

Continuing from the previous meditation, we concluded that it is Gods intent to train us as leaders. We explained the differences between Gifts (Charisma), Grace (Charis) and the workings of both.

*Hebrews 5:13 KJV*

*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

The word “Word” in the verse above is ‘Logos” which is the written word of God. This is a root word for the word ‘logic’. What is Logic? A thought, process, or an approach to a particular problem. It is a way a person chooses to do something. The Logos is God’s logic, which is very different from ours, *Isaiah 55:8*.

*Hebrews 5:14 KJV*

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

In the verse above, the word ‘exercise used is ‘gumnazo’ which is a root word for the word ‘gymnasium’. This verse is essentially saying that by reason of use, people have trained or ‘taken their senses to the gym’. This means discernment comes with practice and leaning on the experiences of others that have gone before you. This is the same with grace.

*Acts 24:16 says And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men*

The word used for exercise here is ‘Askeo’, which means training. It means to take pains and even though it is a painful experience, there is no giving up. As we grow in grace and interact with individuals, offenses are bound to come, *Luke 17:1*. There are two ways that offences typically come: 1) People deliberately stepping on your toes. We would need to make up our minds not to take offense and to keep our hearts void of offense. We can choose to reject offense or ‘take’ offense. To reject offense may be painful, however, the two most important commands is to

love God and love your neighbour. It is interesting that some people's offense is towards God due to disappointment. Paul chose to keep his heart free of offense, despite the many offenses thrown at him. A heart void of offense and full of the fruits of the Spirit can work with God.

The other way offense comes is through the environment we are in. Exposing ourselves to gossip or simply listening to negative things said about a person can often paint a bad image of a person in our hearts, without our knowing. Love does not keep record of wrong. The solution to offenses is not emotional intelligence, or knowing how to react, it is death to self. This is when that which would have caused an offense is nailed to the cross and buried.

*2 Corinthians 9:8 says And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

Grace was given to empower the believer for the work of the ministry. We do not work for grace. We submit to the working of the Lord's grace in our lives, as the scripture says, it is God who works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure, *Philippians 2:12-13*. *Ephesians 1-3* shows how grace is worked into us and *Ephesians 4-6* reveals out workings of grace in a believer. Nevertheless, we can grow in grace. *2 Peter 3:18* says *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

How do we grow in grace? By increasing or growing in the knowledge of the Word of God. How do we grow in the knowledge of the Word of God?

1. Studying the Word of God: The bible mentions that we have all been given grace, however, we often do not work in it. *Deuteronomy 8:3* says man lives by the Word of God. The 'Word' here is Rhema, which is the proceeding Word of God. However, we need to be conversant with the Logos to receive the Rhema. The Rhema is the customized Word of God that comes specific to you and your situation. When the Logos becomes your testimony, it is the Rhema.
2. True Worship: When you spend time with the Word of God, it will inspire your worship. Worship is not just a bunch of songs and melody that goes before a sermon, it is a

ministration. We do, however, see a situation in Christendom where a lot of people given to music, worship a God they do not know. Therefore, a lot of these people stray away. In *Acts 17:22-24*, Paul addresses people who zealously worship an unknown God. However, Jesus says true worshippers' worship in Spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*.

3. Prayer: The Word also inspires your prayer life. When we pray according to knowledge, we pray and execute the judgement and counsel of God. We execute the judgement written in the Word of God, *Psalms 149:7-9*. This judgement is not against people, but spirits. Daniel had an encounter with one of these principal spirits, the prince of Persia in *Daniel 10*. There was also the Prince of Greece and there may be a principal spirit ruling over a particular territory, all of which submit to the prince of the air, *Ephesians 2:2*. Those are who we war against. Prayer is also intimacy with God. We call God our Father because that is who He is. Prayer is a priestly duty: we stand before God representing man in prayer. A priest however, when he goes into the Holy place keeps his garment in the Holy place. He then comes out and represents God to the people, without his priestly garment, so as not to intimidate the people.

Grace is given for stewardship. It is required of every steward that he be found faithful. As we steward that which God gives to us, we increase in the capacity to express more.

*2 Peter 3:18 KJV*

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.*

*Amen.*

*The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with Your Spirit. Amen.*