

BIBLICAL GRACE

Lesson 1

What is the Grace of God?

- **Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**
Ephesians 2:5
- **Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**
2 Timothy 2:1
- **For it is a good thing that heart be established in grace;**
Hebrews 13:9b

Grace is one of the greatest things to be desired, sought out, and obtained by a Christian. Yet the definition and concept of grace is often elusive and hard for some Christians to pinpoint. We need to know what the grace of God is and how to take advantage of it if we are to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” and have our “heart established in grace.”

GRACE DEFINED

God’s grace can be found in both Old and New Testaments. It is not just limited to the church age. Noah, Moses, Gideon, and others obtained grace from the LORD. They did this through humility. Grace is only given to the humble (**James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5**). God resists arrogance.

The Hebrew word translated **grace** means: *to find favor in the eyes of someone, to be precious, acceptance, charm.*

The Greek word translated **grace** means: *good will, loving kindness, favor, kindness which bestows upon one that which he has not deserved.*

The Greek root for **grace** means *cheerfulness, to rejoice and be well and thrive.* Though we may not understand grace, if we are joyful and cheerful and are thriving, it is most assuredly working in our life. Grace in your life will make you full of joy no matter the situation.

Other definitions for grace:

- Heaven’s help
- God’s power working in and through you to accomplish what you cannot do yourself
- Unmerited favor
- A special endowment for the task at hand

We see from the original texts that grace is favor given even when it is unmerited or undeserved. And as something given, it must also by definition be received. Not every

Christian knows how to receive grace. And if you do not know how to receive grace for yourself you will not be able to give grace to others.

GRACE COMES FROM JESUS CHRIST

- **And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

John 1:16,17

Grace, as a religious concept, is entirely unique to Christianity. No other religion offers it to its adherents. That is because all other religions are false and there is no salvation but by Jesus Christ and His grace.

SAVING GRACE

The first work of grace that we need to understand is eternal salvation. God redeeming us when we were unworthy and unable to redeem ourselves is a demonstration of unmerited favor and loving-kindness. This is the first work of grace in our Christian lives.

- **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** Ephesians 2:8,9

- **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

Romans 3:23,24

- **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,**
Titus 2:11

These verses show us how salvation is by grace, that is to say, we obtained favor of God when we did not deserve it and He gave us Heaven's help. Salvation cannot be earned. Grace cannot be earned. It is freely given of God. This is the definition of grace.

THE ELECTION OF GRACE

God selects people based on their humility. This is called the "election of grace." Many are called but only a few are chosen. If God resists the proud and only answers those that cry out to Him, then humility is what is key to being picked by God.

- **Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.**
Romans 11:5,6

God's remnant people are those that hunger for Him and cry out for Him. This kind of heart is rewarded with abundant grace. God only selects people with grace on their life. All others are resisted until they humble themselves. Let us find grace!!

Scripture: **Titus 3:7**

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Lesson 2

Multifaceted Grace

Like God Himself, the grace of God has many facets. We must study these to make full use of God's grace in our life.

GRACE AS A SPECIAL ABILITY

Often in the Bible grace is used to describe an ability one has been given in the Body of Christ to advance and further the Kingdom of God in the earth. These endowments of grace are called gifts, or as the original Greek (*charisma*) calls them *a gift of divine grace*, or *grace deposit*.

- **For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office [job]: 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 showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.**
Romans 12:4,6-8

This is a limited list of different “grace jobs” in the Body of Christ. However, we are all called to do all of them, but each of us will excel at one of these more than the others. That is because we have received a special deposit of grace in that area. This is what is meant by “grace gift.”

- **Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift [*charisma*], even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold [multifaceted] grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**
1 Peter 4:9-11

Here are a few more grace jobs listed. The grace of God is described here as being manifold or multifaceted. That lets us know that there are more jobs in the Kingdom than just hospitality, speaking, ministering, prophesying, teaching, exhorting, giving, ruling, and showing mercy.

Each member of the Body of Christ has a different grace given unto them based upon what God has called them to do and to be in His Body. For this reason, we are not to compare ourselves among ourselves (**2 Corinthians 10:12**).

PAUL'S GRACE VS. PETER'S GRACE

- **But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Galatians 2:7-9**

Here, Paul's grace and Peter's grace were different. Paul was called to the Gentiles. Peter was called to the Jews. They had different techniques in evangelism but they were doing the same job. See also **Ephesians 3:1-8**.

MACEDONIAN GRACE

- **Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 Corinthians 8:1**

The Macedonian grace was their ability to give offerings and financially support the Gospel. Paul bragged on them for this grace. This is what they were and are still known for: **grace to give**.

