

No 211

ABUNDANCE OF GRACE

(E mail to Pastor in Delhi, India – 7/2/2000 – EKB)

Dear _____,

Everything in the Christian life is of **grace through faith** in the promises of God, e.g. *Eph 2:8-10, Rom 5:2,15,17,20,21, Rom 6:14*.

There is no merit in us to deserve our salvation. It is **all freely given to us by God** through faith in the Lord Jesus and God's promises, *Tit 3:5, Rom 8:32, Heb 4:16, 10:19, 1Cor 4:7*.

We cannot earn it either. It is all freely given to us through Christ and what He has done as we believe the Word, *Rom 5:8,9,10,17, 2Pet 1:4, 2Cor 1:20*.

God relates to us by grace which is His mercy, truth, help and supply, given freely and abundantly to us in Christ, *Rom 5:17, 6:14, 8:15*.

Grace comes down freely and abundantly from God, *Is 44:3, Jn 4:10,14, Jn 7:37-39*.

Fallen humanity cannot do anything to merit or earn salvation, and so God in His love has chosen to make a way through His Son, to provide it all freely on the basis of repentance, (full surrender to Christ), and faith in His Word, *Jn 3:16,17, Mat 11:28-30*.

Now the opposite of grace is legalism. This is man striving to reach up to God and please Him and obtain His favour by His own efforts, merit, laws, rules etc. The Pharisees were legalists, e.g. *Lk 6:2,7*.

In the parable of *Lk 15:11-32*, **the Father was full of grace** but the older son was a legalist. He condemned his younger brother, was proud angry and self-righteous. Legalism is centred on self.

In *Lk 18:9-14*, the Pharisee was a legalist but the tax collector was seeking mercy and grace. The Pharisee was proud, self-righteous and despised the tax collector.

Legalism, as we see in *Gal 3*, is not the message of the Gospel.

The legalistic approach is man's striving, keeping rules, duties, to be good enough to please God and get his blessing. This is false and untrue and can never work. Legalism is man centred.

Now some of us have had quite a bit of legalism in our background, Dorothy and I have and I think that you have too.

In *Lk 19:5-7*, Jesus related to Zacchaeus by grace not law. This is the only way God will relate to anyone.

So the Lord has led us to take a strong stand against legalism and the spiritual forces behind it. We have been helped by the book "Grace Awakening" by Chuck Swindoll.

These forces or lies or attitudes, backed and strengthened by demonic forces, are we believe, some of the following: religious pride, legalistic self-righteousness, striving, pride, self-centredness, fear,

doubt, guilt, unbelief, doubtful-mindedness, heaviness, rebellion, reluctance, resistance to the Holy Spirit, condemnation of self and others and more.

Derek Prince's book, "They Shall Expel Demons" has been a help to us, especially on page 216 where he gives the steps to cutting off the influences of demonic spirits. We go through these and then take a strong stand against the attitudes and lies of legalism and the forces behind them.

This is not a sudden quick fix because these things have had a hold and influence in us for so long. As we stand strongly in faith day by day and fix our heart to understand the truths of the Gospel of Grace, we make progress. We have to resist these forces, lies and influences of a legalistic attitude with the Word of God, the power of the Blood of Jesus, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the authority of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way we move into more and more freedom and liberty in Christ and love for Him from the heart.

The result of a right understanding of God's grace is genuine love of God and desire to do His will to please Him.

I hope that this sharing with you is a help and the start of a new walk of liberty in Christ.

Gal 5:1 – Stand fast, therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has set you free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

v13 – For brethren we have been called into liberty, but use not your liberty for an occasion to the flesh but by love serve one another.

Much love to you and family,

Ken and Dorothy.