



JESUS CHRIST

The Special Grace of God
to Humanity

JOHN A. DANIEL

**JESUS CHRIST,
THE SPECIAL GRACE
OF
GOD TO HUMANITY**

BY
JOHN A. DANIEL

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- 1. SUBMISSION(THE AUTHORITY CHANNEL OF GOD AND THE ONLY WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD)**
- 2. CHRISTIAN RACE TO THE END (QUALIFICATION FOR THE THRONE)**
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- 4. END-TIME SPIRITUAL WAYS OF PRAYING (COVENANT PRAYERS THAT PRODUCE INSTANT RESULTS)**
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to God the Father who is the Author of Grace and Truth, and to Jesus Christ His son who as the manifestation of Grace and Truth on earth has inspired me by His Holy Spirit, to pen down these mysteries that have been hidden for ages. I dedicate the book to my beloved wife and children, Mary Blessings Daniel, Timothy John Daniel, Benjamin Samuel Daniel and David Joseph Daniel, who God gave me divinely through His grace, and whose company have been the secret of my divine blessings from God. I also dedicate this book to my co-labourers and brethren in this Help and Reconciliation Ministry and Bible Training College (HARMABITRAC WORLD OUTREACH), called by God through His grace; Joshua N. Samuel, Moses P. Amos and family, James Daniel, Josephine Agu, Ruth Ndidiamaka Phillips who is in United States of America.

I finally dedicate the book in memory of my late earthly father Emmanuel Nwafor Ozoekwe Igboanugo in whose past life I found an unbelievable love and special grace of God. This is because in Nov/Dec 1991 when he had a partial stroke, I stood in the gap with some brethren and in obedience to the prayer of Moses the servant of God in Ps.90:10, asked the Lord to give him 10 more years of grace so as to be converted. Why this request is that my father then was living in borrowed years because he was almost 72 years. God granted this request in view of the fact that the illness which was severe would have killed him and he would have been a candidate of hell. However on the 3rd of October, 2000, he became converted as he received the Lord Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour, got baptized or immersed in water, and received the Holy Ghost baptism as he spoke with new tongues. On March 3, 2001, that is five months later (which is the number for grace), he was called to rest in the bosom of the Lord at the age of 81 plus. I will not stop thanking the Lord for His special and abundant grace on my late father, which made it possible for him to make it. May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ the Minister of grace and truth, be praised.

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF GRACE AND TRUTH

The word Grace is ὅCharisö in Greek, and pronounced as Kharøce, meaning acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace, joy, liberality, pleasure, etc. But according to Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary edited by Ronald F. Youngblood, Grace means favour or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves. While ὅprincipleö according to Chambers Dictionary means source, root, origin, a fundamental or primary cause, a beginning, essential nature, a theoretical basis or assumption from which to argue, an instinct or natural tendency, a source of action, etc. To expatiate on the words ὅsource and beginningö as part of the meanings of principle written by Chambers, ὅsource means the Father, while Beginningö means the Word. This is why John 1:1 said, ὅIn the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was Godö. This therefore indicates that Jesus is God the Father Himself, the Word, the Source and the Beginning of the creation of God which includes His Grace. Grace as one of the qualities or virtues of the Lord God, is associated with mercy, love, compassion and patience. Although the grace of God is always free and undeserved, it is only enjoyed within the confines of His covenant. It is explained that, as this is an undeserved gift given by God, it is also received by people who through repentance and faith, have an unreserved commitment to God, or have agreed to enter into a covenant relationship with God to live for Him alone. This is why when we talk about the principle of Grace and Truth, we are talking about what God did in the creation and the people He expects to receive, and walk in it. And that is, how He created man on the sixth day as the last of His creations, but acting on this

principle of Grace and Truth, He made him (man) the first and head of His creations by virtue of God's covenant with man to have dominion over other creatures. Why did He choose to do so? It is because man was represented in the Trinity during creation, by the Word of God who is the express image of God-Head and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what prompted Jesus to tell the Jews that, before Abraham, He was. He was the Grace of God supremely revealed and given in human form. He was not only the beneficiary of God's grace but was also God's human manifestation of grace that is brought to humanity for salvation. By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship lost between God and His people, and established a covenant of Father son relationship between God and the people of God, both Jew and Gentile. The principle of Grace and Truth has been from the beginning. You cannot separate Grace and Truth, Water and Blood, Love and Righteousness, Father and Son, the Spirit and the Word, Faith and works. All these are inseparable, they come from the same source, the same channel, proving the Divinity of God. Grace produces truth, it doesn't demand truth, rather they go together. You cannot have truth if you don't have grace. Whenever you find a person walking in grace, he has to be walking in truth. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen.2:7-22).

God's good thoughts for humanity could easily be proved judging from what He did with man at creation. Acting on this principle of Grace and Truth, He allowed Adam not only to take pre-eminence of all that He created on earth, but gave him (Adam), an unreserved authority over all His creations. For this cause, He

allowed Adam to walk in His (God's) glory forever, if he (Adam) will continue to keep God's commandments. This word if which I underlined, indicates that there are some basic instructions which those that are expected to walk in grace should keep. And those instructions make them to be the manifestation of God's divine Truth. That is why they are regarded as people of Covenant or people of God. God releases His love, mercy, compassion and patience in dealing with them which is His grace, while they in turn will have to keep God's instructions no matter how painful it is, or how the society or the people of the world regard them. By this act of unalloyed loyalty of the people of God to His word, they become His Truth in human form. This is the reason for the word that says, "Grace produces Truth". For Jesus to be the Grace of God in human form, He also needed to produce Truth from His Father. For this reason, He acted only on the instructions from His Father. Even His own personal desires or will could not make Him act contrary, and this also made Him to be God's truth in human form. If we revisit Genesis chapter 2, it will be noted that God planted a garden in Eden after the creation of man, which served as a house for man, but spiritually, it is supposed to be the first church where grace was to be truly practised. He equipped the garden with all the goodies of life and allowed the tree of knowledge of good and evil to be there, so as to serve as a schoolmaster to man, indicating that in spite of the fact that God has surrounded the garden with good things of life, he (man) has to learn and understand that he is living in the midst of some evil creatures which were sent away from the presence of God. God did not stop at that, the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, the fishes of the sea, all the creeping things that creep upon the earth, etc, He gave man dominion over them and instructed him (man) to give them whatever names he liked. God became compassionate on the loneliness of man, and decided to give man an AID or HELP MEET, and through that process, Eve was created for him. All

these actions were God reaching down His love, mercy and compassion which can be summed up as His Grace to mankind.

HOW IS MAN SUPPOSED TO RECIPROCATE THIS GOOD GESTURE FROM GOD?

In keeping with the principles of God which shows that Grace must produce Truth, God gave His commandments which man is to walk in, as an evidence of receiving His Grace.

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Gen.2:15-17).

The very first commandment of God to man as he steps out to walk in God’s grace which he has received, is “to dress the garden and keep it”.

I have said earlier that the garden spiritually represents the church, “dressing the garden means, to preach, teach and guide the occupants of that garden who are supposed to be covenant people because the garden is created for covenant people, how to obey the instructions of the Lord, and then intercede for them so that they will not fall to the enemy and break their covenant relationship with the Creator. While “keeping the garden” means, to watch over the occupants of the garden as a watchman or shepherd. To do this effectively, man was supposed to live by example avoiding anything that will lead him into sin by not eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which is pride or self will. He (God) left man with a strict warning that in the day man will eat the fruit, he must surely die. The rest is now history as man did not produce the Truth that goes with Grace. He accepted God’s grace, but refused to accept or walk in God’s truth which Grace produces, and because of this, he (man) lost everything including the

governance of this world to the devil, whom the scripture refers as one of the creeping things.

After the fall of man, God could no more act on the principle of grace and truth as all that came after Adam, and who would have walked fully in grace, could not produce truth (i.e. keep the commandments of God without sinning). This sudden break in fellowship of God with man through His Grace (glory), affected Him so much that He could not stand and see man whom He created in His image being subdued by God's number one enemy, the devil. On account of seeing man and the woman walking naked (in sin), and thereby exposing themselves to further punishments, He (God) began a temporary act of restoration.

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” (Gen.3:21)

He killed some animals, and used the blood to temporarily cover the sins of Adam and Eve, while the skins of those animals were used to make coats for the couple. The sacrifice of these animals in place of the sinful Adam and Eve, restored them back to commune with God, but not in the garden of Eden, which is the abode of Grace and Truth. The blood having been used to remit their sins, was also used to appease the wrath and judgment of God which is death, and which is what the righteousness part of God's holiness demanded. For this cause, God allowed them to get a little benefit from what His Grace provides, but not to live or walk in grace. This is the case with humanity and ninety percent of the Christian fold today as they reap only a little benefit of what God's Grace provides, and because of not being able to produce the Truth, they cannot live or walk in grace. A lot of ministers of God have said that because we are in grace, we are no more under the law. They have gone further in their preaching or teaching, to quote this scripture; “Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (II Cor.3:17).

Truly speaking, we are in the dispensation of grace, but just as the world does not know that the same grace causes us to be under a

divine law (Truth), this is also how large majority of people in the Christendom do not know that the grace which they claim to be under and walk in, produces the law (divine truth) which they say that they are not under. And what the Lord meant by saying, "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty", is that if the Spirit of the Lord is dwelling in you or is actually leading you, then you must give Him freehand or liberty to operate in your life or fellowship as He likes, not trying to cage Him with your programs or activities, as the world has totally shut Him out of their programs through their system. Grace does not remove the law, what it does is to remove the condemnation that is in the law (which is death) and establish the law in your heart (spirit) and then enable you to obey the law without blame. Without receiving grace and truth, and walking in it, no one is able to walk under the law blameless. God's main purpose of giving us His law (commandments) is for one who diligently seeks to obey the law to see his inability to keep all that the law demanded, and the person will then ask God to act on the principle of Grace and Truth so as to help him obey God effectively. Like I said earlier, the pains God went through because of the sins of man are far greater than the sufferings of man because of the same sins. The personality of God the Father which is His Divine nature or His Holiness was at that time thrown into disarray. Why? It is because in the Holiness of God which is His nature, there is the righteousness of God which is protected by His Wrath, and there is the Love of God that appeases that Wrath. The Wrath of God demanded righteousness which no man could produce and on account of this, man faces death anytime he tries to approach God. Why? It is because the covenant of Father and son relationship has been broken, and the covenant breaker must die. The Wrath of God was not ready to compromise this fearful demand, for because of the sin of man, the righteousness of God has been badly tampered with and there must be punishment of death for that. If man therefore pays with his life, he cannot live again before God because it is the death of the spirit

body that we are talking of. The Love of God on the other hand was ready to receive man, forgive and forget the sins of man, and continue to live in perfect fellowship with man. In view of the fact that what the Righteousness of God demanded for man to fully come back in fellowship with God, is impossible for man to keep, the Love of God willingly offered to surrender Himself to pay the price or penalty required for man to still live in the presence of God. Isaiah the prophet saw this coming and prophetically said; "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land, but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Isa.1:18-20).

With the sins of man having been paid for by the Love of God through the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the stage became set for humanity to go back to God for a sweet and perfect fellowship. On what basis? Isaiah the prophet answered it by saying, "come and reason together with the Lord". What is man going to reason with God? To know whether he (man) is ready to drop his sins, come back to the abode of Grace provided for him by the Almighty, and then produce the Truth that goes with Grace by obeying the commandments of God. But has mankind agreed to do this in totality? The answer is no, because in spite of this clarion call by the Lord Holy Ghost through Apostle Paul that says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb.3:16), only a skeletal few have agreed to give heed to this call since the restoration of man began. The large majority of believers and humanity in general have only been tapping from crumbs of the benefits of Grace. God has therefore instructed the Holy Spirit to gather for Him, the saints who will agree to enter into a covenant relationship with Him by abiding in Grace, walking in it and

sacrificing their will, pleasures, desires, and things of the world, etc, so as to produce the Truth from God which goes with Grace.

“Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” (Ps.50:5).

God is very specific in His instruction for He said, only the saints who have made a covenant with Him by forsaking everything in the world including the entire system of the world to abide in His Grace, and walk in it, should be gathered unto Him. To understand further how to sacrifice unto the Lord and where the sacrifice should be made, see my book on *Christian Race To The End (Qualification For The Throne)*. Even many of the people in Christendom who have separated themselves from all kinds of religious sects, are not abiding in Grace because for refusing to separate themselves totally from the affairs of this life, they cannot produce the Truth to the unbelieving world as God wants it. However in this end-time, God through His Spirit has raised, and is still raising some men, women, children, and even the suckling, who through the covenant they have entered with God, will abide in Grace, walk in it and defy all odds to produce the Truth, and He will soon reveal them to the world to see and taste.

CHAPTER 2

COMPARING LAW OR HUMAN ABILITY WITH GRACE

As I have talked about the meaning of Grace in chapter one, it is also important to bring out the full meanings of the word ðlawö, so that it will be easier to compare both. Law according to Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary means an orderly system of rules and regulations by which a society is governed. It is regarded as an eternal extra force that restrains and suppresses the natural desires of the flesh. It is also considered as a ministration of death that causes bondage.

ðBut if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance, which glory was to be done away. How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.ö (II Cor.3:7-9).

The Holy Spirit spoke through Apostle Paul that if the ministration of death as the law is commonly called was glorious, how shall the ministration of the spirit as grace is referred to, not be more glorious? The law is further called the ministration of condemnation, while grace is known as the ministration of righteousness. No life could come from the law which represents to us today, everything that is not led by the Holy Spirit.

ðMoreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.ö (Rom.5:20-21).

The word ðsinö here means the law, human achievements, anything that is done through the flesh without the leadership of

the Holy Ghost. This scripture covers everything about the life of a believer. If your acts are not by the leadership of the Spirit of God, it is never grace and truth, and will always lead one to death.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (Jn. 1:17).

Grace is set forward in contrast to the law. The law in this verse of the scripture as a background in contrast magnifies grace and truth. It means that as the law was on Moses, it has become a background of grace and truth which shows that to us today, human strivings or achievements magnify grace and truth. The law or human strivings will be magnified because of grace and truth of God. By saying that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, is to say that believing you might have life through His name. Why? It is because grace reigns unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

“For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man, but he that hath built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.” (Heb.3:3-5).

This scripture explains that just as Jesus the Builder of the house, was counted worthy of more glory than Moses who was regarded as a very faithful servant in all the house of God, this is how grace should be counted more glorious, more honourable, etc, than the law. The pre-eminence of Jesus Christ over Moses is indicative of the pre-eminence of grace over the law. Pre-eminence is the ascendancy, it ascends above importance, it is super excellent and superior, while the word “indicative”, means evidential, manifested, meaningful, pre-monitory, significative and suggestive. This description of pre-eminence and indicative show an evidential superiority of grace over the law. We must understand the pre-eminence of Jesus in all things to see the greatness of grace. Just as you cannot compare Jesus and Moses, this is how you cannot compare grace with the law. The

comparison will be like comparing the Creator and the creature, the spiritual over the natural, Divine over sinful nature, Infinite over finite, that which Endures over that which passes away. Grace is God reaching out His infinite love and kindness towards finite man.

õAnd all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar offö (Exo.20:18).

õFor ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest. And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more. For they could not endure that which was commanded, and if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart. And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quakeí í ö (Heb.12:18-24).

This is talking about the law (ministration of death) and nobody was able to stand before God under the law. There was no life in the law. It is full of judgment and the wrath of God. The children of Israel could neither come to the top of the mountain, nor could they touch it. Even their beasts dare not touch the mountain, or that one stands the risk of being stoned or thrust through with a dart. But under grace, not only are we invited to boldly come to His throne of grace, but we who are converted are spiritually living with the Father, innumerable company of angels, the general assembly, the spirits of just men made perfect, the church of the firstborn which are written in heaven, with Jesus Christ the Mediator of the new testament, and with the Blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than the blood of Abel, right in that Mount Sion which is the Heavenly Jerusalem. There can never be failure in the ministration of grace. Why? This is because Jesus the One that brought grace and truth is Infinite in His Being, His Person and Work. This contrast here shows that there is failure in

the law, in human strivings, or in anything I do without the leadership of the Holy Ghost. Grace and Truth came by the Word made flesh dwelling among men, a Living Revelation of God. There is no way that any true disciple of Jesus Christ could not be called out of the world system if he or she had received grace and truth. Why? It is because He who is the manifestation of grace and truth in the world, was, and is still not part of the system of the world, and if you are truly following Him, you will also not be part of the system. This is why Jesus made these statements, "Hereafter, I will not talk much with you, for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (Jn.14:30).

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (Jn.16:33).

Jesus could say that the prince of this world hath nothing in Him because He was not, and will never be part of the system the devil set up in the world. He was not part of His family affairs, He was not part of their education, He was not part of their religious system, He was not part of their priesthood, He was not part of their governmental affairs, He was not part of their business, He was totally separated from their tradition and therefore the devil could not boast of having anything in Him. For this reason He said in chapter 16 of the book of John that if you abide in Him by totally separating yourself from the system of the world, and live your life for Him, you will have peace, but if you are in the system of the world, you will have tribulation because every part of the system is full of vexation of spirit. Everything about a true disciple of Jesus is a revelation of God. If you are living as a disciple of our Lord Jesus, and you have not given heed to the call of our Saviour to come out of the system, then you are not walking in grace and truth, there is still lie in you because truth is not in the system, and will never be.

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements,

whereunto ye desire to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.ö (Gal.4:9-11).

The weak and beggarly elements mentioned here are talking about the law. It is a specific message given to the saints who have received the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth. And the Holy Spirit is asking them through Apostle Paul why they are desiring to be in bondage of the law by observing days, months, times and years in their programs after receiving the promise of the Father (Holy Spirit). Observation of all these things was to be done under the law and not under grace. Jesus needed to observe all of them because He came to fulfil the law first before the introduction of grace to humanity. A lot of ministers of God associate walking in grace with license to careless living. Some other ministers believe and teach that when grace is taught, truth must also be taught and demanded in the lives of those who are in grace. But grace and truth are inseparable, they do not appear in part. However, the right thing is that grace produces truth, it does not demand truth.

öAnd the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.ö (Jn.1:14).

The above scripture explains the relationship between grace and truth much better. They are measured together, because they are inseparable. It is the law that makes demands. Everything in the law demanded man to bring this or do this, but grace produces everything, grace is free, it doesn't demand anything. God gives man grace and truth. Man cannot produce truth if he doesn't have the grace.

THE LAW AS A SCHOOLMASTER TO GRACE

öBut the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the

faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith came, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.ö (Gal.3:22-26).

The word ðfaithö in this scripture means grace, and the Lord spoke through Brother Paul that before the door of grace was opened, we were kept under the law to serve as a schoolmaster revealing our inabilities to keep the word of God, because of our sinful nature inherited through the fall of Adam. The Jews were not really under the law, otherwise they could have known Jesus when He came. If they had truly kept the law, God could have imparted righteousness on them. It may appear the Jews and the Pharisees were under the law, but their hearts were not in the law, and thus they were not obeying the law as you can see Jesus saying, ðThe Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, all whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do, but do not ye after their works, for they say, and do not.ö (Matt.23:2-3). Sitting in Moses' seat, means insisting that the law must be observed, but what they force others to do, they cannot do a simple part of the law. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Old Testament saints had righteousness imputed on them because they kept the law and they all went to Paradise when they died. Those that are really under the law and are keeping it, will demand how they will know Jesus when grace and truth is preached to them. Paul kept the law. He was a Pharisee, a doctor of the law. He knew he had all the power and great authority, for there is no power or authority greater than what God gave the Jews, but when he saw that Light (Jesus), he bowed immediately knowing that it was Supernatural. He noticed immediately that He could be no other Person than God and acknowledged His Lordship. If they were really under the law and had accepted what God has given them, the law as their schoolmaster, would have led them to Christ. This was how Nicodemus was led to Christ, and so many other people among the

unbelieving world who are sincerely walking under the law, and obeying the authorities they are kept under, will also be led to He who is the Minister of grace and truth, and they will be freed from the bondage of the law.

õTherefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested being witnessed by the law and the prophetsö (Rom.3:20-21).

We establish the law in ourselves by believing that Jesus fulfilled all the demands of the law for justice and righteousness, that justice will be satisfied. We must establish the law in ourselves, because if you don't believe that Jesus fulfilled the law then you cannot walk in grace and truth.

õAnd the Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole, and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.ö (Num.21:8-9).

õAnd as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.ö (Jn.3:14-15).

Brass means sin that has been judged and the fiery serpent signifies Jesus on the cross. God told Moses to lift up the serpent of brass as a sign of lifting up the Grace of God. The law always lifts up grace. The lifting up of the fiery serpent represents the lifting up of Jesus who is God's Grace, that lifts up the bondage of sin and death which is what we get from the law. The manifestation of Jesus on earth was God reaching man by grace. Under the law, man was trying to reach up to God's standard in Heaven, but under grace, it was God coming down to man.

õFor as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse, for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no

man is justified by the law in the sight of God, is evident, for, the just shall live by faith.ö (Gal.3:10-11).

The scripture is clear because all that the works of the law will bring to he/she who observes it, is curse. It will never bring justification, for by keeping all that the law demanded, and offending in one, you have offended in all. To be just or righteous before God, you must walk in grace, and to the large majority of believers throughout the world who are bound by religious legalism, you can never be justified by those laws except you walk in grace.

CHAPTER 3

BELIEVING ON THAT NAME OF JESUS

The word ðbelieve is Pisteuo in Greek, and pronounced as pist-yoo-oö, meaning to have faith in or upon, with respect to a person or thing. To entrust especially one's spiritual being to Christ. Believe includes in itself, all that man can do to receive grace and truth. Everything about grace and truth includes in the word believe which God made in the very beginning, and this word is used in various forms one hundred times in the Book of John. Do you believe in Jesus? Then you have grace and truth. The attitude of believe will cause you to have grace and truth because you cannot have it, if you don't believe on the Lord Jesus. On the other hand, the word ðname is Shem, and pronounced as shameö, meaning honour, authority, character, fame, renown, report, while the name of Jesus can be simplified as that which He is, and that which He has done. Therefore believing on that name of Jesus means having faith in or upon, or entrusting your spiritual being to the honour, authority, character, fame, renown or report about or of the Lord Jesus.

Who is He? Apostle John has the answer;

ðAnd the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truthö (Jn.1:14).

He is the Word of God that was made flesh, and full of Grace and Truth. What has He done? Again Apostle John has the answer;

ðThe next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the worldö (Jn.1:29).

He is also the Lamb of God, and what He has done from Genesis to Revelation is that He has taken away the sins of the world, and

there is no condemnation in them that accept Him and walk in Light.

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (Jn.1:11-12).

He came unto His own and they rejected Him, but those who received Him as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world were given power and authority to become the sons of God.

“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” (Jn.8:24).

Believing in who He is and what He has done is what He is telling them, for He is the Lamb of God that has taken away their sins. This is a difficult thing for them to believe, being Jews because according to their custom, during the time of Passover, they shower great praises to the lamb which they take to Jerusalem for slaughter, as what is going to take away their sins. They did not know that Jesus is the true Lamb of God that came down from Heaven for the purpose of taking away, not only their sins, but that of the whole world.

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (Jn.12:46-48).

The world was lying in darkness and wickedness when He came as a Light into the world to bring succour to humanity. Therefore if you don’t believe on Him as Grace and Truth, His words will judge you on the last day.

“Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (Jn.6:29)

Under the law, everything requires works. He was talking to the Jews here. Viewing this statement from the point of the law, He was telling them that He is the work which they have to do by

believing on Him, but under grace, He told them that they don't need to do any other work since God has finished the work for them, but only to believe in that finished work of grace which is Jesus.

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (Jn.20:31)

All the things written in the Bible were said so as to make us believe that He was the Son of God filled with grace and truth, and that through Him we might have eternal life.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (Jn.1:1-4)

The first four verses in this chapter are the very God Himself. There was no other life except Jesus. He is not the creature, but the Creator (that is One who created all things) and that is why He should take pre-eminence in everything in our lives. Everything is subject unto Him (ref. Col.1:16). There is nothing that exists, but were all created by Jesus and for Jesus, and everything in this world is used by Him to bring me to where He wants me to be. There is no other book in the Bible that teaches about the Deity of the Lord Jesus except the Book of John. The Life of God that was manifested in Jesus was in man. This means everything that is light or godly in man is because of the Life of God in that man. Grace reigns unto eternal life but not the Law of Moses. There was no life giving power in the law.

“Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye believe me not?” (Jn.8:46).

No human being on earth can ever make this statement that Jesus made here because He is Divine. He was above sin. He is the Love. He walked through the world blameless and nobody could hold

Him guilty of any sin. He kept all that was required of the law of Moses (ref. Matt.5:17).

“For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect, because the law worketh wrath for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed, not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.” (Rom.4:14-16)

When Paul wrote about faith, he specifically meant faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ which is righteousness. The faith that others talked about in the scripture is not talking about the same faith as Paul wrote. Paul had a revelation of grace and truth, walked in it, and was even sent to open the eyes of the Gentiles whom God has called through grace. Life is through His name. And His name is that which He is and that which He did. The merit of Jesus Christ is the basis for grace. To fail to see the contrast between law and grace is to miss the distinctive message given by the Holy Spirit in the Book of John.

“Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me, or else believe me for the very works’ sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.” (Jn.14:11-12).

This is a blank or an open cheque given by the Lord Jesus, to as many as believe who He is and what He has done, and agree to walk in grace and truth. A lot of people have asked questions on why the Lord said, “because I go unto my Father.” To answer this question, it is important to note that when the Lord was on earth, there was no mediator between Him and God the Father. Nobody could stand in the gap and intercede for Him not to go to the cross, because nobody could be adjudged righteous for on account of Adam’s sin, all of us became sinners. However, the Lord made that statement, “because I go unto my Father”, indicating that He is

going to stand as a Mediator between humanity and God, and that anything, as many as believe on His name ask the Father in His name, He will do it. And by His act of standing in the gap as a Mediator, we shall do greater works than He did, because through His blood which is right there at the Throne room of the Father, He will always present us as holy, unblameable and unreprouable before God (ref. Col.1:22).

“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” (Jn.5:44).

Anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth, will never seek his/her own honour, or will not allow people to call attention or glory to him. Why? This is because the true attitude of grace will always cause people to look upon Jesus. Grace and truth will cause total dependence on God, and this will cause Jesus and the grace that came by Him to become the fullness of God the Father. Man has no single right to take any glory or to be honoured, because the work of restoration was conceived by God, started by God, and finished by God, all that man is required to do is to depend totally on that finished work. Going into any kind of self efforts, human achievements, ability or accomplishments, is directing people’s attention to yourself and thereby indicating that Jesus has not taken away your sins. And that will make you to remain in darkness, blindness, and also to cause your sins to remain at your door.

“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me, for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (Jn.5:46-47).

“Moses” in this scripture represents the law and the Lord spoke this to show that the law is truly a schoolmaster to lead him/her who diligently obeys it, to He who is the Minister of grace and truth. This also shows that in the writings of Moses, the Jews were prophetically told about the coming of our Lord Jesus as recorded in Deuteronomy 18:18-19, but because they never obeyed the law, they could not know much about the Minister of grace and truth.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (II Cor.4:3-4).

The god of this world will blind the minds of as many as do not believe on His name (i.e. believing on who He is, and what He has done).

The gospel of Christ will also be hid to those who do not believe on His name. What this means is that those who do not receive Him as the Minister of grace and truth, are already lost, and will be unable to have the light of the gospel shine unto them, so that they will be converted.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:30-31).

It is only by believing on His name that salvation can come. There is no other way man can be saved, no other way man can be delivered, and no other way man can have access to God the Father, except by believing on the name of Jesus as the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life.

“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe me and understand that I am he, before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.” (Isa.43:10).

The Lord has chosen us through His grace to be His witnesses and His servants that we may know and believe on His name, and understand that He is the Minister of grace and truth. There is nothing like grace and truth, it is the beginning and the end of creation. Before Grace there was nothing created, and after it, there should be nothing that can give man justification.

“And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.” (Mk.9:42).

The word ðoffendö is ðskandalizoö in Greek, meaning scandalize, to entrap, to trip up, to stumble, or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure. I have taken time to bring out the Biblical meanings of offend, so as to warn as many as have been finding pleasure in not only enticing to sin, those who believe in the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth, but also attack them for walking in grace and truth. The Lord warned that this is a very dangerous ground to tread on, because all that do cause the people of God to stumble will be severely dealt with.

ðWherefore also it is contained in the scripture, behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious, and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.ö (I Pet.2:7).

The scripture is clear on who He is, as the Chief Corner Stone, as the Elect of the Father, as the Precious Son of God, as the Minister of grace and truth laid in Sion, not in the system of the world for He is not part of this system.

If you believe on His name, abide in Him and walk in Him, you will never be confounded. And the word confounded means confused, disgraced, dishonoured, put to shame. For those who do not believe on His name as the Minister of both grace and truth, they will be confounded, they will stumble and they will not be chosen.

CHAPTER 4

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AND NICODEMUS AS RELATES TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND GRACE

Who was Nicodemus? Apostle John had the answer in chapter 3 of his book.

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” (Jn.3:1-2)

Nicodemus was a Jew, a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews and much later became a disciple of the Lord Jesus, for it was this Nicodemus who anointed Jesus with myrrh and aloes after His death, and also joined Joseph of Arimathea in burying Jesus (ref.Jn.19:38-42). When Nicodemus said, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God,” he was lying because he didn’t know that Jesus is from God and therefore was not sent by God. For Nicodemus to come to Jesus by night, means he was void of spiritual understanding. And that is why Jesus told him, what you said you see, you can’t see it for if you can see it, you wouldn’t have come by night.

“And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished. But their minds were blinded, for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament, which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses (the law) is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.” (II Cor.3:13-16).

As many as walk under the law, have this veil upon their hearts, and that is why they are spiritually blinded, but the veil is taken

away as soon as one turns to the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth. Nicodemus was under the sentence of death because he spiritually had this veil on his face and that is why he came by night.

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Rom.3:19-20).

“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. For until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” (Rom.5:12-13).

The law is not meant to justify anybody because on account of offending in one, you have sinned in all. The law was allowed in the world to show man his inability to obey the commandments of God, so that he (man) can become guilty before God. Sin entered into the world through one man, and that is Adam, and death also came as a punishment for sin which passed to all men. But there wouldn't have been sin if there is no law, for law is a revelation of sin. These two scriptures therefore indicate that Nicodemus was under the sentence of death when he came to Jesus, and needed that the veil be removed before he can accept grace. Most born again Christians have that veil on their faces today because of being bound by some denominational laws or laws in the system operating in the world which are contrary to the word of God. When a minister of God who walks in grace and truth goes anywhere to preach, the things that people should want to know is, “how do we come to know Jesus?” Why? This is because they are not under the guilt of sin if they will accept Him as God's abounding Grace to humanity.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn.3:3).

The only answer of grace and truth to the law is that you must be born again. The Kingdom of God is God's rule of grace in the world, a future period foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. It is also the experience of blessedness, like that of the Garden of Eden, where evil is fully overcome and where those who will live in that Kingdom know only happiness, peace and joy. That you cannot see the Kingdom of God, means you can neither experience the lifestyle of the Kingdom in you, nor see the physical manifestation of the Kingdom.

“And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” (Lev.20:10).

“The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, thou hast well said, I have no husband. For thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband, in that saidst thou truly.” (Jn.4:17-18).

In this chapter and verse of the book of the Leviticus, it shows that the woman would have been stoned. In fact if she was a Jew, she would have been stoned, but the Samaritans weren't walking under God's law. They were worshipping false god. This therefore shows that Jesus was dealing with her by grace and He didn't condemn her. When Jesus told her, “you have no husband”, it means that He recognised the woman's divorce, even though divorce is a grievous sin against God. He didn't condemn her, but rather offered her the Living Water (Grace). The Living Water is a well springing up unto everlasting life. The woman had little or no human merit. She did not even know her spiritual condition. She did not know she was lost and on the way to hell, to have had five husbands. Nicodemus knew all these things and that is why it was difficult for him to believe in born again at his old age. He was less prepared to receive grace and truth than the woman of Samaria. He had great merit. He was a doctor of law, a Pharisee and an

intellectual. The greater the human merit or intellect you have, the more difficult it is for you to accept the simplicity of Jesus.

“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, how is it that thou being a Jew, asketh drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.” (Jn.4:9).

She did all she could with her limited understanding to bring Jesus under the law. Jesus did not offer Living Water to Nicodemus because the revelation of Jesus would have been too great for Nicodemus to grasp. As an intellectual, Nicodemus was possessed with the legal idea of life by human merit. Life as a free gift would have been hard for him to grasp. Legalism (works) and self righteousness hinder the acceptance of eternal life by grace without human merit. Eternal life by Living Water, also the satisfaction of every longing of the heart, is contrary to the strivings to fulfil the requirements of the law. Although the intellect of the woman could not grasp the meaning of the truth of the Living Water. She laid hold upon it in simple faith.

WHAT INTERESTED THE WOMAN ABOUT GRACE

What really interested the woman of Samaria about grace, is the freeness of the gift, the unfailing power to forever satisfy and the ability to produce from within the everlasting life. I do not need human ability to do what the Lord wants me to do, but Nicodemus depended on human ability, because all that the law required is works (human ability). The woman did not grasp this truth intellectually or by works, but she grasped it by simple faith. Faith is not a matter of intellect (i.e. not of the mind), but of the heart.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Rom.10:10).

The Lord Holy Ghost spoke here clearly through the mouth of Apostle Paul that faith is a thing of the heart and not of the head.

The woman was in perfect harmony with grace by acknowledging her undone sinful condition and complete dependence upon God.

“The woman saith unto him, sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.” (Jn.4:19).

She received the Lord Jesus as a Prophet because she knew that she needed what Jesus was offering her but she couldn’t produce it. She desired the Living Water, she sought for it and accepted the condition for getting it.

“Then there shall be a place which the Lord your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there, thither shall ye bring all that I command you, your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the Lord. And ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God, ye and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates, forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest. But in the place which the Lord shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.” (Deut.12:11-14).

Under the law, God had a specific place for worship. God demanded it, the law also demanded it. This is so because by then, the grace of God has not been revealed to the church and the Spirit of Grace has not come either. This is why large majority of the Christendom are in great deception, for they, being ignorant of the fact that this requirement of God to worship the Father in a specific place, was His commandment under the law. The Christian family therefore fail to realise that having been called by God through grace, going back to keep the law by worshipping God in a set place, brings them to the curse of the law, and to great bondage. It is true if you are under the law, you must keep all that the law demanded. When you keep some, and offend in one, you have offended in all, and therefore should face the same punishment with those who do not obey the law.

“Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith

unto her, woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what, we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him.ö (Jn.4:20-23).

