



Day One: #9 You are Free From Law and Live by Grace (1)

Last week was truly exciting as we looked at the fact that it's the fullness of Jesus that is within us, and that means all of the provisions and promises of heaven are already within us! We are never waiting on anything! We already have everything Jesus has ever promised us and it's within us right now!

The challenge that many of us face is then the HOW to get what is within our hearts, to manifest in our souls (mind, will and emotions), bodies, finances, families and communities. However, what often happens at this point is that we think WE have to make it happen. 'If we just obey enough, if we just pray enough, if we just declare and confess His promises enough... we'll walk in them.'

While it sounds convincing, it is the wrong way to look at it. Why? Because who are we looking at when we think like this? OURSELVES! We have our eyes on ourselves and our performance (or lack thereof) and in essence we think that if we can just behave right and keep our faith applied and our confession in line, that God will respond to our faith and what we're believing for will come to pass.

Here's the news flash for us all.

God does not respond to us – we respond to Him!

And furthermore, because Jesus has already finished the work and we are not waiting on Him to move because He's already done everything, it's got nothing to do with getting God to respond to our faith. God is not co-dependent. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He and Jesus got the job done, then they sent Holy Spirit to come and live in our hearts and show us how to get what was placed inside out us, out. And there's only one way this happens: By His grace within us.

We are under law when we act to get God to respond to what we are doing.

We are under grace when we act in faith because of what Christ has already done.



Law means we are looking at ourselves. Grace means we are looking at Jesus. We are not our own saviors, yet when we look to our actions to get God to act or to bolster our faith, we are in essence trying to save ourselves. Our confidence is not to be in what we are doing to obey God, however good it is. Our confidence is always to be in what God has already done for us.

Philippians 3:9 (TPT) *My passion is to be consumed with him and not cling to my own “righteousness” based in keeping the written Law. My “righteousness” will be his, based on the faith of Jesus Christ – the very righteousness of God.*

Grace is all about Jesus. Law is all about ourselves.

Grace keeps our eyes on Jesus, not ourselves. We are to be so consumed by Him and His righteousness within us, that we don’t even give a thought to our own “righteousness”. We are one with Jesus and His fullness is within us and everything flows from that. It’s by this grace – not our actions - that we see everything He has promised us manifest in our lives.



In all honesty, who have you most been looking at? Yourself, and your actions or lack thereof? Or Jesus and what He has already accomplished for you?

In which do you have the most confidence, and why?



Day Two: #9 You are Free From Law and Live by Grace (2)

The truth is, you truly ARE free from the law and you are free to live by grace! This is a present-moment fact, established on the cross for you.

The cross was the defining moment of our covenants. It completely destroyed the power of the law that was the old covenant, and it completely established the power of grace, that is the new covenant.

Grace IS our new covenant with Christ Jesus!

If we reject grace and instead revert back to law, we are rejecting our very covenant with Jesus, on which all of the promises and provisions of heaven are promised.

There is not a 'little bit' of the old covenant in our new covenant. The new covenant completely replaced the old covenant (Heb 8:13). And the biggest change that happened is that the covenant went from external to internal. From outside in, to inside out.

Prior to the changeover of covenants, God had no choice but to relate to man externally. Jesus had not come and man's spirit was dead. Yes, there were men and women (such as David) upon whom the Holy Spirit fell or whom sought God with everything within them and experienced a measure of heart-relationship with God. Yet, what they had was nothing compared to what we have!

Remember, Jesus said that even the least in the Kingdom of heaven would be considered greater than John the Baptist (Matt 11:11). Why? Because John the Baptist did not live in the time of the new covenant and every single believer since the cross of Jesus Christ has had their hearts transformed and has been given something greater than anybody in the old covenant ever experienced, no matter what God accomplished through their lives.

This is what Jesus had to say prior to the cross, as He painted the picture for us of what the new covenant would accomplish:

John 4:21, 23 - 24 (TPT) ...Believe Me, dear woman, the time has come when you won't worship the Father on a mountain nor in Jerusalem, but in your heart...It's not a matter of the right place, but the right heart. For God is spirit,



and He longs to have sincere worshippers who worship and adore Him in the realm of the Spirit and in truth.

