



God's Amazing Grace Series

Part 5 : God's Grace for Ministry

Sunday May 03, 2009

Everything in the Christian life is "by grace through faith".

Ministry is a work of God's Grace through us

1 Corinthians 3:10

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

What you do in ministry (i.e. in service toward God and people) is "according to" the grace of God given to you. It is (a)because of and (b)empowered by and (c)in alignment with – the grace of God given to you.

Ephesians 3:1,2,7,8

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation (*stewardship, administration*) of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

- Vs 2 : Ministry is a stewardship of the grace of God given to you – are you stewarding it well, are you administering it well are you taking care of it, maximizing what God has extended to you?
- Vs 2 : The grace of God in ministry is given to us FOR people. Two important inferences
 - (A) the grace of God for ministry is given to us not to serve our own selves, our own interests, make a name for our selves, etc. Rather it is given to empower us to serve people, to bless others, to enrich other lives
 - (B) God's grace is usually given for a specific people – that is why we see that some people are easily able to work with a certain kind of people , be it a social community, a regional group, a certain age group (children, youth, etc.). Paul had grace to minister to the Gentiles, while Peter was graced to minister to the Jews (Galatians 2:9).
- Vs 7 : I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God – what you do and become in ministry must be in line with the gift of the grace of God on your life. Don't try to become something you have not been given grace for.
- Vs 7 : The effective working of God's power always accompanies His gift of grace. Here is another grace twin: Grace and Power. You will find God's power flowing through you in ministry, as you move in line with the gift of grace given to you.
- Vs 8 : Grace for ministry is extended even to those we would consider "most unworthy"! the least of all saints. That is why God surprises us when we see some one absolutely uneducated, or unschooled, head up a ministry that is impacting nations, etc.



The Gifts of the Spirit are gifts of grace

1 Corinthians 12:4 There are diversities of gifts (*Gr. Charisma*), but the same Spirit.

Grace Greek *Charis*

Charisma = gifts of grace

English word 'Charismatic'.....

'automatic' = operates on its own

Charismatic = operates by grace

The gifts of the Spirit are expressions of God's grace through an individual and towards one or more people.

Calling, Grace-Gifting and Anointing

2 Timothy 1:9

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

God has given to us His own "purpose and grace". There is "purpose" and there is "grace" to fulfill that purpose.

Romans 12:4-6

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

We see here function ("purpose"), and gifts of grace to fulfill that function or purpose.

All members have some function in the body.

Each one has been given a function, and gifts of grace for that function.

The Bible tells us "let us use them".

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Every one has received Christ's grace gift.

1 Peter 4:10,11

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You using your gift to serve others is what makes you a good steward of God's manifold (multi-faceted, diverse, varied) grace.

Have you started using your grace gift? What excuses do you make that keep you from using your grace gift? People make many excuses:

- There is no one to encourage me



- No one is recognizing me and giving me opportunity
- I am too busy
- There are others who can do the same thing better than me
- I don't feel qualified or experienced enough (2 Corinthians 3:5, 2 Corinthians 1:21)

We saw earlier from Ephesians 3:7 that the power of God accompanies the grace-gift on our lives. This is the anointing of God on our lives.

So God's calling (or purpose, or function) on our lives, His grace-gifting and His power are all in alignment. God has a call on your life. He gives you the grace-gifting and the power or anointing of His Spirit on our lives.

Growing in Grace

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 forever. Amen.

We grow in the grace of God on our lives. So also we grow in the grace gifting on our lives.

Faithfulness is important to grow in the grace-gifting on our lives.

That is why there is the need to be trained to recognize God's calling

There is the need to be trained in the grace-gifts

There is a need to pray and grow in the anointing

There is a need to live a holy life and make sure that we do not hinder the work of His grace in our lives.

Grace and Effort in Ministry

Grace empowers us to do the work. Grace does not make us complacent, inactive, passive, indifferent, etc.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Grace and our efforts do not exclude each other. They are twins they go together. Grace empowers me for good works.

- Get rid of slothfulness and work hard for the cause of Christ.

Irrevocable Gifts

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

God does not change His mind about His gifts and calling on your life.

Walking in Ministerial Grace

Exercise the grace given to you



Do not abuse the grace given to you

There are other facets of grace that we will learn in days to come.

[Call for Congregational Response]

Challenge people to walk in their calling, grace-gifting and anointing.

[Salvation Call]