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THE SUPERNATURAL WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

Colossians 1: 1, 2; 4:18

Apostle Paul's epistle to the Colossian brethren began with grace and ended with grace. All that it reveals to us from chapters one to four is the expansion, explanation and the work of grace. The acronym 'GRACE' stands for **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. Everything that believers enjoy in Christ Jesus is by grace, not on the basis of merit or good works. Our redemption and preservation in the Kingdom is by the grace of God. God's grace works supernatural wonders in the life of His children.

The entire book of Colossians reveals God's provisions for believers through His grace, mercy and love. Also, it highlights Christ's sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of mankind. By God's grace, believers' needs are met, their prayers are answered, they enjoy divine visitation and obtain the Christian experiences that make them walk in godliness and ready for heaven.

1. GOD'S REDEMPTION AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE (G.R.A.C.E.)

Colossians 1:14; Romans 3:23,24; Luke 1:68,77; Titus 2:11,12,14

Man's redemption was at Christ's expense. **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"**. It is obvious that no one can obtain the inheritance which God has prepared for His children without cleansing in Christ's blood. Redemption means that Christ purchased us from the slave market of sin through His blood, pardoned and cleansed our sins. Although history chronicled the acts of some famous and heroic men, none of them qualified to redeem man from the bondage of sin. **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12). God's promise of man's redemption was fulfilled through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. To receive pardon and forgiveness, and qualify to enter God's holy kingdom, sinners must recognise Christ as the only Way, confess and forsake their sins. We can only enter God's great and glorious kingdom through the door of grace.

Apart from the miracle of healing, deliverance, fruitfulness, provision, promotion, etc., which believers enjoy, the origin and climax of God's visitation is redemption of humanity from the bondage of sin. **"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people. To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins"**. Our redemption in Christ Jesus is by faith. Therefore, people who attempt to obtain salvation by their good works or by being religious cannot experience the forgiveness and peace of mind that God's grace brings. Redemption through Christ takes away the burden and guilt of sin. We must, therefore, accept, believe and confess our redemption in Christ which qualifies us to enjoy other blessings of the Kingdom.

2. GOSPEL RIGHTEOUSNESS AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE (G.R.A.C.E.)

Colossians 2:6; 3:16,13,14,15,17; Romans 1:16,17

Some believers do not understand the difference between the righteousness of Moses and the one that comes through Christ. Because a breach of any of the Ten Commandments would attract severe punishment, the children of Israel tried to obey them through human efforts. They were helpless as great prophets and leaders like Elijah, David, Moses, etc., could not help them to keep God's commandments. But Christ brought the gospel of righteousness to the world and promised to abide in any

believer who lets Him in through the door of his heart. **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”** (Revelation 3:20). Christ’s presence within empowers us with the grace to live a righteous life. This is the power of God in man.

Knowledge of Christ through theology or religious studies is not enough. We must receive Him into our hearts and allow His word to guide us. Preserving God’s word in our hearts will constantly remind us of Christ, our Saviour and enable us to follow the right path that leads to heaven. If we truly have the gospel of Christ in us, we must concentrate our attention on the Lord without allowing distractions. The love and sacrifice of Christ on the Cross should also compel us to act by love as we overlook offenses and forgive every provocation. Whether at home, school or workplace, we are expected to express the love of Christ to others. As believers, our comportment, language, dressing and relationship should reflect the grace of God in our lives. We must live to please Him in all things without being ashamed of the gospel of Christ. **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”**

3. GLORIOUS RESURRECTION AT CHRIST’S EXPENSE (G.R.A.C.E.)

Colossians 3:1,2; 1:13; Ephesians 2:6

Everyone who has been redeemed experiences total transformation that comes through a glorious resurrection. After Christ’s resurrection, He appeared to His disciples on several occasions in a supernatural way without obstruction. Believers who are **“risen with Christ”** operate in the realm of the supernatural because the limitation of the old life gives way to the new.

Christians who truly love Christ and the glories of heaven always **“set [their] affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”** They understand that what they think about every time has influence and power over them. Unfortunately, today, many professing believers think and talk more about witches and wizards and their activities more than they do about Christ. They magnify the power of Satan more than that of Christ; and because of their confession, they experience defeat. Having **“delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”**, the Lord wants us to realise that curses and spells, diseases and sicknesses from the enemy do not have power over us. Raised up together with Jesus and seated in heavenly places with Him, we remain untouchable. To experience God’s power and receive more of His revelation, our focus must be on heaven and its glories.

4. GRANTED REQUESTS AT CHRIST’S EXPENSE (G.R.A.C.E.)

Colossians 4:2

God answers believers’ prayer on the basis of grace. Because of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross, He grants us freedom from oppression, healing from sicknesses and deliverance from attacks of the enemy when we pray. Prayer is presenting our requests before God. If an earthly father cannot deny the legitimate requests of his children, God cannot deny the petition of believers who pray according to His will. God is not a liar; His promise to every Christian is: **“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”** (Matthew 7:7). Salvation, healing, deliverance, fruitfulness, provision and promotion are available for everyone who asks in faith. If we **“continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving”**, we shall enjoy daily victory and divine protection.