

THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE ECONOMY OF GOD, Week 2**Experiencing the Grace of God in the Economy of God**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:10; 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4; Gal. 6:18; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Pet. 3:18a

Ephesians 1:10	Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
Ephesians 3:9	And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
1 Timothy 1:4	Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
Galatians 6:18	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
1 Corinthians 15:10	But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
2 Peter 3:18	But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

Day 1

Ephesians 1:10	Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him.
Ephesians 3:9	And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

I. God's eternal economy is to gain a group of people, that the Triune God may dispense Himself into them to be their life and everything so that they may be joined to Him as one, be filled and occupied with Him, and be one organic entity with Him on earth to be the Body of Christ, the church, for His corporate expression—Eph. 1:3-23:

- A. The eternal economy of God is the **central line of the entire Scripture**—v. 10; 3:9.
- B. The interpretation of the Scriptures should be strictly governed by this central line under its enlightenment—Luke 24:27, 32, 44.
- C. The one thing that should be focused on, emphasized, and ministered is the **New Testament economy of God**—1 Tim. 1:4.
- D. The Christian life is a **life that is for God's economy**—2 Cor. 5:14-15.

Day 2 & Day 3

Hebrews 4:16	Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
Galatians 6:18	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
John 3:34	For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure.
Galatians 3:5	He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
Galatians 3:2	This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

II. “The **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit**”—Gal. 6:18:

- A. The mark of God’s economy is that **Christ today is the grace of God in our spirit**—v. 18:
 1. **Our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit** is the focus of God’s promised blessing—John 3:6; Rom. 8:10; 15:29; Eph. 1:3.
 2. We need the **grace of the Lord**, which is the **bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit**, to be with our spirit—Phil. 1:19; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- B. The grace of Jesus Christ is the bountiful supply of the Triune God (who is embodied in the Son and realized as the life-giving Spirit) **enjoyed by us through the exercise of our human spirit**—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22; Philem. 25:
 1. Grace is God the Father embodied in the Son who is realized as the Spirit; ultimately, the **Spirit is grace**—Heb. 10:29.
 2. This grace, the ultimate consummation of the Triune God, now **dwells in our spirit**—Phil. 4:23.
 3. Our **spirit is the only place** where we can experience grace—2 Tim. 4:22.
 4. In order to receive and enjoy grace, we need **to turn to our spirit** and **remain there**, recognizing the Lord as the Head and the King, respecting His position, honoring His authority, and seeing that the throne of grace is in our spirit—Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16.
- C. As children of God, we should be those who **receive and enjoy** the grace of our Lord **in our spirit**—2 Cor. 13:14; Philem. 25:
 1. The receiving of Christ as the Spirit of grace is a **lifelong, continuous matter**—John 1:16; Rev. 22:21.
 2. **Day by day a marvelous divine transmission** should take place as God supplies the Spirit of grace bountifully, and we receive the Spirit of grace continually—Gal. 3:2-5; John 3:34.
 3. The way to open ourselves to the heavenly transmission in order to receive the supply of the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit of grace is by **exercising our spirit to pray and call on the Lord**—1 Thes. 5:16-18; Rom. 10:12-13.
 4. As we receive and enjoy the processed and consummated Triune God as our grace, **we will gradually become one with Him organically**; He will become our constituent, and we will become His expression—2 Cor. 1:12; 12:9.

THE EXERCISE OF OUR SPIRIT

Our problem today is not with teaching or knowledge but with the exercise of our spirit. How often during the day do we exercise our spirit to release the Holy Spirit? I am afraid that a number of us may not even know how to exercise our spirit. We know how to exercise our arms and legs, but we do not know how to exercise and use our spirit. The best way to exercise our legs and feet is to walk or run, and the **best way to exercise our spirit is to pray**. However, when we pray, we often exercise our mind instead of exercising our spirit. Thus, in order to exercise our spirit, **we must forget all our thoughts and outward circumstances and take care of our inner sense**.

