

Grace Part 7

Grace & The Holy Spirit

Last week we closed, or I should say, studied, “How to Grow in Grace” or “Orientation to Grace”, meaning how is my life oriented around and according to the *grace* I have received. Remember these three points if you do not remember anything else:

1. I am to be a conduit of *grace* to the world around me. (“I’ve Got a River of Life...”)
2. *Graciousness* is the most outstanding quality of a believer.
3. *Grace* applied is forgiveness.
When God applied His *grace* to your life, you were forgiven.

1) Briefly, what is your understanding of these three points and how are you doing in *grace*?

Ok, last week we discussed victory over pride and orientation to grace.

From “Grace Notes”¹

Grace Orientation

The first step in grace orientation is understanding the grace of God, the purpose of this study. The second step is to appropriate the grace of God through the use of the techniques of Christian living seen in the following sections. Each of the techniques described briefly below has a complete discussion in the Bible Notes Library studies relating to each topic. [in the “Grace Notes” curriculum]

These techniques will be our focus in the next several lessons in *grace*.

- a) Confession of sin and filling of the Holy Spirit
- b) Faith Rest Life
- c) Occupation With Christ - living in the Word
- d) Mastery of the Details of Life - relaxed mental attitude
- e) Capacity to Love - inner happiness

Today, we start with a) *Confession of Sin and Filling of the Holy Spirit!*

Continuing from “Grace Notes”

The first step in victory over pride (and growth in grace thinking) is to be aware that pride is part of everyone’s sin nature. No one starts out thinking grace!!

The second step is to pray for victory here and to ask the Lord for wisdom in the matter.

The third step is to confess sinful pride when you recognize it in yourself.

There are many symptoms of pride. Indignation at another person’s behavior, mistakes, shortcomings, lack of discipline, or failure to measure up is an indicator of self-

righteousness, whose basis is pride. “Well, I never...” these are key pride words. Romans 2:13 commands that we should not judge others as if we ourselves had no areas of weakness. Self-promotion and the demotion of other people is pride, it is the failure to think grace.

Another symptom of pride is lack of forgiveness, the holding of grudges. Pride prevents a forgiving attitude. How many marriages break up because of this? How many people would be happy on the job instead of miserable if they could just forgive the boss or a fellow worker for doing something dumb? Everybody does dumb things, but failure to forgive is pride. Other indicators of pride are complaining, griping, maligning and gossiping. Most of the sins of the tongue have their roots in pride.

When you see sinful pride in yourself, confess it! If you see it in others, pray!

The fourth step toward progress in grace thinking is to “grow in grace”; actually this is the first and last step toward maturity. Grace thinking overcomes pride, and the symptoms of sinful pride will start to disappear. A person who was at first totally filled with himself will find that as he grows in Christ the symptoms will show up only under extreme pressure. At that time, they will be recognized and dealt with immediately to minimize the ill effects on himself and others.

The first step in any sinful behavior that requires God’s grace is recognizing it for what it is. Here the example is pride, but we could superimpose any sin here. Think mental attitude or behavior.

- Fear, anger, resentment, lust, unforgiveness
- Addiction, theft, greed, indifference

2) Can you identity a sin that bothers you the most?

Continuing from “Grace Notes”

Confession of Sin

Personal sin leads the believer away from the Christian way of life. You must deal with sin on a daily basis by confessing and moving forward. If you don’t do this, sin becomes a burden which clouds your joy, drains your spiritual energy, and destroys your productivity and vitality. The result will be that you will seek provision for your needs and desires outside of God’s grace provision.

In privacy, make a list of mental attitude sins, verbal sins, and behavior sins which bother you the most. Ask the Lord to make you aware of the habits of your own life. Respond immediately to the Holy Spirit when He uses the Word to spotlight your sin. Name the sin to God; then rejoice in forgiveness and cleansing and your renewed fellowship with God.

All the promises and provisions of God the Father are now available to you. Make it a spiritual habit to confess sins whenever they show up in your life and you will have continuous and immediate access to everything that grace provides.

3) How does confession of sin work in your life?

So, hopefully what we are hearing is that not only does confession bring forgiveness, it also brings in peace, forgetfulness and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 94:16-19

Continuing from “Grace Notes”

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit fills you and controls your life when you have no unconfessed sin in your life. You can trust the Holy Spirit to reveal sin to you when you commit it, or even before. When the Holy Spirit in control, He produces his fruit (Gal. 5:22), the product of graciousness which is such a blessing to others.

Agape love is a great grace benefit. There is joy in living in grace. Peace does not coexist with disorientation to grace. Longsuffering gives the ability to wait for God’s grace provision. Gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance are fruits of righteousness, which is divine good.

4) How do you know when you are filled with the Holy Spirit ----- and are you right now?

===== Holy Spirit exercise =====
===== Filling of Spirit =====

Galatians 5:16-18

5) What does this mean to you?

Galatians 5:19-21

6) Which sin so easily upsets you? (personal, silent question)

Galatians 5:22-25

When the Spirit controls us, we produce these fruits. Are you --- do you exhibit --- these fruits daily and consistently? When do you not? That is when you need to confess your weaknesses.

Let’s pray

¹Grace Notes is a ministry of, Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>