Can you see that Jesus was preparing mankind that the changeover in covenants would be the changeover from external (place) to internal (heart)? Even the prophets who went before Him could see this prophetically:

Jeremiah 31:33 *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

It wasn't that God would no longer have any standards. His standards of righteousness would not change, but instead of laws on tablets that man fulfilled by external actions, it would be His laws of love and righteousness imprinted on our hearts through Christ within us.

So Jesus made the changeover for us. In the old covenant, God related to man externally. Circumstances directed people's lives. They lived under the constant measurement of their actions, and if they did not do things as prescribed, they could not be considered righteous before God. God dealt with man according to his flesh, his actions, and what He did.

Yet in the new covenant, God relates to man internally – through our hearts in oneness with Christ Jesus. We received righteousness as a gift and it is from that righteousness we act. Now God deals with man according to His spirit.

Soak Time

Which covenant would you rather live by? Why?

Has the internal (heart) nature of the new covenant become reality for you?



Day Three: #9 You are Free From Law and Live by Grace **(3)**

There is a tendency to think, *'If I act right, I will be right'*. The whole world is caught up in this addiction to external actions. Self help is essentially the tools to harness our willpower and make our actions come in line with the goals we have set. All of western culture is caught up in the mindset that how we look on the outside reflects who we are. Presentation and possessions are everything because it's the external that is valued.

Unfortunately, this mindset also exists in the church, and we're still trying to be 'right' by 'acting right'. You know, the whole, *'If I don't drink, swear or smoke, I've got my ticket to heaven'* mindset. But that's not grace!

Ezekiel 36:26-27 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Notice the order in this last scripture. When speaking prophetically of the new covenant, God said that He would put His spirit within us, AND then we would keep His judgments. Why is this distinction important? Because in the old covenant the law was all there was to bring order. God didn't even want to establish the law, but because the spirits of man were dead (disconnected from God) and the world was sinning and destroying itself, He had to give a standard of righteousness so that man would know what would bring life and what would bring death. He also had to have a means of judging 'guilty' or 'innocent' in order to prove Jesus innocent and therefore able to receive the judgment of the world.

Man attempted to fulfil the law by his actions and on these actions he was judged. If a man hated someone in his heart or lusted after a woman but never acted on it, he was not judged because the old covenant was an external, 'outside-in' covenant and man could only be judged by his actions. That meant he developed the mindset that he could become righteous by his actions, or that by his sheer will, he could control his behaviours. This is the lie of the law:

Law says: I must DO in order to BE.

But Grace says: I BE and therefore I DO.



In other words, instead of telling ourselves that if we can just do the right thing, we will BECOME like Jesus, we realise that if we can just believe that we've already BEEN made like Jesus, we will do the right thing.

Soak Time

How do we know whether we are 'DOing to BE' (law) or 'BEing to DO' (grace)? Well, here's a test. What do you think when you read this scripture? Be honest, and write it down before reading further.

John 14:15 (ESV) *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

If your perception is DOing to BE (law), you will read this scripture as, *'I'll know whether you truly love Me by whether or not you keep My commandments.'*

If your perception is 'BEing to DO (grace), you will read this scripture as, *'When you love Me, I will empower you by My grace and because of this you will have the power to keep My commandments.'*

What have you discovered about whether law or grace is influencing your perceptions?



Day Four: #9 You are Free From Law and Live by Grace **(3)**

"You cannot get by the rules what you have received by grace." Danny Silk

We can't pay for a gift. We can't earn enough, do enough, or be perfect enough. Our only option is to either receive the gift of grace or to reject it.

Looking at ourselves... looking at our actions, our behaviours or our standard of measurement is not humble. It's bondage! Trying to control ourselves by controlling our external actions is not the best God has for us.

The best God has for us is His grace - when we focus on His life within us and our oneness with Him and we allow His life to flow through us and we live from a heart that is totally in love with and submitted to Him.

