

Palstareksi
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The Message Of Grace

THE MESSAGE OF GRACE

Do you know that GRACE is the most commonly used spiritual word in the Bible? - All writers filled with the spirit return to this message, time after time. They have understood that the salvation is only dependent on God`s wonderful and everlasting grace. (Ps.136)

- The message of Grace is a word from God`s heart. It is an everlasting grace to those who love Him. It is also a gift from God, which one has to receive when it is offered. (Heb.4:16)

Grace, as part of God`s presence, gives us an opportunity of feeling sufficient in front of Him. Once I took my son to photograph one occasion. He was only eleven years old but as his father I wanted to give him a chance of taking part in "adults`" actions. He took photos although there were a few swings in the use of the camera. - For the father it was enough to see the child try and participate, and there was more grace in the things where it was more needed.

- The message of grace is also faith. It is understanding the fact that in spite of the failures and lack of accomplishment today there will be success one day. There was also the strange incident of two other cameras failing to take any pictures, and the son`s photos were so good that they saved the whole photographic set at that point!



"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me." (1.Cor.15:9-10)



When God shows grace toward us, He believes in the talents of His creation. Without grace God would wipe us away with our sins, but thanks to God He loves his creation. Grace is received without anyone`s own merits.

Surely every one of us has sometimes met a person who is good for nothing, - maybe an alcoholic, an "outcast" who is violent and in the bondage of crimes , a person who nobody can love. The criminal himself might be aware of his state and his shame will take him deeper and deeper. - What does he need? What is it that will be medicine to his soul, heal his wounds and cause a change in his life? Where could he get the strength to try and find his way up from the pits of darkness?

- The only true medicine is the message of grace. Giving mercy we can show the love of Christ to a person who repents.- It is easy for us to believe in such a person who almost always succeeds in everything! (Mt.5:47) But how can we believe in a person who fails? How can we give a child a video camera although we know it may be in vain? How could I believe that an alcoholic can overcome the curse of his madness? - Shouldn`t I who have been

able to receive the grace of God in abundance give mercy to him and believe that one day he will rise up?!- However, it does not mean that we approve of the wrong way of life and the attitude and ridicule of the non converted. Man has to come to himself (Lk.15:17), see his sins and go and take everything with him to God. To be cured by him and be part of the grace via the sacrifice his Son. A repentant, humble person will have grace. (Is.66:2)

Will God desert me after I have stumbled? Has he destroyed me because of my lies, jealousy, bad words, desire, schemes, anger and pride and wrong glances?- Aren`t they, if anything, such sins that would make us be thrown to the lowest hell!- But this is not the question. I should repent and live in grace, giving mercy and show everyone who repents the way of grace.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Is. 55:7)

I am more and more getting in love with a verse in the Bible where it is clearly stated that we all are sinners and short of the glory of God. (Rom.3:23) In addition to this read why God has given us disobedience, in other words, the fact that we all have our faults, sins and we have gone far away from His will, that is;"...that he may have mercy upon all" (Rom.11:32) - So all our humanity is linked with the message of grace and receiving it. But where there is increase in sin there will be more and more grace. (Rom.5:20)-If only I could be filled with such grace and give it all around me believing in the fact that there are opportunities for the one who repents his sins.

When seeing a sinner could we say that " there grace becomes reality"? - Doesn`t God just wait for the opportunity to be able to have mercy on every one of us? (Is.30:18) We must not be in favour of sin but we should know that with the help of grace we will be free from sin.

"What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness." (Rom.6:15-16)

This world needs the message of grace so badly. Our task is to declare it to a sinner who repents and give the person who turns to God for forgiveness a permission to believe, in spite of his weaknesses, in God and His Son`s amazing work of atonement. Although the battle against sin would last up to the moment when one is buried, out of mercy he will be saved, just like you and me.

What do we see when we think of the sinful woman who has committed adultery and has been brought in front of Jesus? (Jn.8:1-11) That woman was sentenced to death, accused of her crimes, but what do you think was her attitude to Jesus and the people around her? Did she blame others, did she have doubts about Jesus`s righteousness? I think she was fully aware of her own guilt, her shame and she did not offer any excuses or try to find faults in other people. Surely she

repented her own sins and when Jesus saw this He set her free hoping that she would not sin again.

The Bible also warns us about the misuse of grace. It means sinning on purpose and being unconcerned about God. This kind of person will finally be separated from grace and God himself will abandon them in their filthiness and their own evilness. (Rom.1:27)

"...ungodly persons who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ". (Jude 1:4)

- My dear friend, it is the day of grace and salvation today. Come to Jesus, join His goodness and grace. Let Jesus wash away your sins, it is your privilege because of the grace and the sacrifice of Christ on Golgotha and because of the resurrection.

"For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you , and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2.Cor.6:2)



Let us pray:

God, have mercy on me. Forgive me all my sins on account of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Help me live in your everlasting grace and deliver it to everyone in need. Lord, as you had mercy on us, help us have mercy on each other.

Thank you for the truth of your grace, and for the fact that we are saved on account of your grace, not because of our deeds and success.

Let this mercifulness be seen in all our gestures, words and glances.

Jesus, let your grace touch everyone who repents his sins!

- This is how we pray in the holy and wonderful name of Jesus.

Amen



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