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For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Ephesians 2:5-10

TITLE: The Disciple's Walk of Grace

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Preface

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urges the disciples to follow Him. He has laid down the teaching and the walk before us that we need to follow in His steps as our supreme example.

It is key for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

It is our belief here at Project L.A.M.B.S. that it is important and key for the disciples to know and understand clearly what and who they are in Christ before they will be able to pass it on to someone else. Our hope is that you will want to commit yourselves and take seriously this pilgrimage journey that you are about to take.

It will not be easy and for many it will be like looking in a mirror and seeing things you really do not want to know or see. But before something can become mature it has to start as a seed then be nurtured by its environment before it can become mature enough to produce more fruit. This takes time, dedication and training in the disciplines of Christ.

James 4:10 tells us that this discipleship journey starts by "humbling thyself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up."

Secondly, we learn through Paul and James that it is important to draw closer to Christ, to who He is, so that we could begin to make the next step of making a lifelong commitment to Him as a disciple.

James 4:8a points out that as you draw closer to Christ; He will draw closer to you. This training is to help the disciple to understand who they are, so that they can give it away to someone else and to keep spreading the good news to as many as would receive it.

This booklet is for you to learn from so that you could take two or three other people and teach and equip them in their faith so that they could in turn teach, equip and train also two or three more people (multiplication factor).

This is a pilgrimage that I believe that Jesus is taking us on so that we will be able to fulfill the great commission of making disciples so that they could become laborers who will bring in the last day harvest that is ready (Matthew 9:37-38).

Our call is not to be so much a Nehemiah, who built physical walls, but to be an Ezra, who built a spiritual relationship in people with God. Ezra means "the one who helps." The role of the teacher is to help guide and equip others in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

At the beginning of each discipleship step you will find a key verse that sets the foundation for the entire book. The booklet is also set up in the "A. B. C. Method" of outlining. "A" representing the word approach (as known as introduction) which helps to introduce the section that will be discussed. "B" is the body of teaching that helps to better explain the topic and "C" represents the conclusion. This is where the teaching is summed up, plus it gives to the reader ideas on how to apply this truth to one life.

Each booklet also has as a memory verse, plus a little prayer to help the disciple to focus his prayer life on. Each section point contains one to three questions to help the disciple to think about that point in their own personal lives. There is also study question and extra Scriptures that could be used in a group setting. Example: cell groups, Sunday school etc. Pastors could also use these materials as a foundation for a sermon.

The best way for people to learn, is for the reader to clearly study and understand each step themselves personally and then for them to go out and teach someone else. This will bring greater discipline and understanding into one's own personal lives.

We pray that as you freely receive you will freely give to others around. The Holy Spirit is our great teacher and we need to call upon him as we study these lessons individually or as a group. God wants to use **YOU** as a channel of His love and grace, to be a vessel of faith and hope to people who you will come into contact with each day. I encourage you to "Keep on keeping on for Jesus Christ".

"Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Ephesians 2:5-10

APPROACH:

We sing a song called "Amazing Grace", written by a man that was facing deep stress and challenges in his life. As he called out to God, God revealed the truth that for many throughout history has remained a mystery. From the moment of creation to the moment that mankind sinned against God, the rest of Biblical history is a testimony to all mankind about how our Ceator is a God who showers forth grace on whoever will receive it. Many Christians in churches today do not understand this part of God's character and nature, but once understood, it is a foundation stone that brings freedom and life to the heart that has been bound and dead. Grace is a free gift from God Almighty expressed clearly to those who will believe and receive into their lives Christ's payment for their sins.

Historically sin entered the world through Adam, then God revealed the need for a relationship of faith, then through Moses the law came as a schoolmaster and finally grace came through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The receiving of God's grace starts changes in our heart. This

then affects the mind, which in turn affects our outward actions and countenance. Grace should be sought after, and we should be looking to God's grace daily.

FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER & STUDENT

<u>Teacher:</u> The key to this step is to help the disciple to know the difference between self-righteousness and grace righteousness, to help the disciple see the proper reason behind his service and what motivates him or her for ministry.

<u>Student:</u> That the student understands the implication of how these three words, sin, law and grace, all interact with each other throughout the Scriptures and how they relate and affect us and the church today.

DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and about God and His word, the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow view of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.

Grace: God's free and spontaneous action taken to meet human needs, especially in providing salvation.

In the New Testament, grace (*charis*) is summed up in God's provision of salvation. The theological concept is expressed most clearly in Eph. 2:1-10. We were "dead in... transgressions and sins," controlled by "the cravings of our sinful nature." Although we deserved God's wrath, he was moved by "His great love for us" to make us "alive with Christ." God's response to human helplessness was an act of pure grace- "it is by grace you have been saved." But grace does not stop here. God has also "raised us up

with Christ." Through this spiritual resurrection, God provided the inner resources that enable us to "show the incomparable riches of his grace." Therefore, God's gracious action in our lives constitutes a re-creation. Through grace we are able to "do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

(Revell Bible Dictionary, 450, 51)

<u>Justify</u>: prove to be just, right or responsible; to pronounce free from guilt or blame. *Synonyms*: absolve, acquit, approve, confirm, defend, establish, excuse, exonerate, legitimize, support, sustain, uphold, validate, vindicate. (Rom. 3:24)

Redemption: buying back; making of a single payment to discharge a debt. *Synonyms:* reclamation, recovery, repossession, repurchase, retrieval, discharge, exchange, fulfillment, amends, atonement, compensation, deliverance, liberation, ransom, release, rescue, salvation.

<u>Righteous</u>: acting or being in accordance with what is just, honourable, and free from guilt and wrong. *Synonyms*: blamelessness, faithful, good, honest, honorable, just, pure, upright, virtuous.

<u>Heart:</u> the whole personality, the emotional or moral as distinguished from the intellectual nature. *Synonyms:* character, disposition, emotion, feeling, soul, temperament, affection, compassion, love, tenderness, boldness, bravery, courage, fortitude, spirit, central part, core, crux, hub, kernel, middle, nucleus, root.

SCRIPTURE

For this chapter, study this portion of Scripture. It is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to help you as a disciple to mature in Christ. Please look up and read it in its entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ... draw near to the throne of **grace** ... find mercy and find **grace**... in times of need.

II Corinthians 9:8 ... God is able to make all grace abound to you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ... by **grace** you have been saved Through faith... gift of God... not a result of works.

STUDY

Grace is so amazing and it come from the very heart of God. From the day Adam and Eve sinned, they became separated from God. God had a plan which would lead to redemption for all those who would confess their sin. Paul knew what grace was all about, and he encouraged all the people he came in contact with to come to Christ and receive the grace of God. Even after churches had been established, he continued to exhort them to remain in God's grace. We are to draw near to God, to let God's grace abound in our lives, and to realize above anything else that we have been saved by God's grace through faith and not by any works that we can do.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

The Bible is full of illustrations showing what God wants us to understand about the importance of His grace that is available to all mankind. Take time to look up in the Scripture these biographies and reflect on how God called these people to be His vessels for service. Notice how God calls everyday people to Himself.

Adam and Eve – brought sin into the world, yet receive grace.

Abraham – exemplified the walk of faith.

Moses – received the law as a schoolmaster.

Christ – brought grace to the world and cancelled sin's power.

OBJECT LESSON

Heart: When one thinks of the heart one thinks of the center of people or things. We should not be trying to change things from the outside in, but should be changing from the heart out. When the heart changes, the mind will change, and then will come a change to our outward action.

TRANSITION:

What follow are eight aspects of grace that the disciple of Christ needs to pray through and to personalize in his understanding about the grace that God pours out to all who desire to receive it.



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