

BEST GIFT EVER!

Part 3

First grace, then more!

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand (Rom. 5:1-2).

The Core Problem

- ▣ Hearing God is but the first step.
- ▣ We must follow hearing with heeding!
- ▣ Rev. 1:1-3!

The Core Problem

- ▣ In our natural state we are in bondage to a will that prefers to follow self, not a Savior.
- ▣ This inbuilt pre-disposition works our harm!

*My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit. ...**Have you not done this to yourself** by your forsaking the Lord your God, when He led you in the way (Jer. 2:11, 17)?*

*They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, Who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." Your iniquities have turned these away, **and your sins have withheld good from you** (Jer. 5:24-25).*

Solving the Core Problem

*The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to God's principles, **for it is not even able to do so;** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:6-8).*

Solving the Core Problem

*For it is God who is at work in you, **both to will and to work** for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).*

The Core Solution

All those who step into the darkened circle receive the ability to choose what pleases God!

This is a defining virtue

- ▣ Those who come to Christ, receive the ability to hear what Jesus says **and** to act on His words.
- ▣ To use these abilities is to build lives that endure.

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? Everyone who ❶ comes to Me and ❷ hears My words and ❸ acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock

and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

But the one who ② has heard and ③ has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great" (Luke 6:46-49).

Motive?

- ▣ Lots of reasons to choose obedience: A pay check, don't want to get caught, self-preservation, or force.
- ▣ The more you understand what God has done for us and why (grace based love), the easier it is to obey.

Motive?

- ▣ The more you understand what God has done for us and why (grace based love), the easier it is to obey.
- ▣ Reciprocated love fuels surpassing obedience.

Motive!

- ▣ *Whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected (1 John 2:5).*
- ▣ *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).*

“**①** Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.
③ Take my yoke upon you, and **②** learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my load is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).

We think that fulfillment is found on the path of choosing what we want for ourselves. Precisely the opposite is true!

Lord, I am willing
 To receive what You give
 To lack what You withhold
 To relinquish what You take
 To suffer what You inflict
 To be what You require

Nelson Mink

**“FATHER, I WANT TO KNOW THEE,
 BUT MY COWARD HEART FEARS TO
 GIVE UP ITS TOYS. I CANNOT PART
 WITH THEM WITHOUT INWARD
 BLEEDING, AND I DO NOT TRY TO
 HIDE FROM THEE THE TERROR OF
 THE PARTING**

I COME TREMBLING, BUT I DO COME.
PLEASE ROOT FROM MY HEART ALL
THOSE THINGS WHICH I HAVE
CHERISHED SO LONG AND WHICH
HAVE BECOME A VERY PART OF MY
LIVING SELF, SO THAT THOU MAYEST
ENTER AND DWELL THERE WITHOUT
RIVAL.

THEN SHALT THOU MAKE THE PLACE
OF THY FEET GLORIOUS. THEN
SHALL MY HEART HAVE NO NEED OF
THE SUN TO SHINE IN IT, FOR
THYSELF WILT BE THE LIGHT OF IT,
AND THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT
THERE. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.”

A. W. Tozer

What is God telling you?

- ▣ Are you tired of fighting a losing battle?
- ▣ Are you willing to give Jesus the key to your secret room?
- ▣ Have you been believing Satan's lie?

What is God telling you?

- ▣ Will you get back up when you fall?
- ▣ Will you lay aside your fear and trust Father?