

Day 15 - Growing in Grace

We receive grace big time when we give our lives to the Lord. When we accept His free gift of salvation, when we humble ourselves before Him, admitting our sin and need for help.

Much of the church believes that God's grace is really just all about forgiveness. It is indeed forgiveness and yet so much more.

The Greek word that we translate as 'grace' - 'charis', is also the word we often translate as 'favour'. In our culture, it is better to think of the word 'charis' as favour. You His favoured one. It means you get special treatment. Not because of you, but because of Him.

When we humble ourselves, we don't opposed (Day 13), we get favoured!

'Charis' is the word used in Luke 2:52 when it says "and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man".

Jesus didn't need forgiveness!
But obviously needed favour.

And if He **grew** in it, surely for us it's not a one off event too.

As you continue to humble yourself, prepare to continue to grow in favour.

FULLY ALIVE

Day 16 - Prayer Walking

We've already noted that prayer is so powerful, that if we prayed daily our lives would see transformation.

I've found prayer walking to be one of the most powerful things that I do in my life.

Here's a few reasons why :

1. Prayer walking is good for the body, spirit and soul. You get exercise, get some fresh air, smells and sights and of course our spirit is alive as we pray.
2. Because we are triune, as one part of our being becomes healthier, so do other parts. Each part has an impact on the others. And as prayer walking improves each part, there is an exponential effect.
3. It's a lot harder to fall asleep praying when you're walking. If you get sleepy when praying, it is possibly a spiritual attack. You can pray, declare and cast out (all spiritual activities) and in the natural you can simply choose to go for a walk.
4. I often get inspired to pray for certain people, or places when I walk around.
5. God will often speak to us through what we encounter, especially in nature.

Prayer walking will not only improve your prayer life, but feed your soul and help your fitness to improve.

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Day 17- Loving God

When I'm trying to see change in my life, it seems it's around the 2 week mark when I start to get tired or complacent, or discouraged and give up.

It's probably a good time for us to step back a little, refocus if you need to, forgive yourself if you need to and above all, with humility, keep coming back to the grace/favour of God.

If possible, I love to summarise, to see the big picture and in the process keep it simple.

If you spend more of your time loving God and less time worrying about yourself (including improving yourself - even for godly reasons), you will find that He will lead you, guide you and transform you Himself.

Remember that when we worship we are transformed. He is the great transformer!

I know we've already touched on this topic, Day 11 in particular, but it is good to revisit again and again what is of the utmost importance.

Also be encouraged that when you Love God with all of your triune self (Mark 12:30) , there is an overflow.

Infact us loving God is an overflow of God's love for us!

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Day 18- Loving People

The second great commandment is to love others as ourselves.

Jesus said those two commandments, loving God and loving others summed up all of them.

Perhaps it's a new phenomenon that many people don't love themselves and I don't think Jesus was giving people a loophole to get out of this commandment.

He was assuming that loving ourselves is given.

A few things to consider for today:

1. You should love yourself. Jesus loved you enough that He literally died for you. So stop hating yourself. We need to think more like Jesus don't we.
2. Loving others (and yourself) is almost impossible when we don't first love God. It is an overflow, just as loving God is an overflow of God's love.
3. Loving God, yourself and others sums up literally all the commandments. So we can keep it simple (not easy) and trust the process that our loving Father has designed.

So today, as you pray and worship, exercise or whatever it is you are doing, why not reflect on God's love for you and let an overflow of Love spill out from within you.

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Day 19 - Loving Life

The overflow of living God's way, of obeying His commandments (which are for us and not for Him) is a life that overflows with joy, love, peace, kindness and so much more (Galatians 5:22-23).

It is a life that anyone would love to live.

Loving life is a fruit of receiving His love, loving Him back and others.

Life won't ever be perfect. There's still trials and bad things still happen. Storms will rage but facing them with Jesus is a million times better.

On day 1, we noted that Jesus said that He came to give us life to the full - John 10:10.

That's not empty rhetoric!

He meant that 100%.

Loving life is the fruit.

Loving God and others is like caring for the tree.

Sweet oranges grow on healthy orange trees. Trees well watered and fed, without weeds and pests.

The parable of the sower speaks into this very topic, if you'd like to dig deeper (Matthew 13).

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Day 20 - What He Started

I am convinced that because you are reading this, right now, that God has started a good work in you!

I don't say that lightly.

With all humility I believe this is a prophetic word.

And if He has started a good work ...

If He has begun the transformation

The Bible says He will finish it.

Paul wrote, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" - Philippians 1:6.

Be encouraged ...

He has begun a good work in you ...

And He finishes what He starts!

Don't give up ...

Enjoy the journey and continue to partner with Him (Day 8) as you are transformed more and more into the image of the one who loves you.

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Day 21 - Rest

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