Jesus said that the time is coming and now is the time, signifying that from the time He (Jesus) set His feet in Israel, temple worship ended because Jesus is that true Temple of God where they are supposed to bring those sacrifices. For this cause, He told them that they should no more go to Jerusalem to worship the Father, but they can worship Him everywhere, and in spirit and truth. Jesus spoke to worship the Father in spirit and truth, bringing to an end ceremonial worship and the thought of the Jews as the true worshippers of God, and establishing the fact that God will only receive worship from those who have accepted grace and truth. He spoke further that those who go to mountains or Jerusalem (which is a replica of going to worship God in an organised specific place) do not know what they worship. Why? It is because since the presence of the Lord is no more there, what is being worshipped there, is a different personality that does not represent God.

öCome, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did, is not this the Christ?ö (Jn.4:29).

The woman accepted Jesus as Christ because of His word. He didn't perform any miracle for her to believe. The greatness of grace never misses, it does what it wants at the right time. If Jesus had spoken to a virtuous woman who had a good reputation, He could not have gotten the result, because a virtuous woman wouldn't have had the same reputation as this sinful woman. The Samaritan woman had a very bad reputation and nobody was ready to talk to her. Because of this, she stays alone and the time she came out to draw that water, was in the mid-day when nobody especially women, goes there to fetch water. She didn't want to draw anybody's attention, this was why she kept on avoiding Jesus

when He engaged her in conversation. When she ran back to the city, she did not go to her fellow women because they will despise her, but she went and narrated her story to men of that city. And her bad reputation made it possible for her to draw the attention of those she told her story. The great lesson to learn here is that large majority of those who have worldly reputation, or who believe they know the scriptures, find it difficult to acknowledge their sins or to believe that they need salvation, because they so much trust in their human merit. For this reason, they find it very difficult to receive the simplicity of Christ.

“So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them, and he abode there two days.” (Jn.4:40).

The two days that Jesus tarries with them in Samaria represents the two thousand years of the dispensation of grace.

“But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?” (Mk.2:6-7).

“Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.” (Matt.22:15)

Human reasoning is of the devil because it kills the move of God. Whenever the Pharisees reasoned, their intention was to put Jesus to death. The wisdom of God has nothing to do with men, it can only come by the Holy Spirit. God did not call me because of my ability, He called me because of my inability so that I can depend on Him. Nicodemus possessed the wisdom of men or the wisdom of the world which hinders the move of the Holy Spirit. No man can have the knowledge of God without the Holy Spirit, and this was why Jesus told Nicodemus to forget about the wisdom of man which he had, and be born again. It is only when you are truly born of water (word of God) and the Holy Spirit (led by the Spirit of God), that you can have the knowledge of God and His wisdom.

CHAPTER 5

WILL IT BE POSSIBLE FOR GRACE TO DELIVER FROM THE IMPOTENCE OF THE LAW?

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water (Jn.5:2-3).

The word *impotent* is *astheneo* in Greek, meaning to be feeble, be diseased, be sick, be made weak, while *Bethesda* means house of mercy or house of kindness, and *five porches* represents grace because number five, means grace. These sick people here, represent the failure of the law to give life, the failure of the law to show the kindness of God's love. They lack the strength to fulfil what the law demanded and yet they could not seek grace, in spite of the fact that they were in grace.

For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water, whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool, but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. (Jn.5:4-7).

The impotent man could not receive his healing up until that time because he was relying on the works of the law or his human ability. He had spent 38 years trusting in self other than God. The number 38 is Righteousness in God's arithmetic of numbers, but the impotent man was not relying on the righteousness of God which is obtained by faith, rather he trusted in his own righteousness or the works of the law. And because he lacked the

strength to fulfil what the law demanded at that time, which is to be the first that will step into the water after being troubled by the angel, he wasted 38 years of his human strength that was against God. By saying òsir I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the poolö, it is like saying in the Christendom today, that he has no man or pastor to follow him up. Believers have so much systemized the worship of God that when one is born again, he waits to be assigned a brother or a sister who will be coming to him or her to teach him or her the word of God, or follow him or her up as it is commonly called. He or she waits for somebody to push him or her around in order to follow or serve God. This is why there is too much immorality, laxity and spiritual slumber in the much professed Christendom today. Why? It is because a lot of those that are followed up by brethren in their denominations, end up backsliding, as they see themselves running the race for those brethren or those denominations following them up. And once they (those brethren) stop pleasing these young converts, they will simply backslide as they believe their mentors are no more interested in them. But if they (these converts) have been presented the Lord Jesus Christ as the Minister of grace and truth, and allowed to follow the Lord without being pushed, they would have received Him as God's righteousness, and also receive abundant grace to follow Him in spirit and truth, and they can understand the word of God from Apostle John which says, òBut the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you, but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in himö (I Jn.2:27).

If you receive the anointing of grace and truth, you will not need anybody to push you around to serve God or to follow up like the impotent man wasted a whole lot of years, looking for somebody to do what the grace of God would have done for him. But the same anointing will help you to walk in grace and truth, and rely on the righteousness of God already produced by the Lord Jesus

for those who agree to walk in His grace. It is for not relying on God's grace or ability to deliver, that made God to allow Israel's men of war waste as can be seen here.

“And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years, until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord swore unto them.” (Deut.2:14).

This shows that for 38 years, nothing was accomplished in Israel because they never trusted in God's ability to deliver them, or take them to the promise land. They so much believed in their own human strength, their human ability and their own righteousness, and for this cause, God allowed them to waste all their human resources until the righteousness which they depended on, failed to get them what they want. And today, the Christian family is wasting their strength trying to keep or fulfil a lot of denominational laws which can neither profit them, nor help them attain the righteousness of God which is obtained by grace.

“The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the Sabbath day, it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.” (Jn.5:10).

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself.” (Exo.19:4).

God had to remind them what He did, because they had forgotten it. It is the same thing with the Jews as they did not ask to know who healed the man, their eyes were not on God, but on Sabbath. They were more interested in their law, their programs, more than God and His good works. This is where the Christendom is today, as the Christian family is only interested in which denomination you belong, and how you keep the laws of that denomination, instead of seeking to know how to worship God in spirit and truth, and obey the word of God. Also looking at the reaction of the Jews in verse 10 of John chapter 5, we clearly see that legalism or the law will always judge grace. The moment you walk in grace, those that are soaked or buried in the law, will come against you as they did to the impotent man.

“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked, and on the same day was the sabbath.” (Jn.5:9)

This is the manifestation of God’s grace. What the law could not do for 38 years because of its impotency, the grace of God did within minutes to the chagrin of the Jews who had great reverence for their Sabbath.

“And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death, all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stone him with stones, and he died, as the Lord commanded Moses.” (Num.15:32-36).

The impotency of the law is so much that there was no mercy under the law. Yet the Israelites were not keeping the law, otherwise the man could not have gone to gather sticks on the Sabbath day. In the New Testament, the Pharisees and the Jews who like the children of Israel in the Old Testament, could not keep the law, were constraining the impotent man not to carry his bed and get up after receiving his healing, and they were threatening the Lord Jesus with fire.

“And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.” (Jn.5:16).

They were seriously seeking to kill Jesus because He worked contrary to their law. No amount of miracles He did could cause them to have a change of heart, as regards their law.

This therefore shows that the final answer for legalism to grace is death. They will do everything to kill your credibility once you don’t obey their laws, because all about that law, is of human ability and the ministration of death.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” (Jas.2:10).

This shows the ministration of death in works and human effort. No matter how good you strive to keep the law, once you sin in just one, you have failed in all as an evidence that the law cannot help or justify anybody who trusts in it.

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” (Jn.5:17).

Jesus answered the Jews this way, to show that under grace He did not defend what He had done on the Sabbath, but under the law He defended healing the sick on a Sabbath day as can be seen in Matthew 12:10-12.

The impotency of the law and the ability of grace to deliver, could further be seen in the encounter involving the Lord Jesus, the woman caught in adultery, the scribes and Pharisees.

“And the scribes and Pharisees brought him a woman taken in adultery, and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned, but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him, But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last, and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.” (Jn.8:3-11).

Under the law, the woman would have been stoned, but they brought her to He who is the Minister of grace and truth, and the Grace of God having removed the condemnation, did not condemn her. The scribes and Pharisees were seeing the woman from man's point of view, but Jesus who is full of grace and truth, saw the woman from God's point of view. He who walks in grace and

truth, does not condemn or judge people, it is the truth he preaches that condemns or judges people. Jesus presented the truth to the scribes and Pharisees and they couldn't withstand the truth, so they all left.

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matt.10:5-6).

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

“He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee, And he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.” (Jn.4:3-5).

Matthew in his gospel, brought out the impotency of the law as he wrote to show Jesus walking under the law by commanding the disciples not to go to any city of the Samaritans. This is because of two reasons, one is that the Samaritans have no dealings with the Jews, secondly, the law has not been established in the hearts of His disciples. However, John writing with the revelation of grace and truth in his gospel, showed how the disciples walked with Jesus who represents Grace, to Samaria. This signifies that when they walked under grace and truth, they were able to go to Samaria without falling into any condemnation. Luke also wrote in Acts of the Apostles showing Jesus instructing His disciples that when they receive the Spirit of grace as an evidence that the law has been fulfilled in them, they would be witnesses unto Him both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The law demanded what it could not produce because of its impotency, but grace provided it to show the ability of grace to deliver from the impotence of the law, and they witnessed effectively in Samaria and were blameless too.

“And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David, my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, send her away, for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” (Matt. 15:22-28).

When the woman spoke and said, O Lord, thou son of David, she was in sin because she pretended to be a Jewish woman. Only the Jews at that time could call Him this way having been well abreast of His descent. Jesus spoke to her that way to defend the law and also to expose her hypocritical behaviour. She repented immediately and sought it through grace, and grace produced what she asked for. What she could not receive under the law in spite of all her pleadings and persistence, she took hold of it under grace, indicating the inability of the law to be merciful or to deliver. The Lord Jesus was sent to restore the lost sheep of Israel before the door of salvation was thrown open to bring in the Gentiles. And for almost three and a half years before that door of grace was thrown open, this Gentile woman received what would never have been possible legally. Why? It is because grace will always deliver where the law has failed. She tried deceitfully to obtain her heart’s desire through the law, and when she failed, she turned to grace because grace never fails.

CHAPTER 6

THE WORD IN CONTRAST TO THE WORLD

A word is an expression or an idea or thought that conveys a complete idea from one to another. It is a theological phrase that expresses the absolute, eternal, and ultimate Being of Jesus Christ. It is also the means by which God makes Himself known, declares His will, and brings about His purposes.

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (Jn.1:1).

These few words here, will give us a complete revelation of God. Man was able to receive the revelation of God because God was manifested in the flesh by the Word being made flesh. It was in this way that man may know, that man may believe, and that man may turn to life. The law could not reveal God to man. The Pharisees knew the law, but they didn’t know God. Why? This is because there was no revelation of God’s love in the law. That the law was engraven and written on stones is the symbolic of its inability to give life. On the other hand, the world is a Greek word “Kosmos”, meaning an orderly way that several things, events etc, are arranged or put on a list, showing whether something is first, second, third, etc. It is an arranged or organised system or program, put in place by God to function in this earth, as to equate what He has also arranged in the heavenlies.

It is by this good thought of God for His creature that we can begin to appreciate the Lord’s prayer which says, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt.6:9-10).

The Lord’s Kingdom that we are praying to come, is His system of government which was partially practised in the garden of Eden before the fall of man. The power or authority required to operate in this system was demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when He was on earth as He truly had dominion over all the creatures as

commanded by God. His will that He wants to be done in earth, is His lifestyle and that of the heavenly beings. He wants humanity and the rest of His creation on earth to live the same lifestyle that is in place in the heavenlies, right here on earth. In unveiling or bringing a clearer picture of this chapter, ðthe word in contrast to the worldö, it indicates that the comparison between the Word of God that created the Earth, and the system operating in the world are completely different from each other.

ðThrough faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appearö (Heb.11:3).

