

CHAPTER TWO

God the giver

Exodus 33:19

And He said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the LORD before thee: and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Romans 11:36

For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen.

John 1:1,14,16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth.

And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Psalms 145:9

The LORD is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Jehovah is the Righteous Judge. Being righteous in nature, Jehovah will definitely NOT acquit the guilty. I certainly hope to NOT to have to stand before Him when the heaven and earth will flee from His face. Precedent to actually rewarding men's sins however, as we encounter in the preaching of His name to Moses, is the God of grace. Jehovah is love that freely gives, gracious, benevolent. The name of the LORD in the passage referred to above is the fundamental proclamation by God of Himself and can be seen on thoughtful examination to be a description of sovereign grace. This is the essential character of God as He reveals to us by His Word Who became flesh and blood. A look at the character and deeds of the Man Jesus Christ reveals to us exactly Who God the Father is.

We should basically relate to the Father as we would relate to Jesus if we were with Him because that is really what or Who our heavenly Father is like, as we get to KNOW Him. As we behold Jesus, we see God our Father. We see His love and grace to sinners, His word of compassion for those who have no help, His uncompromising attitude against any sin, and above all, the love of God expressed in the terrible surrender of and breaking of His being for our actual salvation from sin and its results. The physical pain and shame and separation involved in Christ's death, and the consequent flowing

out of God's Life from His broken body for us, was because of love, God's love for and grace toward each of us. Divine love, God's love for us, is the 'why' of the eternal grace covenant.

God, being love, finds greatest pleasure in expressing all He is to His beloved in saving grace. This is His nature. Agape-love, by nature, will unreservedly give Himself to the object of this great love. The fulness of Himself, His nature and Spirit can now be expressed out in restoration to God's marred-because-of-sin creation through the blood and Life of His Son Jesus Christ. The new covenant conveys this love's provision, this grace. Grace is Love's provision, undeserved, even unsought, but still without which nothing in this fallen creation could have benefited or been saved.

Psalm 145:9

The LORD is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Being Who He is, because He deeply loves men, God remains good, forgives, cleanses, makes whole and causes His Spirit of Life to restore us back to Himself to love Him. His grace is sufficient unto the creature in whom and through whom He works, enabling the creature to willingly love Him. Man, Adam, you and me, was created to rule from inside Love Himself, by Love and for Love. Adam heeded the voice of the serpent and brought upon us this curse of disobedience. The only thing then of which we are worthy of, as the first Adam's seed, is separation from God, from His Life and from all the good things that proceed from Him. God refuses to, and indeed cannot have, any communion with sin, disobedience and unrighteousness in His universe. God will not accept anything thing short of Agape-love in His creation. Period. This is why all sons of disobedience will go to the lake of eternal fire in the end. The same Jesus Who loves us will judge and put us in the lake of fire if we do not repent of our sins and come to Him to save us. Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought immortality and Divine (eternal Life to light through the good news. By pouring out Himself once and for all, God's Anointed Man, Jesus of Nazareth, delivers fully all who come to God through Him. This is grace, the grace of God.

John 1:16-18

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.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared [i.e. revealed] Him.

God GIVES freely of His own will. This is the definition of grace, God gives because He wills so out of His love for and compassion towards us. God is the great Lover. We do not deserve His grace, and can never do so of our own selves, but by the blood of the Lamb we will obtain mercy, forgiveness and all other good and perfect gifts that enrich men's lives and add no sorrow (except such sorrow and suffering as are for His name's sake in this opposing world. It is given us in Christ Jesus to suffer, NOT the suffering of satanic oppression that Christ came to set us free from, but such affliction and tribulation that is the predicted consequence of living a godly christian life in this present world i.e. for His name's sake. The blood and suffering of Jesus of Nazareth on Calvary legally and rightly merits the grace, healing and provision of the new covenant. This makes God to still be righteous when He bestows unmerited blessing on us. God delights to show mercy to all His creatures through the blood of the new covenant, including unjust men. How much more then will His compassionate love and kindness of grace be freely poured out to satisfy, fulfil and quench the thirsty hearts and lives of the heirs of the new covenant?

Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The LORD is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Nehemiah 9:17b

...: but Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

Jeremiah 3:1

They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to Me, saith the LORD.

Psalm 86:15

But Thou, O Lord, art a God FULL of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalm 111:4

He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

God has always been a very good Person, merciful, patient, kind, loving, compassionate, helping. Therefore you see Him expressing these virtues. Nevertheless

it is even that His unblemishable righteousness of character that fully demands it of Jehovah that He bless and bring to fulness of blessing, every believer in His Son Jesus. For if Jesus paid for their profit and benefit, the Father owes it to His sons who approach His throne by faith in the blood of His Son to give to them all the heavenly guidance, help and provision of mercy and grace promised Christ, whether such promise-provisions are of a spiritual or material nature. All things are theirs. Of course the Father Himself is actually the Person Who engineered this state of affairs.

