

“The Need for Mercy and Grace”

“The Throne of Grace” - Pt. 2

August 26, 2018

INTRO ...a Series for a Much Needed Prayer Revitalizing

“Jesus comes to a sinner, awakens him from his sleep in sin, converts him, forgives him his sins and makes him His child. Then he takes the weak hand of the sinner and places it in his own strong, nail-pierced hand and says: “Come now, I am going with you all the way and will bring you safe home to heaven. If you ever get into trouble or difficulty, just tell me about it. I will give you, without reproach, everything you need, and more besides, day by day, as long as you live.” ...From this it is very apparent also that a child of God can grieve Jesus in no worse way than to neglect prayer. For so doing he severs the connection between himself and the Savior and his inner life is doomed to be withered and crippled, as is the case with most of us. Many neglect prayer to such an extent that their spiritual life gradually dies out. ...We do not have time, we say. Or we forget to pray. The result is that we go about at home and in the assembly of believers like spiritual cripples or dwarfs, spiritually starved and emaciated, with scarcely enough strength to stand on our own feet, not to speak of fighting against sin and serving the Lord.” O. Hallesby, “Prayer”, p. 36

—From what “posture” and “experience” do you listen to these messages and passages on prayer? ...a withered, crippled, emaciated inner life? ...or... a life that has been recently unburdened and refreshed and impacted by the nearness of God in prayer?

“Some in that beleaguered little house-church of the first century had allowed the mounting hardships to draw them away from God, rather than closer by prayer. Their confidence was gone. What about you? Has life made you draw away from the throne of grace or draw near?” Kent Hughes (Preach the Word Commentary)

“Prayer is such a great effort to most of us because we do not pray right. And for that reason, too, the results are not commensurate with the effort put forth. This is without question, the reason for the slothfulness which afflicts so many of those who pray.” O. Hallesby, “Prayer”, p. 42

Heb 4:16 ...26 words that lead to a fruitful and meaningful prayer life

- **Drawing Near** ...must mean something to us!
- **Confidence** and its basis must be ever within arm's reach and informed
- **A Throne** ...must inspire something in us with regards to our hope for change in our setting and situation
- **Encountering and Apprehending** something in a real way ...must be part of our prayer life
- **Tasting & Experiencing "Mercy" and "Grace"** must be a reality for our prayer lives to find perseverance!

Prayer & the Setting of NEED

- **Prayer is the PRESCRIPTION for Need...**

- **eukairos** ...a "kairos moment"—we are traveling the "timescape" of life, the "geography of human experience" and we encounter NEED!

...This moment of life experience or 'feeling' is further informed in Hebrews by the book's awareness of the "human condition"

Hebrews 4:15

Heb 5:7-8

Heb 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- **"Sympathetic Resonance"**

- **"Weakness" is the backdrop for this passage**

... "Need", "Weakness", "Overmatched, Vulnerability" is part of the earthly human condition—

Rom 8:22-25 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now

hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵
 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶
 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know
 what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
 with groanings too deep for words.

WHAT Do We Need?

- Heb 4:16 ...*we need "MERCY" and "GRACE"*
- These words/experiences TASTE a certain way! We encounter them a certain way. ...*They AWAKEN something in us—an awareness, a mindset, a basis for hope!*
 - They are like "faith adrenaline" — "Mercy & Grace" stir us up and mobilize a particular kind of Faith Response!

Although the terms mercy and grace are often interpreted as being synonyms, their difference ought to be noted. Westcott makes the distinction succinctly: Man needs mercy for past failure, and grace for present and future work. There is also a difference as to the mode of attainment in each case. Mercy is to be "taken" as it is extended to man in his weakness; grace is to be "sought" by man according to his necessity." Hendricksen and Kistemaker, "Hebrews", NTC

"We need mercy because we have failed so often, and we need grace because service awaits us in which we need God's help." Leon Morris (Expositors Bible Commentary)

"Mercy may focus on the assurance that past transgressions have been dealt with and grace may point to inner strengthening to endure testing." Peter O'Brien (Pillar New Testament Commentary Set)

MERCY

(Gk.) "éleos" - In the Septuagint éleos is mostly used for hesed. This denotes an attitude arising out of mutual relationship, e.g., between relatives, hosts and guests,

masters and servants, those in covenant relation. It is an act rather than a disposition, with trust as the basis and loyalty as the appropriate attitude. An element of obligation is thus intrinsic, e.g., between ruler and subject. ... This is particularly so on God's part. God has freely bound himself to his people, ... God's hesed is his faithful and merciful love which is promised and may thus be expected even if it cannot be claimed. (Theo. Dict. of N.T.)

Eph 2:1-7 ...an undeserving and hostile condition toward God that is changed by the mercy of God!—"But God being rich in MERCY...

— In the moment of our Need—we Must Experience the Adrenaline Rush of God's Disposition Toward us! ...One of the Great Challenges of Seasons of Need is settling the question of "How is God Disposed Toward Me and My Situation?"

...He is postured by 'hesed'—Covenant Mercy! ...A mercy that exists because of the Life Blood Shed by the Covenant Head!

- **Question: Have You Come to Yahweh on the Basis of the Person & Work of Christ?** ...God is rich in Mercy because that's His Disposition Toward CHRIST! ...He is not "Casually Merciful"! He is Intentionally Merciful! ...and if I am NOT "in Christ", then That Covenant Mercy Does Not Extend to Me!!

...If, however, I AM IN CHRIST—then I come to the Throne of Grace to get a shot of "Mercy Adrenaline" flowing in my veins to awaken, stir, remind, and embolden me—that God is for me, no matter How Undeserving I am!!

...This may be Vitally Important—especially, if our own Faults, Sins, Negligence, Disobedience, or Selfish Ambition contributed anything to my "kairos moment" of NEED!

Titus 3:4-5 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy

GRACE

(Gk.) ‘cháris’ - In Hellenism cháris becomes a fixed term for the 'favor' shown by rulers, ...b. In a second development Hellenism stresses the power in cháris. This power, which comes from the world above, (Theo. Dict. of N.T.)

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 11:23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose
... “grace” is active and produces an observable impact on situations.

Acts 14:26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.
... “grace” is associated with the work they were called to

Rom 1:1, 4-5 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ...Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,
... “grace” is an enabling power and favor to accomplish our mission;

Titus 2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,
... “grace” provides strength!

James 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Rom 12:3-8 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who

contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

... “grace” given to Paul informed and shaped and spoke through him

... “differing grace” (v. 6) ...God has given grace to us in a way that suits the unique calling of our lives.

“Grace” is an enablement, an empowering element, a working of God favorably in and around us—so that we may accomplish His purpose in our Kairos Moment!

...So while “mercy” might look back—“Grace” looks forward and into present situations that NEED help from God in our lives! ...What is it in your life right now that Needs God’s Grace in this sense?