While the material world was created by God through His Word, the system operating in the world since the fall of man from God's glory (grace), and his subsequent driving away from the garden of Eden, was therefore set up by Satan. The devil in his futile effort to drive man into insanity so as to forget God and His ways entirely, injected in humanity or the creation at large, the spirit of mystery babylon.

Let me explain this word mystery babylon because a lot of people have read it in the Bible, and cannot understand how humanity or the creation came about it. The word ðmysteryö is musterion in Greek, meaning a secret or mystery (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites). On the other hand, Babylon is derived from Babel which means confusion. Therefore ðmystery babylonö means, secret confusion hidden in the ðmindö (referred to as forehead in the Bible).

Those in that system (Mystery Babylon), do not know about it, and even if they are told, they cannot talk about it because they are in it by virtue of an unknown imposed initiation into the system. The aim of this organised system operating in the world which is called mystery babylon, is to oppose the Word of God that created the world, and cause man or the creation to turn away from the pattern which God set up in the garden of Eden, and also to persecute and kill those who will insist on following the pattern of God as

outlined by the Lord Jesus in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. A lot of people may think that this spirit of mystery babylon started unleashing this evil during the time of Nimrod the great hunter who came from Cush (Ethiopia), but this has started long before that time. Otherwise what spirit made Cain to kill his brother Abel because his brother's sacrifice was better and acceptable to God than his own? What spirit made the angels of God sent on an errand to this earth to forget the beauties of heaven and all its joy, and started desiring the daughters of men whom they married and produced giants in the world?

You can now see that it has been, before Nimrod, however it became a physical system that could be seen and understood during the time of Nimrod, and continued to spread after the scattering of the people, and introduction of many languages or tongues. It is still this same system set up by the devil after the fall of man that is in existence till date. This is why when the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) who created even the material world and all that is in it came to this earth, He could not be received.

“All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (Jn.1:3,10-11).

He could not be received because He was not part of the existing system which the entire humanity is practising, and this was why He continued to redirect the minds of His disciples at that time, and even now to His word and to come out of the system, as we can see in some of these scriptures:-

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world (*system*), ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (Jn.16:33).

“They are not of the world (*system*), even as I am not of the world.” (Jn.17:16)

“I have given them thy word, and the world (*system*) hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” (Jn.17:14)

The Lord said that in Him, that is, in the Word of God you will have peace if you accept to come out of the system and live by the Word of God, but if you decide to remain in the system which virtually ninety-nine percent of everyone existing in this earth found himself/herself from birth, you will not only have tribulation, vexation of spirit, but you will not be able to know when the Lord will come to take away His saints. As many as have received the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth, and also received Him as the Word of God in humanity, should be conscious that they are not part of the system as He who is the Author and Finisher of our faith was not, and can never be part of the system. Again, if you truly receive the Word of God, the system of the world and those who belong to the system, will hate you even as the Lord spoke in John 15:18-19,

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world therefore the world hateth you.”

The world and its system can recognise a Higher Being, a Providence, a Mastermind, a First-course. These are terminologies used by the world and its system to bypass God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The world understands moral issues, even all the moral standards of the law. The world as well can strive for righteousness and busy itself with its own works and its own accomplishments. But all of these beliefs leave room for human goodness and human merit. Men can accept all of these things and still have confidence in self. But the world does not know Him who is full of grace and truth, but you cannot know grace as long as it finds sufficiency and merit in man. We must turn ourselves completely from depending on self, the world and the system. We should try and look unto Jesus who is both the Word of God and

Minister of grace and truth, and hold tight to what He has given to humanity to bring us out of this corrupt system.

“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament, not of the letter, but of the spirit, for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” (II Cor.3:6).

The word in letter does not dwell among men. Therefore when men who do not walk in grace and truth try to find God and the life of God by reading the word in letter, what they find is that the wrath of God is against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” (Rom.1:16-18).

The just (righteous) shall live by grace, but when men look for God in the letter (word), and don’t look for God in grace, all they will find is the wrath of God. Why? It is because they find a demand for righteousness and judgment, and because they didn’t measure up to the righteousness demanded of them, the letter (word) that they are reading will bring judgment to them.

“But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.” (Gal.5:18).

The word “law” here means judgment and wrath of God, which the system of the world is full of. Why I am not under the law (judgment and wrath of God) is because I am born of the Spirit of God and also led by the Spirit. Jesus must be received as God sent Him, and God sent Him as the Minister of grace and truth. The world does not receive Him as their Saviour who has come to save them, to deliver them, and to bring them out of the system of the world that has turned them into becoming the enemy of God, because of their non-compliance with the Word of God which

urges them to come out of the system. If any fails to accept Him as the Minister of grace and truth, and follow His laid down principles in His Word, then Jesus is not the Lord of that person's life. The religion that the world and its system practise, does not teach about Jesus as God's grace to humanity. It is rather a superstition, and that is why Christianity is not regarded as a religion. Christianity is regarded as Christ-like life and for this reason, true Christians who worship God in spirit and truth, receive Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth.

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Rom.4:4-5).

If we do anything to receive grace, it is no more grace, but works. The world and its system believe you must work or strive for anything including following the Lord Jesus, but the Word of God and the followers of the Word of God believe that either you must completely depend on God to do everything, or else you are not walking in His grace (not depending upon Him at all).

“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world, thine they were, and thou gavest them me, and they have kept thy word.” (Jn.17:6).

Those that receive grace and truth, and agree to separate themselves totally from the world and its system, are the people that God has given to the Lord Jesus to be His, and they will always keep His word. Why? It is because a she-goat can neither give birth to a snake nor a calf, but rather the same she-goat or a he-goat. Jesus was not of the world, as He was totally separated from the world and its system. Therefore those that receive His grace and who are His, will be like Him, so as to produce truth and keep His word. It is impossible for anyone who is part of the system existing in the world to keep the word of God, or to be led by the Spirit of God.

ōI pray for them, I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me, for they are thine.ö (Jn.17:9).

This is shocking many may say, because Jesus is not praying for the world and its system. He is rather praying for those who have received His grace, and are producing the truth by keeping the word of God. Therefore if you continue to remain in the world and its system, bear in mind that you are part of those planning to stop the physical manifestation of the government of our Lord Jesus.

ōFor whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!ö (Rom.10:13-15).

The word òcallö, is epikaleomai in Greek, and pronounced as ep-ee-kal-ehøm-ahee, which means to entitle, to invoke (for aid, worship, testimony, decision, etc), to appeal (unto), to call (on, upon), to surname. And according to Longman's dictionary, òinvokeö means, to use a law, principle, or theory to support your views, to make a particular idea, image or feeling appear in people's minds, to ask for help from someone more powerful than you, especially a god. I have taken time to bring out the full meanings of òcallö in this part of the scriptures, because the world and its system do not truly call upon the Lord. Why? It is simple. They do not believe on the Lord Jesus as God's special Grace to humanity. It is like ministering healing to somebody who does not believe in divine healing from God. No matter how you pray, nothing can happen because he or she has no faith in what you are doing. The world cannot truly seek help from the Lord Jesus because they do not believe that He is more powerful than the system they found themselves. They again do not believe that the system is bad and very corrupt. Why must the hearts of those in the system be very hardened? It is because believers or ministers of

God who are supposed to be the light of the world (since the world is lying in darkness and wickedness), and also the physical manifestation of God's grace now, as Jesus is no more in the world physically, are deeply buried in the world and are comfortably following the system of the world in every aspect of their lives. And they are justifying their presence in that corrupt system, and thereby making it difficult, if not impossible for the world to see that light of Jesus. No amount of justification by large majority of ministers of God and believers about their involvement in the system of the world will change the word of God. The system is corrupt, and those in the system are corrupt, and will continue to walk in unrighteousness until they heed the call of the Lord to come out. And to such preachers or ministers, they may go, and they may preach, and they may work miracles, but God did not send them because they have refused to believe and obey He who is the Minister of grace and truth.

CHAPTER 7

WHAT IS GRACE FOR GRACE?

I had earlier in the beginning of this book, written down the meanings of the word "Grace" as "Charis" in Greek, which I explained to mean the following in English; acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, joy, liberality, pleasure, etc. I also stated that Ronald F. Youngblood who is the general editor of Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, described Grace as favour or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves. Grace for grace therefore means that we have received God's grace to lead us into grace. This is further explained that we have received God's favour, gift, benefit, kindness, etc, which we didn't merit, to lead us into grace or favour, gift, benefit, kindness, etc, from mankind or God's creatures even in circumstances or areas where we do not deserve it. What I am trying to explain is this, as many as receive the Lord Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth, and strive to obey His principles by walking in the truth which His grace produces, will find out that there is an unbelievable favour, benefit or kindness they receive from people even in some areas where it is not possible to receive such favour. Even the unbelievers will agree with me, that there is a great confidence or boldness which the true ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, walk in every situation they found themselves. Why? David the king gave the answer in his book of Psalms;

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Ps.24:1).

True ministers of God believe what this scripture has said, that the earth and all that is in the earth, are owned by the Lord who is the Minister of grace and truth. And since we believe in Him, and walk

in His grace, we also own the earth and all that is in the earth with Him.

King Solomon also said, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion." (Prov.28:1).

What gives us such boldness is the grace we have received to be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and wherever we go, we are carrying the Ark (presence) of God. And as Christ's ambassadors, we have the legal right to stand in any authority or power existing in the world, because all of them are subject to Christ Jesus, while we are one with Him.

Apostle Paul knew exactly what he meant when he was comparing the law and the spirit in Romans chapter 8. Actually what he was trying to compare is the law and grace. He meant that if you walk in grace, the Spirit of God will bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God. And so Paul said,

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Rom.8:17).

The word "joint heir" is "sugkleronomos" in Greek, meaning a co-heir (i.e.) participant in common, fellow heir, heir together, heir with. Heir according to Longman's Dictionary means, the person who has the legal right to receive the property or title of another person when they die. This second and physical earth where we (humanity) dwell in, was part of the first and spiritual earth which God created in the beginning together with the heaven (third heaven the abode of God the Father), and which also was void and had no form. This earth therefore is owned by God, and He created Adam and gave the governance of the earth to him. Adam lost the legal right to govern this earth to Satan. However, God created a second Adam (the Lord Jesus), who through death and resurrection restored that legal right of governance of the earth to us, His covenant brethren.

Therefore as Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible described joint heir as participant in common, we who have

received His grace, and also walk in His grace, do not only share in His sufferings, but also have the legal right to receive both His property and title. And this is why true ministers of God have that boldness, because they know that as joint heirs with the Lord Jesus, they have the authority from above to stand in any authority. There is no way somebody can say that Jesus is his Lord without receiving Him as the Minister of grace and truth, and you cannot truly receive Him as the Minister of grace and truth if you are not separated from the system of the world. The system of the world is totally against the grace of God, and this grace if you actually receive it, will cause you to be out of the system. If you receive grace, wherever you go, the grace which you had received through Jesus will always lead you into grace.

õAnd the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me, for he was before me. And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for graceö (Jn.1:14-16).

John said by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that the only begotten of the Father, Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth. And the fullness of this free gift have we all who walk in grace received. The fullness of the gift of grace which is grace for grace, will make you to walk in grace anywhere you are because your foundation is grace. Therefore wherever you go, the grace of God will always carry or sustain you.

õAnd he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.ö (II Cor.12:9).

The grace of God upon us is sufficient because we received His grace in full. His grace covers anything, there is nothing that we need, which God's grace hasn't provided. The only reason for our

inability to have some of them is because of knowledge. The more we grow in knowledge, the more they manifest.

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (I Pet.1:13).

This grace is born at the revealing of Jesus Christ to cause us to walk in the new revelation. It is a continual process. When you get a revelation of Jesus Christ, there is grace given to you to enable you walk in the new revelation.

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” (I Pet.5:10)

This is talking about the personified provisions of God. It means the culminating provision to show that in grace for grace, everything that I ever need has been provided.