Ephesians 2:8-10

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.

FOR we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good WORKS, which God hath BEFORE ordained that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

It is the Father Himself, out of His own goodness and according to His own purpose, Who first works to get us to will His will and then works to enable us to do His perfect pleasure as we will. It is by His grace that the fallen creation finds salvation in and through His Son Jesus. It is also from and because of and through the means of this His own mercy and sufficiency of grace that the reality of the new covenant is fulfilled in our lives. We could not have done and cannot do any of these things of our own selves, whether it is having faith or willing His will or doing that will. No human can accomplish or fulfil the outworking of salvation by whatever we can do of our own effort.

God's mercy and grace are available for any and all of us if we will take such sufficiency from His Son as of grace, and not of human-powered-effort or ability. Even Jesus did nothing on earth by His own power but only judged as revealed to Him by the Father and did the works which the Father gave Him by the Holy Spirit to finish. The man Jesus was absolutely dependent on the Father (and the Father's ideas, purposes and plan), and because of His complete faith-reliance on the Father, the Father successfully lived out His Life through Jesus by the Holy Spirit. This is how Jesus was able to fulfil and express the good and acceptable and perfect will of God in the flesh. Now the

Father has raised us up IN and WITH Christ so that He can fulfil this same Life through our weak humanity,

However we have still relied on our supposed effort-ability (because of certain deeply ingrained erroneous religious ideas) without really comprehending that we cannot actually succeed in doing anything really godly, really christian, of our own selves. We cannot even think God's thoughts, which is THE KEY to the actual expression of Christlike perfection, except through the mercy of God Who sends and reveals His word to us by the Holy Spirit. If we were to really appreciate the Father, that He will be gracious to whom He will be gracious (and that His grace IS sufficient even and especially for weak men such as we), we would quickly humble ourselves in truth and depend on His blood mercy. By the grace OF God, we can and we will DO His will to the extent and in the way He wants: precious christian people should stop teaching otherwise!

All the qualities of God were revealed in His first earthly sojourn by our Lord Jesus Christ. God is meek and lowly in Spirit, gentle, compassionate and quite patient, and much stronger also than all. He indicates quite clearly to the adulteress in John 8: 11 that she should not go back into sin in her earthly life. This is our true God. It is out of His fulness that we, all creatures, receive grace upon grace. His abundance of grace, which is by the blood of the new covenant, is sufficient both to cleanse us from all sin as well as to preserve us from falling into sin. The mercy, help, compassion and overflow of our God is even more than adequate for weak men IF they agree and SAY so.

Exodus 33:19, 34; 6, 7a

And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy,

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty;

Romans 9:15-16

For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

So then it is NOT of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.

God will be gracious to whom He will be gracious makes it clear that you do not succeed by your effort. It is that simple. You must understand that it is not a result of your own self-effort. God looks at your true poverty and emptiness, your actual helplessness, and His bowels of compassion move Him to give enough, and more than enough GRACE. He does and has been doing this for you even though you have not acknowledged Him; but He is at work to help you learn this and begin to acknowledge Him as your Sufficient Help and Lover, enabling Him to give you more grace.

So God is the FIRST One Who has worked and works to get you to will His will. He then works to enable you BY HIS OWN POWER to DO His (your) will. I have met people who have tried to become christians by effort only to give up after much discouragement. This is because they neither understood nor accepted His Life as a free gift, as unmerited grace. It is equally sad to see many who have become christians by simple faith in the finished work of Christ trying vainly to walk in the newness of the resurrected life by self-effort and the righteousness of the law. We must not frustrate Jehovah's grace through our refusal to submit to and accept such free gifting. God, by the Word of His power, has finished His new workmanship in the risen Lord and we are that new supernatural and Godlike children He says we are. Faith from our spirit must firmly seize on this Word that changed us; THEN the resurrection power from Him will work to fulfil and manifest His creature. Simple.

WHEN you appreciate your utter poverty, then you will really grasp the grace of God. It is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy, compassion. Grace therefore must be sought by childlike faith towards Him, faith in His free (by the blood) sufficiency and not our own supposed effort nor our lack of merit. Our Saviour's grace is definitely enabling us (born-again christians) to express our spiritual genetic information. We move from grace to grace. God the Saviour OUR Saviour, YOUR Saviour, is able. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above ALL we ASK or THINK by the means of His resurrection power that is already working in every born-again christian. Perfecting us unto the fulness of His expression is not hard for God at all. However He has to first persuade us concerning the true and common nature we now share with Him through our rebirth into the risen Jesus. Perfection is possible because He, the Fully-Able God, wills it.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think ANYTHING as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Romans 9:30-32

What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed NOT after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

BUT Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of righteousness,

Wherefore? BECAUSE they sought it NOT by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.....

