

In the last meditation, we mentioned that grace is given to us to build us. We will begin this weeks meditation with two questions:

1. **Hebrews 6:14** says we are to come to the throne of grace and find grace. Why do we then say that we do not find grace, but grace finds us?

Answer: The throne of grace is where grace has been made bare and readily accessible by the provisions of Christ. All mysteries from time immemorable have been revealed in Christ. All we need to do is ask and seek, *John 16:24*. The veil has been torn, so we do not have to go through priests or prophets to know the will of God, *Colossians 2:1-2*. These mysteries are now made known to us via the revelation of Jesus, *Ephesians 3:4*. The reason why things in the scripture may be hidden is because of a laziness to read. If one reads, they will understand.

How do we access the throne of grace?

- **Study the Word of God.** The Word of God is called the Word of His grace. Study to show yourself approved, *2 Timothy 2:15*.
 - **Prayers:** When we see promises from studying the word of God, we declare it over ourselves in prayer. The time of need spoken of in *Hebrews 6:14* is not a time of anxiety, it is a time of prayer. Hence, *Philippians 4:6* tells us to be anxious for nothing.
2. **What do we mean when we say the renewing of the mind is also a conformity process? Could the renewing of the mind to remind us of who we already are in Christ?**

Answer: Yes, the renewing of the mind reminds us of who we already are in Christ. However, it is also a transformative process. *Romans 12:2* says "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The word transformed here is 'metamorphose', which is like metamorphosis of a butterfly. You cannot transform from a state to the same state, that is maintenance. The purpose of transformation is changing from one state to another. As we study the scripture, we grow in knowledge of God, *2 Peter 1:2-3*. As mentioned previously, we have a destination, Christ. David said in *Psalms 17:15*. I will behold thy face in righteousness. The face of the Jesus is the Word of God, *2 Corinthians 4:6*. Our role is to behold His face and resolve that we will not be satisfied till we awake in His likeness. Although we are complete in Christ, we are to give ourselves to the transformative process such that our experience is not contrary to the Word of God.

The burden for today is the grace that helps us overcome sin for the purpose of character building.

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" – *Romans 6:1-2*

We said before that 'God forbid' in scripture means God never thought of it, is not thinking of it and will never think of it. Grace was not given as a license for sin. *Jude 1:4* speaks of ungodly individuals who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. *Romans 6:3-5* goes further to say that if we are in Christ, we were baptised into His death, which is a death to sin. Our old man was crucified; hence we are under no obligation to serve sin. Grace is what gives the believer the ability to live above sin. It is the supernatural advantage we have over unbelievers. We cannot live for God and then intentionally live in sin. God cannot be mocked.

Titus 2:12-13 shows that grace is a teacher of righteousness. It teaches us to live above sin, to be sober. Overcoming sin is for this present world. The enemy has wiles that it throws against humanity, but grace helps us overcome this. The armour of God as seen in *Ephesians 6* is a provision of grace that enables us to stand the evil day. In our daily life, it is expedient to put on the whole armour of God, we are in a constant warfare. The evil day is when men are no longer able to endure sound doctrine, this is a day where people are being told that they can sin and the grace of God covers them. These people run away from teachings that shows the aspect of the love of God that hates sin. However, the helmet of Salvation, the breast plate of righteousness will shield our hearts and minds from this evil. We need to decide every day to choose life, this is a sign of maturity. *Hebrews 11:23-24* speaks of Moses who came of age and esteemed the reproach of the people of God greater than the pleasures of Egypt.

One major pleasure of Egypt in these days is sexual immorality. Paul warns that we flee (run away) from even the appearance of evil. When Paul wrote this, sexual immorality was on a rise and some believers thought they can do whatever they wanted with their bodies. Paul in response said that the sin of immorality is a sin against the body, *2 Corinthians 6:17-18*. If we are looking forward to the resurrection body, we must make sure to take care of this body.

1 John 2:1 says, *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not*. This is a preventive grace; it is given on the premise of obedience. This was what helped Jesus live above sin, while in the flesh. The verse then says "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous". There is also the curing grace, which picks a person up when they sin. It is given on a premise of true repentance. We will consider these in the next meditation.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. - Acts 20:32 KJV
The grace of the Lord be with you Spirit. Amen