In all these, is the grace, not only to redeem and justify the sinner, but also to take him through all the mutability or state of being changeable of his earthly life, and finally conform him to the image of the Son of God. This is grace upon grace because it is the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ as contrasted to the law given by Moses. It is all of the fullness of Christ and in no way comes by the effort of man. To be a true witness of Jesus Christ (Light) requires this pure message of grace for grace.

“Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” (Jn.12:27-28).

This place is bringing out a clearer picture of grace for grace, which means, I have glorified My name before, and He said, “I will glorify it again.” Just because I received the grace of God and walk in it, I have the glory of God in me, and wherever I go, God will manifest His glory again.

THE GRACE FOR RESTORATION

Restoration simply means the act of officially giving something back to its former owner. When we talk of grace for restoration, we are talking about God's kindness in restoring humanity and the rest of His creatures back to their former state when they were created, without imputing their sins upon them. And for this cause, Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Ghost had this to say;

“And all things are of God, who hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” (II Cor.5:18-19).

The grace for restoration does not impute sins or have a record of how many times sins have been committed. Why? It is because once God releases His grace to restore, there will be a clean record of the sinner's activities as if he has never sinned before. And it is this same ministry and the same message that God has now committed into the hands of His ministers who walk in grace. We restore any who is ready to be restored without imputing any sin, or further punishments on the person.

“In whom ye have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” (Eph.1:7).

This does not only mean the sins I committed before I accepted Jesus, but now He is showing me that the sins I will commit before He comes have already been forgiven because of the grace I have and walk in. Sins are forgiven according to the riches of God's grace restoring man to perfect humanity.

THE GRACE FOR REGENERATION

Regeneration literally means born again or rebirth. It is a spiritual change brought about in the life of a person by an act of God. Regeneration brings change in a person's sinful nature and the person therefore receives grace to respond to God. Regeneration is the second birth of an individual from the sinful flesh to the Spirit. To be born of the Spirit is very essential or a must do before one

can enter the Kingdom of God. Every spiritual commandment of God to His people to have a reformation of character from self-centeredness to God centeredness is an appeal to be born again. Regeneration involves an illumination of the mind, a change of will, and a renewed nature. The need of regeneration grows out of human sinfulness which we inherited from Adam after his fall. God then initiated regeneration through His grace as He begins to work in the human heart, and the person responds to God through faith. Regeneration therefore is an act of God through the Holy Spirit, resulting in resurrection from sin to a new lie in Jesus Christ.

õJesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spiritö (Jn.3:5-6).

This is grace for grace that produces rebirth or regeneration. This makes us to be perfect as Jesus, because it is the grace for regeneration or the gift of eternal life which is more of the restoration of the life that was lost by Adam. This grace for grace is revealed at one's conviction and repentance from sin (born again), which leads the person to the grace for conversion which is true repentance and being baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, that opens the door for a true life of reformation.

THE GRACE TO STAND THIS DAY

õTherefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of Godö (Rom.5:1-2).

Our justification by faith made us to be at peace with God, it also gave us access into God's grace which is in Christ Jesus, and wherein we are able to stand this day. Wherever I find myself, whatever the devil is doing, I have the grace to stand the obstacles.

õBut by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with meö (I Cor.15:10).

Ministers of God and servants of Grace and Truth should realize that they are what they are, by God's grace and stop glorying in the flesh. No matter how you labour in the word, or work miracles, you must be conscious that it is the grace of God that keeps you going or helps you to stand. Paul realized this, and that is why he did not glory in the flesh, because even if he had wanted to do that, the grace in him will not allow him to glory in the flesh. Wherever I am, there should not be any frustration because of the grace of God I had received. From the very beginning when you received Jesus as the Minister of grace and truth, you received everything that grace offers, except that you need to grow in knowledge, because your mind needs to be renewed with the word of God through the grace you already had.

THE GRACE FOR MINISTRY OFFICES

õBut unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets, and some evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.ö (Eph.4:7,11-12).

Apart from the grace of God which we received to become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, God has also given to his ministers grace according to the measure of ministerial gift bestowed upon each of them in Christ Jesus. This is what we are talking about grace for grace. The gift of grace given by God to His ministers, enables them to fulfil their ministry offices in the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ.

In the grace for ministry offices, one is given grace according to the ministry office which he is called to function in. For example, a

pastor, a teacher or an evangelist does not have the same measure of grace in the ministry office with an apostle or a prophet. The latter two are endued with higher revelation, anointing and courage to stand trials as they try to uphold the truth and righteousness of God in the body of Christ. This is an important point to note because many ministers do not know their ministry offices, and some who know, are not ready to function in those offices, because they see those offices as being less attractive. Choosing to go for a supposedly more lucrative office which to them will give them enough financial upliftment, and popularity. This is why Apostle Paul had this to say;

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith, or ministry, let us wait on our ministering, or he that teacheth, on teaching, or he that exhorteth, on exhortation, he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity, he that ruleth, with diligence, he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Rom.12:6-8).

God has given unto us different gifts according to His grace, therefore it is a dangerous thing to copy or emulate any man. Why? It is because inside the grace God has given to everyone of us, there is a part the person's human frailty will help to fulfil, and if you emulate such person in trying to fulfil your ministry office, you will fall into the same error, and it may affect your calling. Again, many do not wait for their ministry offices to manifest. They are just made associate pastors or evangelists after receiving certificates from their General Overseers, without really waiting on the Holy Spirit to commission them into their God ordained ministry offices, like He did to the early Apostles, Paul and Barnabas (ref. Acts 1:4-8, Acts 13:1-3). I for an example, was separated by the Lord and trained in the office of an Apostle, though I am also being used by the Lord to train a small body of dedicated men, women and children, which I pastor. However, after my training in 1992, I continued to wait on the Lord with my wife and children, for my ministry office to manifest, or for Him to

commission me to my ministerial calling. And I waited for three solid years until April 1995, when He spoke to my heart to leave Enugu and move to Lagos for the start of my ministerial calling. And since that time, inspite of all the trials and persecutions, He has never failed me. This is exactly what Apostle Paul was talking about when he said you have to wait for your ministry, because he experienced it and was a true witness. Could you imagine that if I had moved out on my own without waiting for the Lord to send me out, I would have been in great deception and shame now, because the Holy Spirit will never join you in your program or ministry since He is not the One that sent such person out. However if He sends you out by Himself, He will back you, and the true anointing of God will follow you because God will manifest your words with signs and wonders, and there will be credibility in the word of God you preach.

CHAPTER 8

GRACE BRINGS LIFE OUT OF DEATH AT THE END OF MAN'S WORKS OR ABILITY

God's initial plans for grace is to deal with the problem of death. Grace is God's answer to sin and death. At creation, grace was in the garden of Eden in the form of Tree of Life, and death was also there in the form of Tree of knowledge of good and evil. However, the first man chose to put himself and the entire creation into fear and death by eating the fruit from the forbidden Tree of knowledge of good and evil, But God in His infinite mercy, restored this grace to mankind through the Lord Jesus who paid the penalty for the rejection of grace, which is death. All the efforts of man to work in righteousness, proved abortive because man did not have the grace to do that, until the Lord Jesus came after man's ability could not produce result. And this is what Apostle John by the leadership of the Holy Spirit is trying to bring out here;

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, they have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was, (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom. And saith unto him, every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine, and

when men have well drunk, then that which is worse, but thou hast kept the good wine until now.ö (Jn.2:1-10).

When they ran out of wine (i.e. the end of man's works or ability), they demanded grace. What they were actually asking for, is the spirit (wine), not the works of the flesh (law). God's work of grace and truth can only be accomplished when man comes to the end of his human ability, works, strength, or reaches the end of his resources, and then embraces God's grace. Jesus changed a dead or an inorganic substance belonging to the mineral water where all is death, into a living or an organic substance belonging to the realm of life. Water is an inorganic (dead) substance like Rock, but wine is an organic (living) substance typifying grace.

This miracle of mineral water typified the greatest of all of Jesus's miracles, because it is the miracle of regeneration or the new birth. This is why six waterpots of stone were kept there, and watch this word, ὅτι after the manner of the purifying of the Jewsö. What that means is this, six is the number for man and it is scripturally proved that we are stones carved out of the Rock (Christ). The purifying that this is talking of is spiritual, and that is purifying or changing from one's sinful life to the life of Christ. The changing of water to wine, relates to the Saviourhood of Christ. Jesus spoke to the mother (Mary) the way He did in vs.4, to show that the work of regeneration has nothing to do with the sinful flesh or man. The only Mediator between man and God is Jesus, and Jesus did this to show His Lordship. If Jesus had allowed Mary to be part of His work or Ministry, then she would have been taking away the credibility of God in Jesus. Why? The answer is simple, Mary was of the world, while Jesus came from above (Heaven), and the work He was doing is Heavenly.

öHearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord, look unto the rock where ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you, for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.ö (Isa.51:1-2).

God called each and every member of the Bride of Christ alone like He did to Abraham, and raised us individually in our closets to be in Jesus. It is by being raised alone in our closets to be in Jesus, that we can together be the Bride of the Lord. Mary was not in Jesus as at that time and therefore not part of what Jesus was doing. The early Apostles were part of Him because they were raised to be in Jesus. He (Jesus) wanted everybody to know that Mary was not part of what He was doing. This should also be an eye-opener to ministers of God who allow relations and friends to be part of their ministry, whether they are converted or not. And by doing so, many of them have missed the way, and are highly demonised, thus dropping from God's centeredness to self centeredness. John did not mention many miracles that Jesus performed. In fact he (John) recorded seven miracles which Jesus performed before He went to the cross and all of them present Jesus as bringing life and more abundant life to mankind. Jesus performed miracles that man may believe, being the last Old Testament Prophet. Now under grace, God has given His word to cause man to believe. The miracles which God performs today are in the spirit realm. What is being accomplished by grace and truth is spiritual although it is expressed through the material bodies of men.

The work of the believer is spiritual and not physical, because the eternal life which is the gift of grace is spiritual.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” (Eph.1:3).

The promises (blessings) God has given us are spiritual, it doesn't matter if it hasn't manifested in the natural. Under the law, there was no partaking of a divine life. They walked in the power of the flesh and the promises were earthly and material.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.” (I Tim.2:5).

By saying that there is only one Mediator between God and man, Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit meant that there can be no intrusion of human element into the work of grace. All these acts of praying or seeking favour from God using the name of any angel or saint (e.g., the much talked about blessed virgin Mary) is occultic, infact it is like the act of necromancy. Such act is a great rebellion against God. The only name by which we can obtain salvation, healings, etc, is through the name of Jesus.

õTo the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.ö (Eph.1:6).

The work of grace has truly made us to be accepted by God, human ability couldn't do it. Human strivings have nothing to do with the work of regeneration.

õThis beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory, and his disciples believed on him.ö (Jn.2:11).

Jesus did this miracle to manifest His glory, and when God sends any true minister of the gospel to preach, he is going there to manifest God's glory, and therefore should not allow the devil to take God's credibility away from him.

õAnd the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables. And said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence, make not my Father's house an house of merchandize.ö (Jn.2:13-16).

The authority He exercised in cleansing the temple relates to His Lordship, and this showed that He is the Lord of that temple. The cleansing of the temple spiritually relates to the cleansing of our bodies, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. What John wrote about the scourging of the money changers with cords by the Lord

Jesus, could be seen and understood from what the Holy Ghost caused Apostle Paul to write in Hebrews;

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, not faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” (Heb.12:5-8).

The scourge of cords that John mentioned is the part of God’s love dealing with His sons. The synoptic gospels of Matt.21:12-13, Mk.11:15-17 and Lk.19:45-46, did not mention about the scourging with cords (i.e. God’s love to His people), because they wrote under the law, but John did mention it because he wrote under grace. The other gospels, wrote as to show Jesus upholding the law of His Father by driving them out of the temple, but hid the most important point, and that is the love of God for His people. He did it because of the zeal He had for the Lord’s house (which we are), which zeal is however borne out of the love of God. The Lord had John say what is written in Jn.2:16 this way, to show that a house of merchandize is not wrong, but should never be in God’s house. God’s house or God’s own sheep (ministers of God), are not supposed to be used as, or for merchandize.