We must learn to pray real prayers, prayers that are uttered from our innermost part. Some may say that they do not have any feeling in their innermost part or that they do not sense the moving or inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This may be true, but this does not mean that we should wait for the inspiration of the Spirit. When we want to start a car, we do not wait for the car to start itself. We simply start the car ourselves. In the same sense, we should not wait for the Spirit to inspire us. The Spirit, like the car, is waiting for us. **It is our responsibility to exercise our spirit to release the Spirit.** (*The Exercise of Our Spirit for the Release of the Spirit, chapter I*)

Day 4

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

Galatians 2:20-21 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness is through law, then Christ has died for nothing.

III. “By the **grace of God I am what I am; and **His grace** unto me did not turn out to be in vain,...yet not I but the **grace of God** which is with me”—1 Cor. 15:10:**

- A. Grace, mentioned three times in 1 Corinthians 15:10, is the resurrected **Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit** (v. 45) to bring the processed Triune God in resurrection into us to be our life and life supply that we may live in resurrection:
 1. Grace is the Triune God becoming **life and everything to us**—John 1:17; Gal. 2:21.
 2. It is **by this grace** that Saul of Tarsus, the foremost of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15-16), became the foremost apostle, laboring more abundantly than all the apostles.
 3. **Paul’s ministry and living by this grace** are an undeniable testimony to Christ’s resurrection—2 Cor. 1:12; 12:9.
- B. Not I but the grace of God in 1 Corinthians 15:10 equals no longer I...but...Christ in Galatians 2:20; this shows that **Christ Himself is the grace of God**—God Himself working through the apostle:

Day 5

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost. But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.

1. The grace that motivated the apostle Paul and operated in him was not some matter or some thing but a [living person](#), the [resurrected Christ](#), the embodiment of God the Father who became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, who dwelt in the apostle as his everything.
2. This corresponds to Paul's declaration in Philippians 4:13: "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me":
 - a. In Philippians 4:13 Him refers to the [resurrected Christ who became the life-giving Spirit](#).
 - b. In such a Christ, Paul was empowered to do all things; this is the [grace of God](#).

Day 6

1 Peter 5:10	But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.
Colossians 2:19	And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
Revelation 22:21	The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

IV. "[Grow in the grace...](#)of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"—2 Pet. 3:18a:

- A. Grace is the Triune God being life and the life supply to us and in us; to [grow in grace is to grow in this inward source of the supply of life](#)—1 Pet. 5:10.
- B. Grace is God processed through incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; [all these elements of grace are within us to be one with us](#)—Phil. 4:23:
 1. Grace is God Himself as our life to be [one with us, to save us, to make His home in us, and to be formed in us](#); to grow in grace is to [grow in the increase of God](#)—Col. 2:19.
 2. [Grace is God's visitation to us to stay in us and make Himself one with us](#); we need to grow in such grace for His glory today and unto the day of eternity—Rev. 22:21.

In 1 Corinthians 15:10 grace is the Christ who is in resurrection and who is resurrection. By this grace Paul could be what he was and labor more than all the other apostles. When we compare 1 Corinthians 15:10 with Galatians 2:20, we see that grace is not a thing, but a **Person**. All the disciples and apostles who saw the resurrected Christ not only saw Him objectively, but experienced Him subjectively. [Through their seeing of Christ, He entered into them and became the subjective One in them](#). When the day of Pentecost came, this was the reason they were living, energetic, and operative. The resurrected Christ was in them. Not only was Christ Himself resurrected objectively, but in resurrection He lived in Peter, John, and all the other apostles and disciples.

Throughout the centuries, all the living servants of God have had this resurrected Christ living in them. I can also testify that He lives in me, enabling me to do what I never could do in myself. Hallelujah, the Lord Jesus lives! How do we know He lives? As the hymn says, [we know He lives because He lives in us](#) (Hymns, #503). We may be persecuted and opposed, and we may suffer very much. [But we have the resurrected Christ in us](#). The more we are opposed, the more alive and active we become. Nevertheless, our testimony is this: [Not I, but the grace of God with us](#). (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, chapter 65*)