It's not about the control of our external actions. It's about our heart. Yet because this is our western mindset, even our Bible translations are worded from this perspective. Consider the word that has been translated so often as the fruit of 'self control' (Gal 5:23). Brian Simmons, author of The Passion Translation of the Bible, tells us that the word 'self' is not actually found in the original texts. The word used is actually translated 'lordship', or by implication 'spirit-strength.'

In other words, God no longer sees us as a separate being. He has made us one with Christ Jesus and we are righteous in His eyes because of our spirit-union with Christ. No longer does He require us to grit our teeth and conform our behavior by sheer will as though we had no union with His Son. Instead, by His grace, we can now rest in the fact that we already are one with Him, He is our Lord, and we are righteous in His eyes, and by consequence, His spirit-strength within us will cause us to act righteously, and it will be a reflection of who we believe ourselves to be.

If we can't do that... if we can't rest in who He says we are and trust that through His heart in us and our oneness with Him, our lives will automatically flow righteousness in doing; and if instead we think it's all about us and our performance, we have cut ourselves off from Jesus and from the revelation of grace.



Galatians 5:4 (TPT) *If you want to be made holy by fulfilling the obligations of the Law, you have cut off more than your flesh – you have cut yourselves off from the Anointed One and have fallen away from the revelation of grace!*

If we do not see ourselves as one with Him, we're standing on our own merit. And if we are looking at external measurements (ie the law), we are seeing ourselves as separate from Him. Are we one with Christ or not? Is it truly 'no longer I who lives but Christ who lives within me' or not?

We have to understand this clearly and receive this irrevocably or we will always be halting and limping between law and grace:

Christ is the end of the law (Rom 10:4)... that means He is the end of external measures.

"...You either have to be perfect, or you have to trust a Savior who was perfect for you. There is no other option." Andrew Wommack

Soak Time

Will you try to be perfect, or will you trust a Savior who was perfect FOR you?



Day Five: #9 You are Free From Law and Live by Grace (5)

The fact is that through Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross, we are dead to law and free from it – and we are alive to grace!

Galatians 2:19 (TPT) ...because the Messiah lives in me, *I've now died to the law's dominion over me so that I can live for God in heaven's freedom!*

Just as we looked weeks ago about the fact that we are dead to sin and dead to the natural realm through the fact that we were crucified with Christ Jesus, we are equally dead to the law. The law was attached to the flesh – it was the external measurement of the flesh. We are completely free from it because we are utterly dead to it! How can it have any power over us if we are dead to it?

Of course, the law is deceptive. Because it is a 'good' thing, we can be fooled into thinking that it still has some merit or some place in our lives. Let me share a dream God gave a dear friend of mine, which illustrates why the law is actually dangerous.

In my dream, I was walking between my house and the garage and I was on my way to somewhere specific. However, I noticed that there was a tree right in the middle of the pathway I was taking. There had never been a tree there before and I knew in reality that the tree did not exist. It was not real. Yet it caused me to stop. I looked up and I saw a snake in the branches of the tree and it appeared to be dead. I started to walk forward but then I glanced back at the snake one more time.

Suddenly, the snake came alive and it leapt out of the tree and onto the ground. I chased it in an attempt to kill it and it went into the grass on the edge of the path. I couldn't see it, but then suddenly it came out from the grass and it was as big as a lion, with jaws opened wide at me. Then my dream ended.

When I asked the Lord about it, He said that the snake represented my sin and when I was walking forward with God towards where He wanted me to go, I was not affected by it. But when I stopped and looked at the snake – the sin – it came alive. He said 'The law makes me want to deal with the snake'. But what happened when I tried to deal with the snake? It took me off track and it became much bigger than it originally was.



The law makes us want to deal with the snake. The law makes us want to deal with our sins, and then this does two deadly things:

- It makes us take our eyes off Jesus, our righteousness, and where He is taking us.
- It makes our sin bigger.

Whatever we focus on becomes big and comes alive. We always become what we behold. Yet there is only one thing we are told to behold:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

If we behold the sin, we sin more. If we behold the Lord, we are transformed.

One is law. The other is grace. No prizes for guessing which is which 😊.



What has Holy Spirit spoken to your heart through this dream?
