

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 3 – Six Foundational Doctrines of Christ

Lesson 5 - Spiritual Maturity and Grace

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God is saying, (paraphrasing): You should be grown up enough that you can handle meat, but you are only capable of handling milk.

What is a sign of those that have matured?

They are those who by use of their senses have learned to rightly divide the Word of God and to discern between good and evil.

The spiritually mature are those who have so learned how to use the Word of God and have become so skilled in the use of the Word of God upon their own lives and character that even their senses no longer lie to them according to the carnal nature, but their natural senses actually now discern between good and evil.

It is easy to avoid something that you don't like. When you have a breakthrough encounter with God you are going to actually like what God likes, and you are going to hate what God hates. It is going to become natural to you. Your nature will be changed so that you take on the nature of Christ.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ. I no longer live. If any man is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation, old things have passed away, and behold all things have become brand new.

The Bible says we have been predestined by God to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. And the Bible says that those that are mature...those that are grown up...those who have so learned how to apply the Word of God to their lives that their natures have been changed and now their only desire, their natural senses desire the things of God and are repulsed by the things of the world.

This is the transformation he is rebuking them for not having attained. He is saying you are supposed to be here, but you are not. And there is a reason you aren't. And we are going to get into these reasons over the next few lessons.

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When studying the Word of God it is important to remember that the chapters and verses were added later for our benefit and were not in the original text and often do not mark the end of a thought. Often the context carries from verse to verse and from chapter to chapter.

This is true when you look at Hebrews 5 and 6. He's tying these thoughts together. He is saying you should be mature, you should be able to handle solid meat, but you need milk. Now, he goes to chapter 6. He just rebuked them for only needing milk and being immature.

What are the six foundational doctrines of Christ?

The six foundational doctrines of Christ are repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, of doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Then he says in chapter 6:1-2 *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, the first oracles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, of doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

As we begin to venture down this path I want to divert for a moment to lay a foundation about grace because if we don't understand grace properly then we are not going to understand how to deal with these kinds of truths. When these truths begin to come and penetrate and expose us, if we do not rightly understand grace we will confuse it with legalism and being under the law.

How do we receive more grace?

We grow in the knowledge of God.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His glory and virtue.

Peace literally comes from the Greek word which is *Irane*, and it literally means 'to be at one again with God'.

The Bible says we are saved by grace through faith; and that knowledge resulted as a gift of God. But the Bible also teaches us that we can obey by grace...we receive the gifts of the spirit by grace...they are distributed by grace. Everything we get from God comes by grace. But what is this realm of grace?

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If asked what grace is, most people will say something like, “When you do something wrong and you should have got punished for it, but you didn’t that is grace.” But that is not grace. That is mercy. You see when you deserve judgment and you don’t receive judgment, that is mercy. But mercy and grace are not the same thing.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

So until you first access grace you cannot receive the mercy of God. Grace is not a license of no accountability. Grace is not a get out of hell free card. Grace is much more powerful than that. Grace is an incredible spiritual characteristic of God through which everything we need comes.

Grace is the undeserved favor of God that gives to us access to the power of God for everything we need for life and godliness.

How do we get everything that pertains to life and godliness? We get it through grace. Grace is favor. See favor gives you access to power. It’s not just favor to have favor. Favor gives you access to power so that you can get something that you need.

Grace is a gift from God and He says He’s going to give it to us. We don’t deserve access to Him. We have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. He is going to give us access to His power so that we can receive everything we need for life and Godliness.

So if grace is favor that gives me access to power for everything I need for life and godliness, then the thing that I need is more grace.

2 Peter 1:2 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God.*

Let’s go back to see what he just said...those that have learned how to use the Word of God...the knowledge of God, they have so become skilled in the Word of God that it has actually changed their nature. Why? Because they got skilled in the Word of God... that gave them favor to access power to overcome the carnal nature...to overcome the sin...so they can receive everything they need for life and for godliness.

Everything we get from God comes by grace, and God says you grow in grace through the knowledge of God. That is why the Bible says God’s people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Why? Because when we lack knowledge we don’t have grace. When we don’t have grace, we don’t have favor. When we don’t have favor, we can’t access power. When we can’t access power, we don’t get what we need for life and Godliness.

That’s why the devil wants to do everything he can to keep you spiritually ignorant. Because without the revelation of the knowledge of God, you don’t have the favor of God...you don’t have the grace of God...you can’t access the power of God, and you

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can't get what you need. It's when revelation knowledge comes that that's what gives us favor.

That is why the Apostle Paul prayed so earnestly in Ephesians 1:17, in the Amplified says this...*For I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, that he may grant unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, of insight into mysteries and secrets in the deep and intimate knowledge of Him.*

He said that God would give you an anointing, a spirit of wisdom and revelation, of insight into mysteries and secrets, into deep and intimate knowledge of God by having the eyes of their heart, their understanding, flooded with light, so they will know and understand the hope to which He has called them. So they will not only understand the inheritance that is for all the saints, and so they will know and understand what is the unlimited, immeasurable, surpassing greatness of His power that it is in and for us who believe.

Paul said you need to have a spirit of revelation. That revelation will give you the knowledge of God. That knowledge of God releases grace. That grace gives you favor that gives you access to power.

The same power that raised Christ from the dead, the power to overcome sin in your life, the power to destroy sickness, the power to destroy demonic strongholds, the power to shake cities and to turn them upside down.

But God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. They are spiritually ignorant, they don't understand so they can't access power.

The writer of Hebrews was rebuking them. He was saying you should be much more farther along than this. But you need the baby stuff again. You need these foundational things again. You shouldn't have to need them again. It's time for us to move beyond those things. It's time for us to grow up.

But the truth is, until you get a revelation of those six foundational doctrines of Christ, which we are going to begin to tap into over these next few lessons, you can't go on to the next level. But when you do have a revelation of those things, you have grace through the knowledge of God that gives you favor to access to the power of God so you can walk free from the sin you have repented of. So you can walk in the faith of God. So you can lay your hands on the sick and they recover. So you can walk in the power of the baptism, so you can walk in the resurrection life that's right now and so you can avoid the eternal judgment.

God is going to give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation...of insight into the mysteries and secrets and to deepen in the knowledge of Him...and to have the eyes of your heart flooded with light.

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Father, right now in the name of Jesus, release upon your people the spirit of wisdom and revelation. I release the spirit of wisdom and revelation of insight into the mysteries and the secrets in the deep and intimate knowledge of You by having the eyes of their understanding flooded with light, because Father when Your people have the knowledge of You they will have grace, which will give them the favor to access the power for everything we need for life and Godliness. I loose that upon them right now. In the name of Jesus. God open their eyes to supernatural revelation knowledge. In Jesus' mighty name.

For further study:

Key Topic: Grace

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.