Everything in the house of God is free and that is what John was trying to show. Christ is our sufficiency and in Him everything is free and that is why John Wrote, “Make not My Father’s house, an house of merchandize.”

Jesus chose the proper setting for His miracles and discourses. They are intimately related to the particular message of grace and truth that He is teaching. In the beginning of the Ministry of Jesus, the Ministry of grace and truth started at a marriage ceremony in Cana of Galilee. His Ministry of grace and truth will end at the marriage of the Lamb by regeneration in second heaven, after

Satan and his agents are cast down to this earth. In like manner, John the Baptist came to witness about Jesus (Grace), he was not the Light, but was rather sent to bear witness to the Light. John the Apostle wrote the gospel of grace, and the name "John" means God is gracious, showing God's connection to grace.

"Verily, verily I say unto thee, when thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkest whither thou wouldest, but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, follow me." (Jn.21:18-19).

Jesus spoke this to show that when Peter comes to the end of his human ability, his human achievements, or becomes dead to works, and embraces grace and truth, that is when God will be glorified in Peter. "When thou wast young", means when Peter was still a baby Christian, and as a young man (both physically and spiritually) full of energy and self efforts, he gets up, moves around where he likes and does what he wants. That is the sign of youthful exuberance, and this is the condition of large majority of both believers and some ministers of the gospel today. They move out doing anything they like in the name of Jesus, not minding whether God is taking the glory or not. "When thou shalt be old", means when he becomes spiritually old or matured, and another shall gird thee, meaning that the Holy Spirit will start leading him. And when the Holy Spirit takes over leadership of anybody, He will lead you to do things that you as a man will not like to do or go to some places you may not like to go. By this act, Jesus was showing that God takes glory from those who have the revelation of grace, and through the crucifixion of the flesh, walk in God's grace and truth. Such people do not glory in the flesh, rather God takes His glory in everything they do.

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for

thee, that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.ö (Lk.22:31-32).

Jesus made this statement to show that Peter has not yet received the revelation of grace and truth inside him, and for this, he was not converted.

Until you receive the revelation of grace and truth inside you and walk in it, you are not yet converted (ref. Matt.18:3). And you are only able to walk in God's grace, when your human ability has ended.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing, nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.ö (Lk.5:4-5).

To get a clearer picture of what this place is talking about, let us look at how toiled is described in the Concordance. The word toiledö is Kopiaoö in Greek, meaning to feel fatigue, to work hard, (bestow) labour, toil, be wearied. Now when Peter said, we have toiled all nightö, he meant that they have exhausted all their human strength, they have laboured and are wearied. The nightö there, indicates that they were labouring in condemnation. They were sinners who have not acknowledged to drop their sins and stop walking in darkness, so as to embrace the grace of God which can only be found in the Light. Those that receive the grace of God walk in the light or in the day, not in the night or in darkness, and they don't toil. Rather they only believe on the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour, and obey His word without reservation.

However, when Peter and his colleagues recognised that inspite of all their human efforts, they could not make any success, they turned to the Minister of grace who produced the truth for them. And when they obeyed the truth, they got a much desired result. The light of God having shined upon the sinful life of Simon Peter

made him instantly to recognise his sin, as he pleaded with Jesus in vs.8 to depart from him (Simon), because he was a sinful man.

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, came behind him, and touched the border of his garment, and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd. And Jesus said, who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, who touched me? And Jesus said, somebody hath touched me, for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace (Lk.8:43-48).

The number twelve stands for divine power and authority. The woman had great trust in her human strength, or her power, which was her wealth. She never cared for God's grace because she believed that with her money, she can get her problems solved. But that is where she got it all wrong as she wasted all her resources upon physicians, but could not receive her healing. She could not receive her healing because the physicians she trusted and spent her fortune upon, were not ministers of grace. Again, she never sought God's grace until she came to the end of her power, like it has always been the case with so many people, even among the much professed Christendom. When therefore her human ability came to an end, she sought for grace which is obtained without spending any money or without any human effort. And the grace of God satisfied her heart desire even before she came out to make an open confession.

CHAPTER 9

REJECTION OF GRACE BRINGS CONDEMNATION

The word "condemnation" is "Krisis" in Greek, meaning decision (for or against), by extension a tribunal, by implication justice (spec. divine law):- accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment. Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary said condemnation means to declare a person guilty and worthy of punishment. Condemnation is a judicial term, the opposite of justification. What leads to condemnation is rejection of grace which is the product of righteousness. When grace is rejected, sin creeps in, and it will immediately lead to condemnation, and eventually lead the sinner to death (which is eternal separation from God).

"For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." (Jn3:17-20).

When we refuse to accept Jesus as our Saviour, condemnation comes. Wherever anyone who receives grace and walks in it goes, he is carrying the grace of God, though people may love him and may even want him to stay with them (like the Samaritans did to Jesus in Jn.4:40), but if they don't receive the message the Lord gives through him, condemnation will come on them and judgment will fall because they refused to accept light and chose to walk in darkness.

We must believe on the Lord Jesus to avoid condemnation, for if we don't believe, condemnation will come. I underlined "must"

because there cannot be any other standard. If you reject Jesus who is the Minister of grace and truth, condemnation will come upon you. When light comes, if it doesn't come to change the darkness in your life, condemnation will come because you love darkness more than light. Wherever the latest truth is manifested, everybody in the body of Christ is responsible for it to change and turn to light or follow the new move. If you don't accept it, condemnation will come and judgment will fall upon you. The very moment Jesus came and shed His blood and went back to Heaven, condemnation and judgment fell on anyone who doesn't receive Him. If there is a new move of God in a country like Philippines, and we in Nigeria reject it, judgment will fall because there is no distance in the spirit realm. What this really means, is that the Holy Spirit who probably started this new move in Philippines, is the same Spirit that should be leading those in Nigeria and other parts of the world too. And if the ministers of God in these mentioned countries are really following His leadership, He should tell them as well that there is a change or new move in the divine destiny of God, and everybody should immediately follow the move. This is really the work of grace. If you believe on Him, you have to receive Him as your personal Lord and Saviour, and you are not condemned. Light is not in condemnation, but darkness is (i.e. once you are under condemnation, you start walking in darkness).

Condemnation is determined when men have received Jesus. When Jesus came to the world, if nobody had received Him, condemnation couldn't have been determined. Condemnation is determined when men believe on Jesus. There is a great demand on the body of Christ today to come out of the system of the world because of the willingness of some ministers of God like us, to separate from the system. But it was not so few years ago, when people have not yielded to the demand. God's demand for His people who have received His grace to come out of the world system, and which some of us have obeyed, is putting pressure

before God for judgments to fall, not only on those who refused to come out, but also on the entire world and its system.

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” (Rom.5:18).

Just because Jesus came and shed His blood, the free gift of justification was given to everybody that believes. And because of the sin of Adam, all men paid for it, but because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, all men became justified.

“For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.” (II Cor.3:9).

After Jesus came, condemnation increased because the free gift of justification has been given to everybody. If the law of Moses which ministers condemnation to those that walked under it, should be regarded as being glorious, what then can we say about grace, the product of righteousness, which justified the sinner just at the instant of believing and confession? It is certainly going to exceed in glory, and that is why anybody that refuses to accept the righteousness of God will undoubtedly face judgment and condemnation.

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Rom.5:20).

Where sin has covered the face of the earth, the grace of God abounds much more than the sin. Sin can never abound more than grace. When light comes, condemnation intensifies and sin will abound.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses; of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy

thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.ö (Heb.10:26-29, 38-39).

The more you work with God and turn back from God, the more the judgment of God is intensified on you because of the knowledge of God you have.

Under the law of Moses if you sin, you die without mercy once two or three witnesses testify against you. Now this is earthly judgment, because the devil may use those that are bringing the accused to judgment, to gather some sons of belial to come and witness falsely against the victim. And in such cases, the accused is killed wrongly because the judges may never know the truth. In a situation like this, the person may be saved from eternal damnation if he was living a just life prior to the time of his predicament. But what the Holy Spirit is saying through Apostle Paul here is quite different, because it is the three that bear witness in earth (ref. I Jn.5:8), that you have despised, and there remaineth no more atonement for you, because they are the Ones that would have done the atonement, had it been that you have not sinned grievously against them. In vs.38-39, Apostle Paul was talking about the just shall live by faith, and what this really means is, that for one to live a righteous life in Christ Jesus, you must hear and obey the word of God. The word ödrawö is öHupostelloö in Greek, and the word öbackö is also the same thing with draw. This is talking about the principle of double reference. Whenever God says the same thing twice, it shows the seriousness of the word and that it is greater than whatsoever He has said. The word ödraw backö means to conceal, to conceive, to deceive, to withhold, to cover, to reserve apostasy. When you draw back, you break the move of God and the flow of God's love in you, and you will start concealing the truth, you conceive lies in you, you move into

deception, withhold the truth, cover up lies, and drop your Christian beliefs, giving room for great deception to set in.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Rom.8:1-2).

There is no condemnation in them that accept Jesus and walk in the light. The establishment of grace removed the condemnation of the law, but not the condemnation that was on man. The conditions for condemnation were changed. Under the law, man could not escape condemnation, man was helpless, but under the grace, man had to escape. Just because Jesus came and paid the sacrifice of condemnation that was in the law, man was then able to escape condemnation by accepting Jesus. Condemnation was not removed, it is still there if you don’t accept Him who paid for what condemnation demanded.

“If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin, but now they have no cloak for their sin.” (Jn.15:22).

This is coming from the lips of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Minister of grace and truth, whom God sent not only to die for our sins, but to resurrect for our righteousness, and minister the grace to walk in His righteousness, to as many as believeth His words, and receive Him as the Grace of God to humanity. Therefore the world and its system have no excuse to continue to live in darkness and wickedness. Whoever does not come to the Light of God which is Jesus Christ, so as to have his sins revealed, judged and forgiven, will certainly face condemnation.

“If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin, but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, they hated me without a cause” (Jn.15:24-25).

Those who received God’s grace and walk in it, have power to do more works than any other person who does not walk in grace. If

therefore you reject them and their message, or you hate them, you have rejected the Lord Jesus or hated the Lord Jesus who sent them. And you will definitely face the condemnation that is in rejection of God's grace.

“And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see, and that they which see might be made blind.” (Jn.9:39).

Jesus as the Minister of grace was sent into the world for judgment, both for the righteous and the sinners. “Those who see not” as the Lord said it, are sinners who are spiritually blind, and who have acknowledged their sins, and accepted to receive the grace which Jesus Christ our Saviour offered. And by doing so, they became the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, thus escaping the condemnation which is in the rejection of God's grace. Jesus therefore promised to cause the scales in their eyes to fall off, so that they can see spiritually and perceive what the Lord is saying and doing.

Then “those who see and which might be made blind”, are the group of self righteous or church going Christians both in the Christendom and the world, who like the Pharisees of old, believe that they don't need any change, or that they are already saved, because according to them, they believe they are not living a sinful life. They, being ignorant of the truth, are already swimming in the sea of condemnation, because the darkness they are walking in, has blinded them. They did not understand what Apostle Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said here;

“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” (Rom.5:19).

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom.3:23).

These two scriptures are part of the many other scriptures that should serve as an eye-opener to people who really believe that salvation is not for them. The scripture says that all of us have sinned through the disobedience of Adam, and therefore come

short of the glory of God. This shows that we were all meant for judgment and condemnation, if not for the Lord Jesus who restored our hope. Any who rejects this abundant gift, will still face condemnation.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they believe not on me, of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more, of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” (Jn.16:7-11).

