

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

Part 8- THE PATHWAY TO GRACE: THE FORMATION OF A RESURRECTED HEART

Texts: All Over, see below

Prelude: I am taking a break from Jesus' timeline to address a very important key to the Resurrected Heart Jesus modeled in His entire Life from birth to the Cross.

THE PATHWAY TO GRACE

One of the most misunderstood ideas in the modern church is **grace**.

Many people assume grace is simply a blanket covering—something automatically applied in moments of weakness or crisis. But Scripture paints a deeper picture. Grace is not random, and it is not mechanical. Grace flows through a particular **heart posture** that God Himself forms within a person.

The Bible actually reveals a **spiritual progression**:

Love → Obedience → Humility → Grace → Spiritual Gifts

This progression is not about earning grace. It is about becoming the kind of heart **that can receive it**.

And that distinction matters.

I. Love Produces Obedience

Everything begins with love.

Jesus did not frame obedience as a religious obligation. He framed it as the natural expression of love.

Jesus said:

"If you love me, keep my commands." Obedience is not proof of discipline—it is proof of affection. (John 14:15)

The Apostle John reinforces this same truth:

"This is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." Obedience is not meant to feel like weight. When it flows from love, it becomes alignment. (1 John 5:3)

John continues the same thought:

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands." Love for God is not measured by emotion, language, or religious activity. It is measured by alignment of life with His will. (2 John 1:6)

Jesus makes this unmistakably clear:

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." (John 14:21)

Love is the root. Obedience is the fruit.

II. Obedience Produces Humility

When a person consistently obeys God, something begins to happen internally. Obedience dismantles self-rule.

It breaks the illusion that we are in control.

And this is where humility begins to grow.

The greatest example of this is Jesus Himself.

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

****Notice the order.****

Jesus did not obey because He was humble.

His humility was **revealed and deepened through obedience.**

Obedience slowly dismantles the ego.

It teaches the soul to say:

“Not my will, but Yours be done.”

The Apostle Peter calls believers to adopt this same posture.

“Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another... Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you.” (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Humility is not thinking less of yourself.

Humility is **placing yourself under God’s authority.**

And that posture is formed through obedience.

III. Humility Positions the Heart for Grace

Now we arrive at one of the most important spiritual principles in Scripture.

Grace flows through humility.

James writes:

James 4:6

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

James is quoting **Proverbs 3:34**, reinforcing that this principle runs throughout Scripture.

Grace is not something God withholds randomly. But pride blocks grace. Humility receives it.

James continues:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you... Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (James 4:7-10)

Notice how submission, humility, and grace are connected.

- Submission breaks pride.
- Humility opens the heart.
- Grace begins to flow.

This is why humility is so powerful—it becomes the **gateway through which grace operates.**

IV. Grace Produces the Gifts of the Spirit

Only after grace enters the picture do spiritual gifts begin to emerge.

Paul explains this clearly.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...” (Romans 12:6)

The gifts are not the starting point.

They are the **result of grace already working in the life of a believer.**

Paul echoes this again in Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:7–8

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift... When He ascended on high... He gave gifts to men.” (Ephesians 4:7–8)

Grace precedes the gifts.

Grace produces the gifts.

Paul then explains the purpose of those gifts:

“He gave some as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers... for the equipping of the saints... until we all attain to the unity of the faith... to mature manhood.” (Ephesians 4:11–13)

The goal is not spiritual performance.

The goal is **maturity in Christ.**

Peter confirms this same principle.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

The gifts are expressions of **God’s grace flowing through people.**

Paul summarizes the same idea in Corinthians.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... different kinds of service, but the same Lord... different kinds of working, but the same God at work in all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4–6)

The gifts exist because grace exists.

V. The Danger of Reversing the Order

This is where the modern church often goes wrong.

We often pursue the gifts first.

- Power.
- Influence.
- Anointing.
- Platforms.

But the biblical order is different.

God builds:

Love

→ Obedience

→ Humility

→ Grace

→ Gifts

When we try to start with the gifts, we create a spiritual shortcut.

It becomes what could be called a **“get rich quick scheme for the supernatural.”**

The gifts appear impressive. But the foundation beneath them is missing.

And when pressure comes—persecution, suffering, offense—those structures collapse.

VI. Why This Matters for the Great Falling Away

I decided to have this message today because of a conversation I had with a friend earlier this week. And the topic came up of the Great Falling away Paul prophecies in Thessalonians. And he mentioned to me that he thought that God's grace would be on people to make the right call rather than to falling into Fear, Offense, Lust or Deception.

***And my friend is correct about one thing:

God will give grace in that moment.

But Scripture shows us that grace is not randomly applied.

Grace flows through a particular heart posture.

And the truth is this:

When that moment comes, no one will stand in their own strength.

None of us are strong enough.

The allegiance we give to Christ under pressure will require **supernatural grace**.

But that grace will flow through hearts that have been trained through:

Love- Obedience- Humility- Surrender

This is the resurrected heart Jesus has been forming in us through this entire series.

VII. The Goal: A Mature Body of Christ

Paul describes the end result of this process.

“For the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God... to maturity... so that we are no longer children tossed by every wind of doctrine... but speaking the truth in love, we grow up into Him who is the head, Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12-15)

This is the real goal of discipleship.

Not spectacle.

Not spiritual celebrity.

But **mature believers who resemble Christ**.

People who walk in love.

People who obey God.

People who live in humility.

People through whom grace flows.

And when grace flows, the gifts follow naturally—not to impress people, but to build the body of Christ.

Final Thought

None of us will remain faithful to Christ through our own strength.

We are too weak.

But God never intended us to stand alone.

He forms the kind of heart that can carry grace.

And that heart is formed through:

Love

→ Obedience

→ Humility

→ Grace

This is the path Jesus walked.

And it is the path He invites us to follow.

A resurrected heart.

Still growing.

Still surrendering.
But slowly becoming like Him.