Let us reiterate. The eternal redemption covenant was made because of God's love. In the grace of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One, our Father in heaven is giving all He is and all He has, to and for mankind. It is to faith placed in Him through His Son Jesus that God responds, and not to works of self-righteousness. The pleading of self-righteousness, of works and merit thereby is not good enough to obtain desired favours from God, whereas the pleading of Christ's blood seeks from Him mercy and grace poor men like us could not get otherwise. Thus God gives grace to the humble, and His grace is sufficient for us. The Lord gives Himself to the believer; He Himself is our sufficiency. If it is of works, then sovereign grace is no more grace.

The word of God gives substance and shape to our being, changing who we are in expression from our thought level. When we give heed to the resident anointing in our spirits as we think over the Scripture, He replaces our old thoughts and thinking disposition carried over from our old life with our Father's thoughts and thinking disposition. We then begin to express the Father's nature and personality which we received in the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. God renews His spirit in men so they can perceive His kingdom, and this Spirit renews our thoughts so we can express the character of the Spirit of Jesus given to us. Thus we enter into the soul's experiencing of His kingdom. God's nature (Christlike perfection) is like a grain that has the full-grown tree written into it. It cannot grow to full expression except if it is placed under the Lord's rain. It is critical that a born-again christian abandon and refuse to heed any ideas of men that contradict scripture and rather give his thinking and meditation to the Word of God: then his SOUL will be energized by the Breath of God's Word, the wonderful Holy Spirit.

A good tree cannot produce bad fruit nor a bad tree good. A sinner who becomes born from above by grace can ACTUALLY and fully be transformed by the gracious Spirit of God, from manifesting Satan's sin-nature to being exactly like God in his every deed. This is a divine work, a miracle, and is not possible by natural human might nor by our power. His grace, His giving of Himself, IS (note the present tense) sufficient for us. If you believe, you will see: But how can they believe what they have not heard?

2 Corinthians 9:8

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.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

BUT they that WAIT upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

John 3:27

John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Isaiah 26:4

Trust ye in the LORD for ever: FOR in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.

(Think... think. THINK and meditate over these scriptures! See their message, by His grace.)

Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is writ ten, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Romans 5:17; 8:32; 11:6

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; MUCH MORE they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ.)

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not WITH Him ALSO freely GIVE us all things?

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.

2 Corinthians 12:9

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.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: ...

If you will meditate on what these and many other scriptures testify about the realities, finished works, possibilities and provision-promises of the New covenant, and about what the Father has done in His new creation in Christ, the truth will make you free and change your thinking, talking and actions to God's. The heavy yoke of human religion on YOUR shoulder will then become replaced with Christ's easy yoke as you walk in His resting relying faith. The power of His grace is sufficient even though you are (and indeed because YOU are) NOT able by your own power; thus God is glorified.

When the Father raised Jesus up from the lowest depths by His power to sit at the greatest height (see the letter to the Ephesians), He was signifying to you that no matter how weak or how low you are, His resurrection power at work in you can and will raise even you to the greatest height! Actually if your eyes were opened, HE HAS also RAISED *you* already WITH Christ and you ARE already sitting at that highest, far above the name of the spirit of disobedience. Jesus also made a similar testimony to Martha concerning raising men who have faith in Him from any possible lowest depth up into God's glory. He only required faith in God and what He said. Our strong Jesus is more than enough for anything whatsoever *and* people should HEAR this unto faith. The Father will give grace and glory to your soul, and His Holy Spirit will fill up and overflow in all aspects of your life. The risen and Anointed strong Jesus IS (as well as 'will be') in a very present sense, the Resurrection and the Life, and wants you to experience NOW in the appointed measure, the Father's glorious gift in your own personal life. Grasp from Him by YOUR word of faith all He is pouring out to you daily. The Father has blessed and is blessing you with every measure of abundant Life!

The new covenant of grace from God also includes material provisions.

Joshua 24:13

And I have given you a land for which ye did not labor, and cities which ye built not,

and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

By this statement God shows plainly that, even after the Fall, His is still the Giver; not according to the labour of our hands, but as He promised in the covenant between Himself and the Lord Jesus. This is the Lord's DOING, not of him that willeth or runneth but of God that showeth mercy. IF you seek God and His kingdom first, all the other things you need and the world forsakes God to pursue will be added unto you. Jesus Christ is sufficient in all things to you as YOU rest in Him and leave your burdens and cares on Him. He knows your fleshly infirmities and His Spirit is breathing Life and Peace into your blood-purchased soul. You are precious to Jesus, and you too are pure! The blood of Jesus cleanses you from ALL sin. The blood of Jesus is more powerful than all sin of yours! Run into your Father's outstretched arms now! BOLDLY enter His Holy of Holies through the permanently torn veil by Christ's blood, and enjoy your Daddy's divine sufficiency, Love's mercy and El Shaddai's gracious provision.

Nehemiah 9: 17b

...: but Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

Jeremiah 3:1

They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

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