The Comforter which is also the Spirit of Grace has long been sent by the Lord Jesus Christ, to reprove the world of sin, because the world does not believe on the Lord Jesus and what He has done. Which is overcoming this system full of sin for us, and setting an avenue for us to also overcome the system through His grace. The Comforter is also here to reprove the world of righteousness, because Jesus, the Righteousness of God has gone back to the Father. Now there is a great demand for the people of the world to walk in righteousness because one man has done it, not only by keeping all the requirements of the law which no man has done, but also by paying for the condemnation that was in the law. He (the Spirit of Truth) is reproofing the world of judgment, because the prince of this world is already judged. What this is saying is that the prince or head of this system of the world, has already been judged, condemned and therefore waiting to be bundled into the bottomless pit, and later to Lake of Burning Fire and Brimstone. Why then should people continue to toil in the system, which will bring the same judgment and condemnation to any who refuses to come out of it? This is a big question the doubting Thomases will have to answer.

CHAPTER 10

WHAT HUMAN ABILITY COULD NOT DO FOR DAVID, THE GRACE OF GOD DID

David the second and last king of Israel (the last king in the sense that he will still be an everlasting king of Israel in both the millennial reign of Christ and eternity), was a man chosen and anointed by God to be the king of Israel. A lot of people did not know that not only was David anointed a king, but he was a prophet, and though not a priest, yet he knew how to operate in the office of a priest or how to relate with the Holy Spirit. Infact most of the things he did, both before his ascension to the throne as king, and during his reign could be traced to grace. He had the divine revelation of grace, and walked in it. And so it was not a surprise for God to call him a man after His own heart, because God does not play with those who walk in His grace.

And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron, and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants, but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day, give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those

words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.ö (I Sam.17:4-11).

Looking at Goliath, one can easily see the replica of Satan. Just as the Lord spoke in the book of John chapter 16, that the prince of this world (Satan) is already judged, even before the creation of second, first heaven and this earth, this is how one could look at the case of Goliath. All that he wore were made of brass, from head to legs, showing that he had already been judged and condemned. He was actually carrying the judged sin of the Philistines, and needed to die for the army of the Philistines to be defeated. He was fighting an already lost battle, because by virtue of all the brass he had on him, he became sin to carry the sins of the Philistines. Though he did not have grace to resurrect like the Lord Jesus, because he was on the enemy's camp. Saul and his armies were dismayed and afraid of Goliath, because they too were under condemnation as they depended on their human ability.

Nobody can challenge the devil with his human ability because by being in human strength, you can't prevail against the devil. He is the inventor of this human strength, ability and achievement, and he who depends on such, will face the same condemnation.

öAnd the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. And Jesse said unto David his son, take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren. And carry thee ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.ö (I Sam.17:16-18).

öForty (40)ö in God's Arithmetic of Numbers is trial or tribulation, while öTen (10)ö is the number for law. What this therefore means, is that the children of Israel were in trial or tribulation for forty days at the hand of Goliath, the Philistine. When Jesse sent the law represented by ten loaves and ten cheeses to the camp of Israel to help them fight the enemy, the law could not deliver them, because no man was able to produce what the law demanded, which is righteousness. They were all in sin because they all fell short of

God's glory. Now let us look at how and why the children of Israel fell short of God's glory at that time.

“And Samuel said, when thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel? And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord? And Saul said unto Samuel, yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words, because I feared the people, and their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee, for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.”

(I Sam.15:17-26).

Saul was sent by God through Samuel to go and utterly destroy the Amalekites, and to spare none, but to slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. But Saul thought he knew better than the Lord who sent him, by choosing to go his own way, thereby rebelling against God. Now who was Saul offering his sacrifices of sheep, oxen and other things to? Is it not

to the same God whom he has disobeyed? This is the same case with the majority of us, the ministers of God and even other believers in the Christendom. Many are well abreast of what God wants and is saying, but they believe they are more clever than the Lord, and that there are other ways they can please God apart from obeying His word as it is. And Samuel spoke the right answer from God, that obedience is better than sacrifice, and to hearken (listen) to His words, is better than offering Him your millions. Why did God say this? It is simple, no matter the kind of sacrifice you offer unto the Lord, if you fail to obey His word, you are a rebellious person. And the scripture says that rebellion is the same sin with witch crafting. And the punishment for the act of witchcraft is, "Thou shall not suffer a witch to live." By this statement, it is clear that Saul had the sentence of death on him. And because he was the king and leader of the armies of Israel at that time, they all fell short of God's glory as the rest of his armies were also concluded in sin, and were all under the same sentence of death, just as Adam sinned and the whole creation was concluded in sin (ref. Rom.5:12-19).

Saul was also not under the authority of God as at that time, because both the authority he had as a king, and the kingdom, had already been taken away from him spiritually. For the children of Israel to be delivered from the hand of this giant Goliath, who like Satan had the power of death, somebody who was originally not part of Saul's armies, and who will embrace God's grace by dropping his human ability, strength and effort, had to be brought to the scene by God.

"And David said unto Saul, let no man's heart fail because of him, thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine And Saul said to David, thou are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his

mouth, and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, the Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, go, and the Lord be with thee.ö (I Sam.17:32-37).

Do you see the sense in what David did here, he brought God into the picture by maintaining that Goliath the uncircumcised Philistine was defying the armies of the living God. And by this act, God was not only honoured, but reminded that Goliath and the rest of the armies of the Philistines were uncircumcised, and therefore had no covenant relationship with God. The armies of Israel, being the descendants of Jacob, Isaac and Abraham were all circumcised, and also in covenant relationship with God. This has however made them to be the armies of God, though they were all under the sentence of death because of the sin of Saul. But God who as a Covenant-Keeper, knows the laws of His covenant relationship with Israel through Abraham, must look for a sure way of safety for His people. And for this reason, He inspired David to come and deliver His children. Again, David recognised that by strength shall no man prevail, acknowledging that it was the Lord who delivered him from both the paw of the lion, and that of the bear, and He again, will deliver him from the hand of Goliath. And Saul had to surrender to the boldness of the small boy who had boasted in the name of the living God.

öAnd Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head, also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go, for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he

had, even in a scrip, and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine (I Sam.17:38-40). Saul as a man who believed in his human ability, armed David with all his sinful military attire so as to prove the strength of David. This spiritually means that David identified himself with the sinful Saul and his armies who had the sentence of death on them, (the same way Jesus came with the sinful flesh and blood of humanity first to identify with man, that through death, He might destroy Satan who had the power of death, ref. Heb.2:14-16), by putting on the military attire of Saul, and that by pulling it off (i.e. sin and death), he might destroy Goliath who had the power of death. He put an helmet of brass upon David's head signifying that David carried the sin of Saul and his armies that had been judged. He was not part of Saul's army otherwise he would have been concluded in sin too, and will not be fit to fight Goliath. When he put off that armour which represents the flesh he used to carry away their sins, he took his staff (authority) which is righteousness and chose five smooth stones representing grace. The Shepherd represents Jesus and the bag where he put the stones represents his (David's) vessel. This means that the Lord Jesus had to establish His law inside David, being His vessel through grace. Again those five smooth stones which David chose came out of the brook, and the word brook means a small flowing stream. Spiritually this brook could be seen as the Holy Spirit, showing that David had a divine revelation of grace inside him, and this is why it was possible for him to walk in grace.

“And the Philistine said to David come to me, and I will give thee flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield, but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.” (I Sam.17:44-45).

David spoke this to show that he did not fight with human strength, but with the Spirit (Grace) of God. What David told Goliath the

Philistine, is an indication that he (David) never trusted in the arm of the flesh which is the source of Goliath's boasting, but rather boasted in the arm and strength of the Lord of hosts.

“And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you unto our hands.” (I Sam. 17:47).

David further wanted to prove to the assembly of both Israel and Philistines, that their trust in sword and spear which made them rely on their human ability or strivings, cannot bring succour, because the battle is the Lord's. And the Lord's battle is not fought with human strength, but with the grace of God.

“And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him, but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.” (I Sam. 17:48-51).

David put his hand inside the bag (i.e. his vessel) and brought out a stone (word) and slang it and killed Goliath the Philistine with it. This signifies that because David had received grace, and became one with the revelation of grace, he then spoke one word which is like making just a sentence, thus signifying unity. This means, in that one stone he used, there is the authority of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and because he was one with them, he fought with divine authority and killed Goliath. David had no sword in his hand, showing that human strength played no part in the killing of Goliath. David took Goliath's sword from him after his death, and cut off his head, showing that the weapon the enemy

planned to use against you, is always or in most cases, used to destroy his plans and possibly kill him, if you walk in grace. This is because if you walk in grace, the battle becomes the Lord's and in warfare, you will always endeavour to return back to sender the weapons Satan's agents are sending against you, and it will torment them very well in your stead until they repent from their evil acts or deeds.

WHAT WAS IT THAT GAVE DAVID VICTORY

- (1) David became sin to carry away the sins of Israel. He was not part of Saul's army, so he was sinless. Nobody among the armies of Saul could stand Goliath because of the sentence of death on them.
- (2) He fulfilled the law by paying for the condemnation that is in the law. He produced for what the law demanded which is righteousness.
- (3) He knew there was nothing good in the flesh, so he relied on God's grace (he did not boast in the flesh like Goliath, but boasted in the Lord).
- (4) David was in covenant relationship with God by being circumcised, likewise Saul and the armies of Israel, even though they had the sentence of death on them, Goliath and the Philistine armies were not. David knew the laws of covenant, and reminded God, so that God could respect that law by fighting for His people.
- (5) He had the revelation of grace and truth inside him and knew that since he was walking in grace and truth, he did not need to use all the five smooth stones on Goliath. One represents unity and he knew that inside that one stone, is the divine power of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This teaches us that one sentence anyone who is walking in grace and truth

makes with the word of God, has the tremendous power of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and will instantly perform wonders.

- (6) He became one with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and prevailed over Goliath with the divine authority. Saul as the first king of Israel represents the first Adam, while David as the second and last king of Israel represents the second and last Adam (Jesus). Goliath, the one who had power of death represents Satan.

Finally, what is left more to explain, so as to bring to the large majority of believers throughout the world, the realisation that except they are in Christ (which is being in Grace), there still remains condemnation at the last day. What may never mean anything to so many people, God has through His mercies unveiled the revelation of His word in this teaching, so that no one, both the ministers of God who are ignorant of what the grace of God is, or has really done for us, and the rest of the Christian fold, will have no cloak to continue to live in sin.

Remember the Lordø saying, òin me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the worldö (Jn.16:33).

It is left for any to choose the way you want to go, for we shall all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. May the Lord of peace guide you as you take a wise decision in the name of Jesus, òAmenö.

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Called to live as a true disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, the author was separated from the camp (the world organized religious system), his job, relations and friends in 1989. And the Lord having placed him under His channel of authority (submission), led him into the wilderness type farm settlement, in Akpuoga - Emene in Enugu, Nigeria.

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He came out of the training in 1992, and as a man anointed with authority to minister end-time truth to the Body of Christ irrespective of your denomination, he still suffers as the Holy Spirit uses him, to bring this truth to the hearts of the holy seekers of the word. He travels to minister this truth to churches, homes, ministries, individuals, etc., as the Lord directs him.

He is happily married to the Lord's precious gift, Mary Blessing, who has really been the source of the great favour he finds with the Lord. And the marriage is blessed with three sons, Timothy John (Jnr.), Benjamin Samuel and David Joseph.

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Born and bred in Enugu by Ibo parents, John A. Daniel was called and separated unto the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in 1989. Just as Paul the Apostle was moved into the Arabian Desert, where he conferred not with flesh and blood, the author was also led into the Wilderness or Arabian Desert type farm settlement, in Akpuoga-Emene, Enugu, Nigeria, by the Lord Holy Spirit.

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