

Transforming Grace

Part 2

God in the Mirror

2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 4:5-6 & Galatians 5:1, 5, 14-25

Introduction:

God's Grace effectively works to transform us into a captivating Bride for His Beloved Son.

The Power of Grace Living - *Last Week*

The Pursuit of Grace Living - *Today*

The People or Personal Relationships of Grace Living - *Next Week*

Our Promised Beauty is a Reflected Beauty.

Growth is the result of the lifelong activity of God's grace in the life of a Christian which progressively reveals Christ's unstoppable work in us to restore the image of God, display our freedom from sin, and produce the fruit of His Spirit - which are all the joyful possession of all who are reborn in Jesus Christ.

I. The God-ward Orientation of the Way of Grace

Grace does its work through the:

Vision of God -

Knowledge of Christ -

Life of the Spirit -

II. The Effective Operation of the Way of Grace

According to the NT Vision of texts like these, Christian Transformation is:

A. Incremental

By Degrees -

2 Corinthians 3:18

"Fruit" -

Galatians 5

B. Inevitable

God's design -

Last Week - The Desperation is Gone

Our Victory -

1 John 5:1-5

C. Inside-out

The Spiritual Progression of Change (Pharisee Series):

1. What we Treasure determines what we **Want**.
It is our Treasure more than our Training that cultivates our Tastes
2. What we Want directs what we **Look at**.
It is our Affections more than our Intentions that focus our Attention.
3. What or Who we Look at molds what we **Do**.
It is what we Behold more than what we Bemoan that molds what we Become

D. Inter-connected

Growth in Grace can thrive because of:

1. The Coordination of all Christian Graces

All that cultivates Any Godly Fruit, cultivates every Godly Fruit

The Pursuit of God -

The Law of Love -

2. The Counter-action of all Christian Graces

Every Good pursued naturally strangles it's "opposite" Sin

The Fruit of the Flesh/Spirit -

New Testament Put-offs/Put-ons -

III. The Hopeful Opportunity of the Way of Grace

All of this means, that we will experience progress and growth into the image of our Savior when we pursue:

- A. _____ step more than an Overhaul.
- B. _____ more than Religious Activity.
- C. _____ enjoyment more than Groaning Self-denial.
- D. _____ -magnification more than Sin-Management.
- E. _____ & _____ of Life more than Fences or Formulas.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

4:5-6

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Galatians 5

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

1 John 5:3-5

3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.