

0190 040 Doc: Grace, Part 23. The Testing Of Your Faith On The Road To Super Grace.
07/24/97 Joh 19:10-11; Heb 2:10; 5:8; 1Pe 1:3-7; Luk 22:31-34,53

Summary

The Purpose of Grace Through Suffering

The discussion centers on the concept of "super Grace life" and the purpose of grace through suffering. McLaughlin emphasizes that believers must endure undeserved suffering to reach this super Grace life, which is perfected in weakness. Key points include the importance of humility, teachability, and dependence on God. McLaughlin references Apostle Paul's experience with suffering and the doctrine of grace, highlighting that suffering is a means to perfect faith and dependence on God. The conversation also touches on the necessity of recognizing one's weakness and the role of grace in overcoming personal and systemic challenges, ultimately leading to spiritual growth and reliance on divine providence.

- **Purpose of the Study and Introduction to Grace [0:07](#)**
 - McLaughlin begins the meeting by invoking God's guidance and direction for the study of the Word of God.
 - Emphasizes the importance of persistent positive volition in believers and the honor God gives to those who engage with Bible doctrine.
 - Mentions that the best messages are often taught on nights when people do not usually attend church, highlighting the importance of faithful communication of Bible doctrine.
 - Introduces the topic of the evening: the purpose of grace through suffering and its relation to the super Grace life.
- **The Purpose of Grace Through Suffering [1:50](#)**
 - McLaughlin explains that the Apostle Paul's undeserved suffering is a reference point for understanding grace.
 - Paul's plea to God to remove his suffering and God's response that His grace is sufficient are discussed.
 - Emphasizes that believers will face undeserved suffering and mistreatment if they live the Christian way of life.
 - Stresses the importance of humility and teachability in reaching the super Grace life.
- **Stages of Spiritual Growth and Handling Afflictions [4:38](#)**
 - McLaughlin outlines the three stages of spiritual growth: Spiritual Self-Esteem, Spiritual Self-Denial, and Spiritual Self-Conquest.
 - Discusses the five tests of Spiritual Self-Esteem and the importance of handling personal afflictions, people testing, and mental attitude testing.
 - Mentions a personal story about a woman who is afraid of being alone in her house, highlighting the sin of fear and worry.

- Introduces the concept of system testing and disaster testing, where believers face mistreatment and disasters.
- **Application of Grace in Handling Tests [7:18](#)**
 - McLaughlin emphasizes that believers must handle personal afflictions, people testing, mental attitude testing, system testing, and disaster testing.
 - Stresses that most believers fail these tests either due to a lack of relevant doctrine or arrogance that prevents the application of doctrine.
 - Encourages believers to recognize that Jesus Christ controls history and that all sufferings are allowed by Him for a purpose.
 - Quotes Hebrews 1:3 to illustrate that Jesus Christ upholds all things by the Word of His power.
- **The Role of Suffering in Spiritual Growth [25:44](#)**
 - McLaughlin explains that suffering is God's method for perfecting and purifying faith and dependence on Him.
 - References First Peter 1:3-7 to show that suffering is necessary for believers to have a living hope and an inheritance that will not fade away.
 - Discusses the importance of the proof of faith being more precious than gold, which is tested by fire.
 - Emphasizes that the proof of faith is not a test of whether there is faith but a purification of faith to remove dependence on self.
- **Peter's Failure and Lessons Learned [32:48](#)**
 - McLaughlin recounts the story of Peter's failure to remain faithful during Jesus' trial, highlighting his self-confidence rather than faith.
 - Explains that Peter's failure was a lesson in dependence on God and His grace.
 - Stresses that believers must recognize their weakness and dependence on God to grow spiritually.
 - Encourages believers to trust in God's grace to get them out of difficult situations.
- **The Importance of Dependence on God [44:40](#)**
 - McLaughlin discusses the concept of grace and the importance of depending on God for everything.
 - Emphasizes that grace means that believers do not earn or deserve what God does for them.
 - References the story of the prodigal son to illustrate the importance of turning back to God when one has blown it.
 - Encourages believers to recognize that all blessings come from God's grace and to worship and serve Him accordingly.
- **Conclusion and Final Thoughts [1:01:52](#)**
 - McLaughlin concludes the meeting by summarizing the importance of grace and dependence on God.
 - Encourages believers to trust in God's grace to get them out of difficult situations.
 - Emphasizes that the proof of faith is found in the purification of faith to remove dependence on self.
 - Ends the meeting with a prayer, asking for God's blessing and guidance for each person as they leave.