

I. Grace the critical key in the building process.

- A. Defined: Grace is God's ability in me to do what I can not do in and of myself. As a believer I am full of grace. Grace is God's ability. Grace is to the spiritual man what water is to the natural man. Grace is to the spiritual man what water is to creation. Scientists are always saying that if we find water we may find life. Grace will always be a part of the believers life! It is the "God part" in the new creation! It touches every area of your life and will be used of God to other people.
1. Saved by grace. Eph. 2:8,9.
 2. Healed by grace. Mt 9:22 Woman you faith has made you well. Faith let her access God's ability and she was healed.
 3. Delivered by grace. Mt 17:17-20 Boy with seizures was healed. Jesus command a demon to leave him. Disciples wonder why they couldn't...little faith. Little access to grace needed to cast demon out.
 4. I am wanting you to see that graces is God's ability in us to do the things we can't do in and of ourselves.
- B. God is building a house with 'raw materials' (you) and grace (His abilities.)
1. There are three different words used in the original Greek to describe our english rendering, "Gifts".
 - a) Charisma - Grace (Undeserved Favor). Found in Romans 12.
 - b) Pneumatous - Spiritual matters [things]. Found in I Corinthians 12.
 - c) Dorea - Gift (General). Found in Ephesians 4.
 2. Building gives God the good pleasure of being good! He loves helping, healing, loving, touching, His people through His people. He lets us share in the joy of blessing others.
- C. God is so good...look at the gifts He has given us! (Charis=***)
1. Gift of Jesus. *"For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift***** of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23***, NLT)
 2. Gift of Holy Spirit. *"Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you **the gift he promised**, as I told you before."* (Acts 1:4, NLT) Also: Acts 2:38; Acts 8:20; 10:45; 11:17
 3. Gifts for equipping. Five fold ministry gifts: *"Now **these are the gifts** Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers." "Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."*(Ephesians 4:11,12 NLT) God gave to the church gifts that would help equip them to do the work of the ministry. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 4. Gifts for administering grace. Spiritual gifts:God gave to each person in the Kingdom at least one spiritual gift. Also: Acts 21:10

- a) *"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all."* (1 Corinthians 12:4***, NLT)
(1) different kinds of gifts - diversity
- b) Each has been given gift 1 Peter . *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10***, NLT)
- c) Each has a gift 1 Cor *"A spiritual gift (manifestation) is given to each of us so we can help each other."* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT)
- d) Ro 12:7 - gift of prophecy
- e) Ro 12:8 - gift of serving, etc etc
- 5. Gift that come by grace. Again, let us not forget that gifts are not earned or deserved. They are just given.
 - a) Gift of forgiveness Ro 5:15 NLT
 - b) Gift of righteousness Ro 5:17 NLT

II. The call is to work with God and to use our spiritual gifts.

- A. We are the 'raw materials' that God uses. kaleo - we are called out as raw material in order to be assembled into the House of God. We are not to be a rock on the pile but to be assembled into the house. When we are assembled then each part brings something to the 'whole.'
 - 1. *"Whatever event, word, or action is a concrete expression of grace or serves as a means of grace is a spiritual gift (charisma)."* Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible Dictionary (p. 1222). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
 - 2. Ie. When I serve others. I am a gift in action. When I give a prophetic word, I am a gift in action. Ie. I was at Frog Bones Thursday. I swept up the brass casings in another man's shooting lane. He said, *"I have been coming here since this place opened I have never had anyone clean up my shooting lane."*
- B. He lavishes us with grace. Therefore we are to lavish with His grace. Give it away! Result:
 - 1. To the disciples Jesus said, *"Give as freely as you have received!"* (Matthew 10:8, NLT)
 - 2. *"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."* (1 Cor 12:7, NLT)
 - a) We each have a spiritual manifestation to supply to others.
 - b) sumphero - to bring together to profit, for the common good.
 - c) symphony - the sound an orchestra makes when all are tuned and playing their part.
 - d) ***We are created to be related. *"Yes, there are many parts, but only one body."* (1 Corinthians 12:20, NLT) We are created to relate to one another.
 - e) ***We are created to be interdependent...and to provide to each other. I need your grace. You need my grace.
 - 3. 1 Cor 12:25 *"This makes for harmony when we care for one another."* When the body is unified, division or schism is overcome.
 - a) no schism, therefore harmony.

- b) Gr. *merimano* - to care for, to be concerned, to brood over. Therefore mutual interest and regard.
- c) The opposites:
 - (1) 12:21 We can't say I don't need you. I.e. to say that is to say I do not need grace
 - (2) 12:22 We can't say I am not important. "I am too weak to help."
 - (3) 12:23 We can't say I'm not good enough - we cover and honor these
- C. Just as he gave gifts to us, His expectation is that we would give away "His ability!" freely as a gift to others.
 - a) *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)
 - b) There are different kinds of gifts 1 Cor 12:4
 - c) There are different kinds of service. 1 Cor 12:5
 - d) There are different ways God works 1 Cor 12:6

III. Scriptural Commands Concerning the Gifts

- A. Don't be ignorant. *"Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this."* (1 Corinthians 12:1, NLT) Paul does not want us to be in a place of 'not knowing' our gifting.
- B. Stir up the gifts. 1 Tim 1:6 stir up gifts. Fan into flame. To cause to be active again, *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you."* (2 Timothy 1:6, NLT)
- C. Do not neglect using your gifts. *"Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you."* (1 Timothy 4:14, NLT)
- D. Let the gifts manifest. *"But be sure that everything is done properly and in order."* (1 Corinthians 14:40, NLT)
 - 1. There is order in the House of God
 - 2. Motives to have order are
 - a) A love for people 1 Cor 14:1 *"Let love be your highest goal but desire special abilities the Spirit gives."*
 - b) The desire for edification to take place. 1 Cor 14:26 *"Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you."* (1 Corinthians 14:26, NLT)
 - (1) strengthen/edification - Gr. Oikodomain - the act of building. The desire for the gifts is the act of building. When we are moving in the gifts God has given us. We are allowing Him to build through us because it is His grace (ability) that is in operation according to the measure given to us.
 - (2) The desire for operation of the gifts is the desire of building others.

E. To be assembled. "So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **Together, we are his house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22, NLT)

1. Together we are His house. vs. "you are "Oikos" - a part of God's dwelling place. Therefore as we are called out we are called to be together.
2. Foundation of Apostles and Prophets - Apostle and prophets have their sights set on heaven, what God wants, the bringing of heaven to earth.
3. carefully fitted/assembled/put together/joined. Therefore we are in relationship with each other.
4. Together we become a 'holy temple' where God lives! Where God dwells! To be a Presence driven church, we must not only be worshippers but we must be assembled.

Conclusion:

- God is the Builder/Creator.
 - He wants to build a better you. And he wants to build better others.
 - He is going to work through His church. God works through people.
- He is building a house - a place where people connect, relate and help each other.
- We connect to receive from each other and we connect to give to each other.
- What give and receive is God's ability and that is grace!
- Invitation to become a follow of Christ.