

Title: No limits V – the purpose of grace
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Grace is undeserved favour from God. Grace is also unearned empowerment. A gift received.

Do all my will

"I am looking for a man who would do all My will".

Acts 13:22 (NKJV) ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

- **I have found!** God has been looking for. God has been searching for a man after His heart. A man who will do all His will.
- **Why should God give His power to those who will simply waste it?**

1 John 2:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- The lust of the world. **That is my way.** What I want.

Romans 8:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Fully pleasing Him

Colossians 1:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- **That you may walk worthy of the Lord:** Not only knowing His will, but then acting / walking the walk that is worthy of God.
- **Fully pleasing Him:** Our mission is to please God, not self.

Grace is for a purpose

*2 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow **to the glory of God.***

- Grace has a purpose. God's favour has a purpose. **To reach more and more people.**

Grace empowers us to obey God. Grace empowers us to glorify God.

John 17:4 (NKJV) ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

- How do we glorify God? When we do His will. When we do His work.

*1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, **but the grace of God** which was with me.*

- It is God's goodness who has made me the man I am today. I cannot boast in anything.
- **Yet this grace was not wasted on me.** It didn't stop with me. This grace was flowed through me. This grace empowered me to labour.
- **There is no burn-out in the kingdom of God.** When we live in God's presence we will never burn-out. Rest is in God's presence and you will be empowered for His will. Unending empowerment.

Suffer well

- ****Grace is the power to do the will of God despite adverse circumstances**
- Our circumstances do not determine our ability to do the will of God. God's grace does.
- ****Yet maybe grace isn't simply** to overcome adverse circumstances. ****Maybe** adverse circumstances cause a release of more grace. **Something about his suffering** worked in him more of the grace of God.
- **Adverse circumstances are a catalyst** for the grace of God. It works together.
- **The worse the circumstances the more grace will be made available.**
- **Suffering does something to us. Delivers us from our selfishness if we suffer well. It causes focus. Reprioritising. Deals with the flesh.**
- ***Suffering well causes the grace of God to be released in our lives.** Paul knew that. He rejoiced in his suffering.
- **Suffering well?** Turn to God in the midst of the pain. **Turn to God** in the midst of your suffering.

Colossians 1:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

- **How could Paul rejoice in his sufferings?** He knew that it would benefit them. His suffering would release more and more grace for those around him.
- *Paul found Christ in the midst of his sufferings. It brought joy.*
- ***Every sacrifice of obedience is worth it.** Every price we pay for Jesus is worth it, because we gain more of Him.
- Christ's suffering was complete, but yet it is incomplete for me until I partake of suffering as well. I identify with him then. My self dies, so that He can live. We can only be heirs if we suffer with Him.

John 16:33 (NKJV) ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- We are of good cheer **for we find joy in His presence** despite what we are going through.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- **All. Desire to live godly.**

Suffering? Deny self

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) ²³ Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

- **The process works more grace into our lives.** A path of suffering.

James 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- ***Every test, every trial and every temptation has a purpose.**
- ****Revival starts in the heart: suffering is the process. Denying self.**

****There is only One way to come to Christ. That is to come to His cross. Daily. "There you find life."**

What does the cross represent? The will of God at the expense of mine.

No limits? Self must die. Self is the only limit.

No limits? Love must reign. His love. His sacrificial love. When that works in us then it compels us over those self boundaries.

Suffering? Loving to our own hurt

Jesus came to show us the way. We are to walk the same road. A road of denying self. A road of **loving to our own hurt**.

Romans 8:35–37 (NKJV) ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*” ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

- What will be killed? Self. Selfishness.
- **Jesus will never fail us!**

Romans 8:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* ¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

- We are children of God? Yes. Are we heirs, joint heirs with Christ? Yes, but only if we suffer with Him.
- **At the foot of the cross** is where the glory is.

The purpose of grace is to the will of God despite adverse circumstances.

The purpose of grace is to help us to suffer well. With joy. In His presence.