



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

Lesson 5

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- **Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
- Suppress: *katecho*: to restrain or hold back
- **Romans 1** tells us that, apart from Jesus, we see truth in a distorted manner evidenced by corrupted worship, depraved body, and depraved mind.
- Satan wants to discredit the grace of God; he tells us that we have to do something, or that we did something: Satan is a liar

WHILE LOST, SAVED

- If we weren't lost, we wouldn't need a savior: **Lie part One: you are a good person**
- **Romans 9:32** Why? Because *they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works*. They stumbled over the stumbling stone
- We aren't so lost that we can't accept the savior: **Lie part Two: You are so horrible that God doesn't want you**
- **Romans 5:8-11** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

GRACE AND MERCY

- God is both gracious and merciful
- **Grace:** *charis*: getting something good you **didn't** deserve
- **Mercy:** *eleos*: not getting punishment that you **did** deserve
- We can never deserve God's grace and mercy based on our own merits
- **Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.
- **Galatians 3:21** Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

SPIRITUALLY POSITIONED

- **1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time
- **Truth #1:** you cannot have the benefits of salvation apart from the commitment of salvation:
- **Acts 19:13-16** ...some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. The evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, and they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

FAITH EVIDENCED BY WORKS

- **Truth #2:** If you have really made a commitment to Christ, that will be evident by your actions
- **James 2:14-17** What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.
- **James 4:17** Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- **Romans 6:12-14** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

LOSS OF PEACE

- Failure to appropriately understand grace and mercy can cause a tremendous loss of peace
- **Peace with God** (positional)
Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
- **Peace of God** (experiential)
Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Peace: *eirene*: sense of inner safety and contentment
- Guard: *phroureo*: to be a watcher in advance
- Loss of experiential peace
 1. Unbelief
 2. Guilt

THE FIRST SOURCE

- **1. UNBELIEF (doubt)(weak faith):**

Romans 14:22-23 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Matthew 14:30-31 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Hebrews 3:18-19 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? *So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.*

THE SECOND SOURCE

- **2. GUILT**
- There is legitimate reason to feel guilt: when we have done something wrong
- **1 John 1:8-9** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **Psalms 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."
- Remember: *zakar*: to bring to remembrance
- If you have confessed sin, God doesn't keep bringing it to mind; Satan does! Satan revels in guilt and condemnation
- **Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE

- When we fully understand grace and mercy, we will embrace God's forgiveness, which results in peace.
- **Isaiah 49:14-16** But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, and the Lord has forgotten me. Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms *of My hands*."
- **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Mark 14:38** "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- Prove: *dokimazo*: to refine, assay, separate constituent parts

WALKING IN PEACE

- **2 Corinthians 4:1-2** Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- Renounced: *apeipon*: to disown, to disassociate
- Shame: *aischune*: disgrace
- Craftiness: *panourgia*: trickery, adroitness
- Adulterate: *doloo*: to handle deceitfully
- Because of God's mercy, we don't have to try to hide our sin because of shame; we can renounce it and move forward; when we have confessed sin, God has forgiven it and won't bring it up again. There is no reason to "rewrite" God's Word in a way that protects you

PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE

- **1 Timothy 1:12-17** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAUL DOES'T HAVE TO HIDE HIS PAST OR TRY TO MORPH GOD'S WORD TO SUPPORT HIMSELF. HE HAS BEEN FORGIVEN AND WALKS IN PEACE!