABOUT PT2

Here we have a man who was a son in the family but saw his worth as a slave, not a son!

He'd squandered all his inheritance, lost everything and was reduced to poverty! Such pain stripped away his walls of arrogance, pride and self importance, bringing a realisation of his drastic mistakes! 'He came to his senses'! (*Lk 15:17*)

Losing everything crippled his self worth! He felt totally unworthy and returned home to face the music!

How did his Father respond to his son's return? He lavished such grace upon him, it totally swallowed up his shame and unworthiness, restoring him to a place of son-ship!

Luke 15:22-24 The Father said, "Bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. Bring the fatted calf and kill it! Let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

Are you feeling unworthy, do you regard your value as nothing more than a slave! Has your shame bowed your head and crippled your relationship with the Father!

I have 'good news' for you! The death of Christ upon the cross, released a tsunami wave grace that abounds MUCH MORE than sin and swallows it up, lock, stock and barrel!

The Father has made you a son, in the Son! He has not only lifted your head, He has raised you up to the highest place and seated you as a King. (*Ps 3:3. Eph 2:6*)

You are worthy!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*

*Lk 15:19a
"I am no longer worthy
to be called your son."*

*Lk 15:19b
"Make me like one
of your hired servants."*

Read Lk 15:11-32

GRACE DOES MUCH MORE ABOUT **PT3**

There is a principle in scripture: *He takes away the first (O.C.) that He may establish the second (N.C.)! (Heb 10:9)*

The E.B., the firstborn, typifies the law — The Y.B., the second born typifies grace!

When the Father came to replace law with grace, the Pharisees (E.B.) were deeply offended! Instead of the foundation stone of Christ (grace) becoming to them, a building block, it became a stumbling block of offence!

1 Pet 2:7-8 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence!

The elder brother was incandescent! All his life, he'd had a slave relationship with his Father! He couldn't abide to see, what to him was a waste of resources on a wasteful son!

Lk 15:29 "For years I've worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you!"

Because he had a law mindset, the actions of His Father became a stumbling block to him! He was offended and couldn't partake of the festivities of the Y.B. (Grace)!

Today in the Church, there are many Elder Brothers who have stumbled over the rock of offence, Jesus Christ, the grace of God! They are fighting God to stop Him taking away the law and establishing grace! It is a battle they cannot and will not win!

Because of their offence, they are not able to participate in the festivities of grace!

Pray: Lord, turn their hearts to Your grace and set them free!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



GRACE DOES MUCH MORE ABOUT **PT4**

Lk 15:29 “I’ve worked for you like a slave and have never disobeyed your commands!”

The EB relates to his Father out of a law mindset! He himself uses the words ‘slave’ and ‘commandments’!

Believers today, like the EB, who are governed by law, can only look forward to a life of rules and regulations—breeding legalism and religion!

The law makes slaves of people and generates monotony, routine and dullness! This is why the EB wouldn’t go into the party because the law knocks ‘joy’ out of our lives!

Whereas grace releases from slavery into sonship! It breaks the chains of sin and bondage! Hence grace people experience a life of joy, thanksgiving and gratefulness to a Christ who has set them free! ***Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ has set us free!***

EB’s cannot stand the sound of shout’s of joy and rejoicing! It upsets the status quo and brings change! They seek to suppress and resist anything that breaks their routine!

Ps 87:2 The Lord loves the gates of Zion (Church) more than all other dwellings!

Ps 48:2 The joy of the whole earth, is Mt Zion (the Church) the city of the great King.

God loves Zion, His Church, more than any other dwelling, because it’s supposed to be the joy of all the earth!

The Father does not like Sinai (law) because there is no joy there— But He loves Zion, the Church of grace, that is full to overflowing with joy! **Praise The Lord!**

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Heb 7:25a
He is able to save to
the uttermost!*

*Heb 7:25b
Those who come to
God through Him!*

GRACE CANNOT BE EARNED!

When we have a law mindset we think that grace has to be earned! If we are living a holy life, we get grace! If we are doing the right things, we get grace!

In fact, this way of thinking disqualifies us from receiving grace! Self sufficiency breeds pride, and pride always prevents grace from flowing into our life!

1 Pet 5:5-6 God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time!

Grace is God's unearned, unmerited, undeserved favour! It is something we cannot earn, something we do not merit, and something we do not deserve!

It takes a grace mindset to see that when we sin, fail or mess-up, we can breathe a huge sigh of relief knowing that His grace swallows up all our transgressions!

Rom 5:20 Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more!

Are you trapped in sin, need wisdom for your life and strength to overcome today! Know that you come not to a throne of judgement, but to a throne of grace! There is no sin that cannot be forgiven and swallowed up by His grace!

Heb 4:16 Come boldly to the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus bids you, come boldly and receive from His bottomless ocean of grace!

*Phil 4:8
Meditate (think) on these things.*



*Grace Waves
Devotional*