TITUS' GRACE

- **Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 2 Corinthians 8:6,7**

Apparently, Titus had the grace of liberal giving working in his life and he had ministered in Corinth to impart this. With the Macedonians being such eager givers, Paul desired for Titus to return to Corinth to finish teaching the Corinthians this grace. Paul bragged on Corinth for abounding in the grace of faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, and love; but they also needed liberality working in their life.

GRACE FOR CONTENTMENT

- **And 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. 2 Corinthians 12:9**

In this famous passage of scripture, Paul is describing a demonic attack he was under for having great revelation and for being used so mightily of God. He wanted this attack to go away. He asked and asked that the demon might depart from him but God said, "My grace is sufficient for you. It will make you content while you are going through this." Grace equips you to endure anything. Grace empowers and activates long-suffering in your life.

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

- **For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**
2 Corinthians 8:9

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ allowed Him to take on the form of a servant and become obedient unto death. This grace will teach us and equip us to be servants and enable us to become obedient and learn to lay down our lives for one another.

God's grace is given to equip us for the task at hand. May we each endeavor to be strong in the grace of Christ Jesus our LORD.

BIBLICAL GRACE

Lesson 3

Grace to Work

The Grace of our LORD Jesus Christ has not been given unto us for us to lie around and waste it on carnality. The Grace of God has been given for a reason, otherwise it is has been given in vain. We must understand what grace is for now that we are saved.

- **But 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 me. **1 Corinthians 15:10****

Now that grace has saved us, it would seem as though grace shifts functions in our lives and empowers and strengthens us to work, work, and work some more for the Kingdom of God. Paul boldly proclaimed that because of grace working in his life, he was able to outwork all of the chief apostles. What an indictment against them!

EVERYONE IS GRACED TO WORK

Every Christian is a member of the Body of Christ and is therefore needful. Each body part has a function, role, and job to do. Grace equips and strengthens you for this God-assigned task in His Body. Any body part that is non-functional is lame and cripple.

- **For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office [*job, work, deed, function*]: Having then gifts [*charisma*] differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; **Romans 12:4,6****

Every Christian has been given a special function or job in the Body of Christ. God gives a measure of grace to that Christian based on the function they are called to perform. If a Christian does not operate in that God-ordained function, we might call that a dysfunctional Christian. This is called “receiving the grace of God in vain.”

- **We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. **2 Corinthians 6:1****
- **and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: **1 Corinthians 15:10b****

Lazy Christians squander the Grace of God. They come to church and quickly return home without helping or benefiting the Kingdom or the local church at all. They are very akin to leeches and parasites. Let us not be a parasite on Christ’s Body.

- **(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) **Galatians 2:8****

Paul testified that God was working effectually in Peter to accomplish a work in the earth: the salvation of the Jews. The words “wrought effectually” are one Greek word: *energeo*-to be at work, to be active, to put forth power. The word “mighty” in reference to Paul’s ministry toward the Gentiles is the same word: *energeo*. Grace was given to each of them to **do** something to promote the Kingdom of God and to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have [hold fast] grace, whereby we may we serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: Hebrews 12:28**

It requires grace to acceptably serve God. Without grace we cannot serve acceptably. This grace enables us to serve with reverence and godly fear. If we don’t hold fast this grace, our service will not be accepted.

- **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 2 Corinthians 9:8**

When grace abounds in your life, work for the Kingdom will abound in your life. Grace is not given for you to be selfish and introverted in the Kingdom. Grace comes for you to abound in good works. Grace produces sufficiency in your life. That is, a condition in life where no aid or support is needed. It is a condition of contentment. Contentment frees you up to serve God. If there aren’t any good works in your life, there is no grace working in your life.

OLD TESTAMENT GRACE

Let us examine the Old Testament for examples of what grace can accomplish.

- **Noah** – Noah found grace in the eyes of God and that grace enabled him to preach righteousness and build an ark. The grace of God empowered Noah to build and preach for 120 years. In the end, Noah saved his family and condemned the world by grace through faith (**Genesis 6-9, Hebrews 11:7, 2 Peter 2:5**).
- **Moses** – Moses found grace in the eyes of God and was equipped to pastor the Israelites for 40 years: through the Red Sea, to the mountain, through the wilderness, around the mountain, against enemies, through a building program, and up to the Jordan River. Grace kept Moses very busy and allowed him to walk very close with God (**Exodus 33, 34**).
- **Gideon** – Gideon obtained grace and favor from God and it enabled him to become a mighty military leader and judge over Israel for 40 years. Grace caused Gideon to be a leader and a revivalist, delivering Israel from the hands of their enemies back to the altar of the true and living God (**Judges 6-8**).
- **Ezra** – Ezra and a remnant of Israel obtained grace, not to stay the same, but to escape out of captivity and return to their home country, Israel. Grace came to help Ezra and his contingency of men to travel about five months from Babylon back to Jerusalem (**Ezra 9:8**).

