

Grace Upon Grace

Sunday 2/17/19 – Billy Humphrey

I. Jesus' Gift of Grace

John 1:16-17 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- A. Grace is an endowment of God's ability or divine enablement.
- B. In Jesus we receive grace upon grace. Our whole lives are a product of cooperation with God's grace.
- C. Paul said it this way:

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- D. Notice that His revelation of God's grace didn't cause him to be lazy or frivolous, instead it empowered Him to give himself to the work of the kingdom in an amplified way.

II. Humility, Pride, and Grace

1 Peter 5:5-7 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- A. Humbling ourselves is joyfully surrendering to the truth that you can do nothing at all without Jesus' grace
- B. John 15:5 Jesus said, "... without me you can do nothing". All that we have, do, and are is nothing without God.
- C. When we believe that we bring something to the table to add to the work of God's grace in us, this is pride. Pride is ultimately faith in human ability in any measure.
- D. The exaltation we're all ultimately looking for is the enabling of grace in our lives. It's an exaltation that is free from self. It's an exaltation that is free from human ability.

III. My public confession

Grace Upon Grace

Sunday 2/17/19 – Billy Humphrey

A. I have agreed that I have nothing and can do nothing without God. At the same time I have internally believed that I bring something to the table. Grace doesn't make up the distance between what I can bring to the table and what God is asking. Grace is all.

B. In other words, I don't bring 75% and God makes up the 25%. I don't bring 25% and God makes up the 75%. I actually bring 0% and God brings 100%. This is grace. All I can offer is a "Yes" to the invitation and activity of God's grace in my life. And even the "Yes" is by grace.

C. Without grace, I cannot produce anything of spiritual impact. Without grace I can operate in my gifts and only produce flesh. Flesh only produces flesh. It takes grace for us to produce anything of kingdom value or spiritual impact.

D. The difference between manifesting flesh and manifesting spirit is operating in grace. Humility is required to operate in grace.

E. When considering our inability and the realities of grace it becomes clear that if you believe you are "able" to do anything without God you are likely deceiving yourself, falling into the trap of Gal 6:3.

Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

IV. False Humility

A. False humility is acting humble while still believing on the inside that you have something to offer, that you bring some strength to accomplishing God's will.

B. In false humility, you know what humility looks like so you try to emulate it. But internally you actually believe you have something to offer from yourself and therein is the arrogance that God opposes.

C. In false humility, you don't realize that all you can produce is flesh. The gifts that God has given you unless they are empowered by grace can never produce ANYTHING of kingdom influence or spiritual impact.

D. All that your gifts can produce without grace is fleshly monuments to human achievement that will all perish and be burned up on the day of judgment.