

## ***The Transforming Power of Grace Pt. 2 (Rom. 6:14)***

### **I. REVIEW: TRANSFORMED BY RENEWING OUR MIND**

- 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.  
*<sup>2</sup>...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)*
- B. Renewing our mind includes cultivating a mindset where we interpret our life through the “lens of God’s grace.” For example, we *evaluate our life, establish our identity, measure our success, see our future, and process our failures* through the lens of God’s grace.
- C. By seeing our life through the lens of grace, we are equipped to reign in life or to successfully walk in all of God’s will for our life. Wherever sin abounds, God’s grace abounds much more *as it is accessed* through Jesus. We desire to *fully experience* what He *freely provided* on the cross.  
*<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... (Rom. 5:17-20)*
- D. 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>Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! (Rom. 6:14-15)*
- E. ***To be under law***: to earn God’s favor and live under the limitations of human power. That is, to live under condemnation and without accessing the Spirit’s power, inspiration, and leadership.
- F. ***We are under grace (6:14)***: To be under grace means that we have access to God’s extravagant forgiveness, liberating power, and gracious evaluation of our life. This includes God enjoying us, the indwelling Spirit empowering us, and living under Jesus’ generous, merciful leadership.
1. ***Accepted by God***: We are fully accepted by God, and we receive His favor as a gift. The Lord delights in His people and enjoys His relationship with them.
  2. ***Indwelling Spirit***: The Spirit possesses the fullness of love, peace, etc. (Gal. 5:22). We access His power by acknowledging His presence in our spirit. The simple act of thanking the Spirit for His peace in our spirit releases it to our soul (to our emotions). The impulses of sin do not all go away, but we have power to effectively challenge them.  
*<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)*
  3. ***Vessels of His presence***: We have the *authority of Jesus’ name* and the *indwelling Spirit*, which enable us to stop the works of darkness and release the works of God. As His ambassadors we host or release the Spirit’s presence by saying what God says.

4. **God's gracious leadership:** Jesus' leadership is so generous and merciful—He evaluates our life, defines our success, and measures our fruitfulness by grace. He values our small deeds and efforts to love, serve, and obey Him. Eternal rewards are Jesus expressing how He feels about the way we loved Him. We receive eternal rewards for all that we do in the will of God because Jesus evaluates our life so graciously and responds to us so generously. He rewards even our smallest 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, weak deeds.

## II. IMPORTANCE OF CONFESSING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

- A. Renewing our mind always includes the confession of the Word to God. Our confession is what we believe about who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, who we are in Him, and what He is doing in our life. Our confession determines the way we carry our heart before God. Confession engages our inner man in the salvation process. In Roman 10:8, Paul drew upon Deut. 30:10-14.
- <sup>8</sup>*The word is near you, in your mouth...that is, the word of faith...<sup>9</sup>*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [delivered from the penalty and power of sin]. <sup>10</sup>*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [experiencing His deliverance]. (Rom. 10:8-10)***
- <sup>10</sup>*Turn to the LORD...with all your heart...<sup>11</sup>This commandment...is not too mysterious [too difficult to understand] for you, nor is it far off [out of reach]. <sup>12</sup>*It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us"... <sup>13</sup>Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us"...<sup>14</sup>But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. (Deut. 30:10-14)**
- B. Our words are powerful in causing either faith or fear to grow. If our words agree with God's will, we release His presence. If our words agree with Satan's lies, we release his power. Many have "faith" in the devil's words. The "war of words" determines who has dominion in our heart.
- <sup>23</sup>*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering... He is faithful. (Heb. 10:23)*
- <sup>14</sup>*Let us hold fast our confession...<sup>16</sup>*Come boldly to the throne of grace... (Heb. 4:14-16)**
- <sup>12</sup>*Fight the good fight of faith...you...have confessed the good confession... (1 Tim. 6:12)*
- C. We can have great spiritual wealth that we access by confessing or speaking the truth about it before God. Thus we access our spiritual bank account, or "write checks" on it, by confessing the Word. It is possible to have great spiritual wealth, yet continue to live in spiritual poverty.
- <sup>4</sup>*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (Mt. 4:4)*
- D. Faith does not come by asking, but by "hearing" the Word. The way our heart "hears" the best and most is when the Word comes from our own lips. The most powerful words that affect your life are the words you speak. Your spirit is most sensitive to the words that you speak.
- <sup>17</sup>*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)*