GRACE AS A STEWARDSHIP

A stewardship is anything you have been given to look after and to care for. In stewardship it is understood that you will have to give an account for what you did or did not do with what has been placed in your care. We are stewards over God's grace.

- **As every man hath received the gift [*charisma*], even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

1 Peter 4:10

These graces given to us to work for the Kingdom are a stewardship just as our bodies, finances, and relationships are stewardships. If we are not good stewards over the grace in our life, we will have to answer for our negligence and laziness.

- **And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine . . . Thou wicked and slothful servant, And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Matthew 25:25,26,30

May we not be wicked, neither slothful, nor unprofitable with the graces the LORD has given us. Let us continue to walk in the light. Serving by grace keeps us in the light.

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Lesson 4

Grace to Sin???

If you continue to grow and develop as a Christian, you will no doubt discover that the grace of God will help you through your sins and shortcomings. You must, however, beware that you do not grow to exploit the grace of God as many are currently doing. These individuals are changing the grace of God into lasciviousness (**Jude 4**).

Let us be very clear: **Grace comes to get you out of sin! Grace is never given to help you enjoy the sin!**

- **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **Romans 5:20b; 6:1,2****
- **What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? **Romans 6:15,16****

The Bible is very clear on the subject of sin and grace. We are to flee sin and live. If we yield our bodies to sin (even in the name of grace), the Bible still promises death. Sin is sin and must always be viewed as sin. Just because we have grace does not mean we have been authorized to change the definition of sin. It is not okay to sin now that you have received grace. You can have grace, but sin will always be sin.

WHAT DOES GRACE TEACH?

If God intended for His grace to be exploited as a free ticket to sin, we should be able to find Bible verses that reveal that to us.

- **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Titus 2:11,12****

According to these verses, the grace of God teaches us five things:

1. Deny (refuse) ungodliness.
2. Deny (refuse) worldly lust.
3. Live soberly (self-controlled, handling one's appetites).
4. Live righteously.
5. Live godly.

There is no provision in grace to keep on living dirty. Grace cleans you up and keeps you clean. Grace is for helping you out of sin, not permitting you to keep sinning.

- **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15,16**

The context of this passage is being free from sin. Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, understands our weaknesses and temptations. Therefore, He is a merciful High Priest and His throne of grace is where we are to go get help when we are tempted. We don't go to the throne of grace to get permission to sin. Can you imagine someone going to the throne of grace and asking for permission to live dirty and unclean?

OT EXAMPLES OF GRACE

Old Testament saints also obtained grace from God. Let us see if the grace of God permitted them to sin.

NOAH

- **And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:5-8**

God planned to destroy all of mankind because of sin . . . but Noah found grace. And Noah is called a preacher of righteousness (**2 Peter 2:5**). In Noah's day, grace and clean living seemed to go hand in hand. Grace equipped Noah and his family to escape the destruction of sin.

MOSES

- **For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.**

And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. Exodus 33:16; 34:9

Moses stated that God's grace in his life and in Israel's life would cause them to be a separated people—a people different from the world. In chapter 34, verse 9, Moses acknowledges God's grace in his life but he also confesses the people's sins. Moses had grace and grace in Moses' life caused him to acknowledge and confess sin and to live differently from the surrounding heathen.

GIDEON

- **And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.**

Judges 6:16,17

The LORD appeared unto Gideon while he was threshing wheat in an abandoned winepress. Threshing wheat separates the wheat from the chaff. Chaff is symbolic of sin. Gideon threshing wheat represents his desire to judge himself before God and remove the sin (chaff) from his life. This desire to be clean qualified Gideon for the grace of God and it qualified him to be used mightily of God as a judge over Israel. Gideon's first job as a judge with grace was to destroy the idols in his family and get the sin out of his home.

EZRA AND THE BABYLONIAN REMNANT

- **Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.**

Ezra 9:7,8

Ezra reminded the people that their enslavement was due to sin. But God, in His mercy, showed grace toward Israel so that they could escape their slavery and find a place in God's HOLY place. Grace also came to revive them. Sin did not bring life. Sin brought bondage but grace had to come to deliver them from slavery and bring life.

THE PSALMIST

- **For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

Psalm 84:11

The whole context of this psalm is living around the house of God and walking uprightly. Grace and right living go hand in hand.

SOLOMON

- **My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble [sin].**

Proverbs 3:21-23

Solomon's wisdom taught that keeping the Word of God, wisdom, and discretion would cause you to be full of life and grace. The Word is a restraint to your flesh. Grace about your neck will keep you from stumbling and sinning.

