

## ***The Transforming Power of Grace (Rom. 6:14)***

### **I. RECKON YOURSELVES ALIVE TO GOD**

- A. We are transformed by changing how we think. Transformation in our life begins by knowing who we are in Christ or seeing ourselves in the way God sees us in Christ. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior changes. Our emotions are not transformed by *trying harder*, but by *seeing more clearly* as we feed on God's Word.

<sup>2</sup>*...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)*

- B. By seeing our life through the lens of grace, we are equipped to reign in life or to walk in all that Jesus accomplished for us. We desire to **fully experience** what He **freely provided** on the cross. Wherever sin abounds, God's grace can abound "much more" as it is accessed through Jesus. We will never have more grace available to us than what is ours on the day we were born again.

<sup>17</sup>*...those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through...Jesus<sup>20</sup> ...where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,<sup>21</sup> so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign...through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 5:17-21)*

- C. Paul declared that all who desire Jesus to be Lord of their life are "under grace." Living by grace means that we relate to God on the basis of what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.

<sup>14</sup>*For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*  
<sup>15</sup>*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! (Rom. 6:14-15)*

- D. **To be under law:** to earn God's favor and live under the limitations of human power. Thus to live under condemnation and without accessing the Spirit's power, inspiration, and leadership.
- E. **We are under grace (6:14):** To be under grace includes being enjoyed by God, empowered by the indwelling Spirit, and being under Jesus' generous and merciful leadership.

### **II. WE ARE UNDER GRACE**

- A. **Accepted by God:** We are freely and fully accepted by God, and we receive His favor as a gift. Knowing that God's grace is stronger than the penalty and guilt of our sin gives us confidence in God's presence. With confidence we can run *to* Him and not *from* Him when we stumble in sin.
- B. **Enjoyed by God:** The Lord delights in His people and enjoys His relationship with them. We are sons of God and the Bride of Christ; we function in partnership with Him as kings and priests.
- C. **Empowered by the Spirit:** We are carriers or stewards of God's presence as His ambassadors. We have the *authority of Jesus' name* and the *indwelling Spirit*, which enable us to resist sin, sickness, and Satan and to release the works of God and the presence of the Spirit wherever we go. We host or release the Spirit's presence by saying what God says, as it was in Genesis 1.

- D. The Spirit gives us new power, desires, and insights that we may know God, His Word, and His will. The Spirit lives in our spirit—He possesses the fullness of love, peace, etc. (Gal. 5:22). We access the Spirit’s power simply by acknowledging His presence in our spirit and thanking Him for it. The simple act of thanking the Spirit for His peace in our spirit releases it to our soul.  
<sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*  
<sup>23</sup>*gentleness, self-control. (Gal. 5:22–23)*
- E. **Restoration:** Jesus restores His people and purposes through His grace. Grace is stronger than the power and shame of our sin in our life, family, ministry, nation, etc.
- F. **God’s leadership:** Jesus’ leadership is wise, generous, and merciful. He sees the genuineness of our weak love and desire to obey Him. We are crowned with glory and honor (Heb. 2:7).
1. Jesus sees our life through the lens of grace, seeing it very differently from how we see it. He evaluates our life, defines our success, and measures our fruitfulness by His grace.
  2. Evaluating our life through grace: He greatly values our small deeds and efforts to love, serve, and obey Him. We receive eternal rewards for all that we do in the will of God because Jesus evaluates our lives so graciously and responds to them so generously.
  3. Because of grace, He rewards our small deeds, like giving a cup of water in His name (Mt. 10:42). He gives us far greater rewards than we deserve by our small and weak deeds. Rewards are Jesus expressing how He feels about the way we loved Him. He rewards “so well” because He is so kind.
  4. Our work under grace rejoices in and expresses love without any thought of earning love.
  5. “Praying under grace” is to understand that we are talking to the most generous, kind, attentive, and powerful Man who is moved by and graciously answers our weak prayers.
- G. **Divine destiny:** We have a relevant and lasting purpose in God. Every day is relevant as we do God’s will. Our small deeds so move Him that He eternally rewards us for them.
1. He defines our **primary success in life** as being ones who are loved by God and who love God. Thus, those who seek to love and obey Him are already successful in His eyes.
  2. Our identity must be established in being loved by God and in loving Him in response. Our confession is “*I am loved by God and I love God; therefore I am successful.*”
  3. We are to be anchored in this truth in grace as the basis of our success, rather than in our accomplishments. He so values our small deeds **and efforts that express our love.**
- H. Paul exhorted us to reckon ourselves “alive to God” or to see ourselves in the way that God sees us in Christ—as under grace, accepted by God, empowered by the Spirit, and more. We apply “new creation truths” to our identity by seeing ourselves as sons of God and the Bride of Christ  
<sup>11</sup>*Reckon [see] yourselves to be...alive to God in Christ [under grace] ... (Rom. 6:11)*