

The Assembly

21 Days Of Prayer And Fasting

DAY 16

The season of sharing devotionals of what God has laid on the hearts of people regarding the concept of empowerment has been fulfilling for me. I love to hear how God has given different applications of the same Biblical truths to others with whom I co-pastor.

Empowerment can apply to any attribute of the Christian faith, ranging from captivating spiritual gifts to experience signs and wonders to practical everyday Christian living that exhibits a pure heart and a commitment to Jesus.

As Pentecostal believers, we love to see and experience mighty moves of the Holy Spirit; and there is certainly nothing wrong with that. I do believe, however, that the same Holy Spirit that performs marvelous and spectacular signs and wonders is the same Holy Spirit that empowers us to apply a pursuit of holiness to our everyday Christian lives.

Recently, the Assembly's lead pastor preached a month-long series on sowing and reaping. We all gained a newfound awareness of casting out those beneficial extensions of Christian love that we trust to reap as a return harvest. One of the applications of sowing and reaping that God has recently brought to my own heart is the extension of grace. We live in a culture, sometimes surrounded by people who have a tendency to complain, criticize, and find fault. I have even seen people use their own personal social media to broadcast harsh and stinging criticism toward others. I recently shared with a Wednesday night service that I am not a regular user of social media, but that I would hope that I would use social media to intentionally build up or edify people if I chose to post comments more often.

Grace is an extension of Christ's love when we choose to accept and love other people even though they have opportunities and imperfections. God applied the availability of total, complete, and absolute grace for us through the person of Jesus. Our submission to the Gospel of Jesus allowed us to be accepted by Him despite our own frailties and flaws. As beneficiaries of grace, how much more should we be benefactors of grace? In other words, because we have received grace, shouldn't we grant grace to those around us. One of the phrases that I use often is "Jesus is still working on all of us."

I believe that God has empowered us as believers to apply to others an extension of the grace he first demonstrated to us.

God wants us to grow strong in giving grace to others. Giving grace to another person is simply to forgive them, unconditionally, just as God forgave us through Christ. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

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