May we keep ourselves from sin and lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our soul. Amen.

BIBLICAL GRACE

Lesson 5

Other Aspects of Grace

As we have seen and learned, grace is a multifaceted gift from God. Grace is designed to work in our life every day.

SPEAKING WITH GRACE

As Christians living under the dispensation of grace, we should take heed to and have a thorough understanding of the grace of God and how it should work in our lives.

- **For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body. James 3:2**

James promises us that our mouth can, will, and does offend people. Since so much of our life is defined by the words of our mouth, we can expect to find scriptures teaching us how grace can affect our mouth. Don't forget the definition of **grace**: *good-will, loving kindness, favor, cheerfulness, to rejoice and be well and thrive.*

- **Let no corrupt communication proceed forth out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:29,30**

According to the Bible, corrupt communication isn't just dirty words and foul language; it is anything that does not edify or administer grace to the hearer. Therefore, incorrupt communication will always be filled with edification and grace (elegance, charm, favor, sweetness, that which affords joy). Corrupt communication grieves the Holy Spirit of God, which is the Spirit of grace (**Hebrews 10:29**). A mouth that lacks grace will always get you in trouble.

- **A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1**
- **The wrath of the king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it. Proverbs 16:14**
- **By long forbearance and calmness of spirit a judge or ruler is persuaded, and soft speech breaks down the most bonelike resistance. Proverbs 25:15 Amp.**
- **He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend. Proverbs 22:11**
- **If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences. Ecclesiastes 10:4**

Grace-filled words can deliver you from many bad circumstances, but a voice of attitude and arrogance will only dig you a deeper pit.

Scriptures: **Proverbs 9:13; 11:16; 21:9,19**

- **For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

Romans 12:3

Paul only spoke what he had grace to speak. Many people hurt themselves by opening their mouth without having the grace (or permission or liberty) to say something. Even a fool is counted wise when he keeps his mouth shut (**Proverbs 17:28**). Without grace to speak, many times you will only be intruding into someone's life and they will not receive what you have to say.

- **Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

Colossians 4:6

Colossians takes it further and says that we must always have grace in our speech. Grace knows how to answer every man. We season our answers with gospel salt to make the hearer thirsty for the Living Water.

SINGING WITH GRACE

Just as there is to be grace in our speech, so there must also be grace in our singing. Without grace in our singing (praise and worship), the singing will just be singing. The ingredient of grace (humility) turns a worship song into worship. Without grace there would be no difference between our singing and heathen singing.

- **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

Colossians 3:16

Without a heart of grace, a worship song is just a performance. Many heathen are much more talented singers than many Christians, but their songs don't glorify Jesus, nor do they manifest the presence of God. The quality of the sound doesn't make the song pleasing unto God. It is the quality of the heart singing the song that makes the song pleasing unto God.

- **Make a joyful noise unto the God, all ye lands:**

Psalms 66:1

Seven times the Bible tells us to make "a joyful noise" unto the LORD. Remember that the root word for *grace* in the Greek is *joyful*.

Scriptures: **Psalms 81:1; 95:1,2; 98:4,6; 100:1**

PARTAKING OF ANOTHER MAN'S GRACE

God has designed the Body of Christ to benefit from one another. The eye cannot say to the

hand, I have no need of you (**1 Corinthians 12:21**). We can rub off on one another, as iron sharpening iron (**Proverbs 27:17**).

- **Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. **Philippians 1:7****

The Philippian Church was a partaker of Paul's grace. It would have been evident that they were founded and pastored by the Apostle Paul. His imprint would have been upon them. This church would have looked and would have been governed and administrated differently than one of the Apostle Peter's churches.

God places graces upon individuals so that they can go and minister that grace to the rest of the Body of Christ (**1 Peter 4:10**).

Examples:

- Timothy and Titus would have ministered and preached a lot like Paul. He was their spiritual father and they partook of his grace.
- Paul desired that Titus would return to the Corinthian Church so that they might abound in Titus' grace (**2 Corinthians 8:5-8,17**).
- Paul desired to minister to the Roman Church in person so that he could impart into them some spiritual gift (*charisma, grace gift*) (**Romans 1:11**).
- The LORD called me to Dr. Sumrall's Bible school so that I could receive from his grace and catch his vision for world missions.
- I, at times, minister, and even feel just like each of my former pastors. I believe this is the manifestation of the deposit of their ministry and grace in my life.
- Our church partakes of the grace on Dr. Barclay's life and ministry. Because of this, we are much more organized, disciplined, and doing more for the Kingdom of God than at any point in our church's history.

It is my prayer that through these lessons, we have been able to "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (**2 Peter 3:18**).