***Knowing The God of Hope Together***

**“The Spiritual Life of the Believer”**

**World Reach Bible Institute**

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**Monday Session I Introduction Jeremiah 9: 23-24 “Know the LORD”**

1. **One thing we all have in common: We are knowers…constantly knowing and learning**

**WE ARE CREATED TO KNOW THE LORD**

**A. Abraham James 2:23**

**B. Moses Exodus 33:11**

**C. Friendship is Mutual Invitation**

**D. A.R.E. (Accessible, Responsive, Engaging)**

**E. Friends KNOW one another**

**II. God is the Best Friend we will ever have-How do we know God?**

1. **God is the Source of Friendship- Trinity**
2. **Part of Knowing God is knowing things about Him**
3. **Information is not all there is to knowing (“there is more than we can tell”)**
4. **Oida**
5. **Gnosko**
6. **Biblical knowing includes information but is not just about “getting things right”**
7. **There is Knowledge that passes understanding, you can’t analyze everything**
8. **God’s Love Transforms us**
9. **There is a knowledge that passes understanding (Ephesians 3:19)**
10. **Knowing God is a Great Mystery (like any relationship!)**
11. **You all are “Vine and Branches” “Without Me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5)**
12. **Biblical Knowing Is about Personal TRANSFORMATION IN RELATIONSHIP
through communion with God and through communion with others**
13. **We need information about God but knowing God is full of mystery**

**WE CAN KNOW GOD**

**IV. “I want to know Christ...” Paul in Eph. 3:10-11**

1. **Knowing God is the most important thing we do as human beings (Jeremiah 9: 23-24)**

**1. How do you know God?**

**2. An honest evaluation (Paul)**

**3. Paul and Jesus show praying for the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for knowing God**

 **4. The good news about knowing God (Galatians 4:9)**

**5. God knows and loves us first, He is the source of friendship with Him. He pursues us (Psa. 23:6)**

**V. How do we know God? How do we know anything?**

**A. Epistemology**

 **1. World says “we know through information and data” that is observed…**

 **2.God says there is more to knowing than you can put in words**

 **3. We need a Biblical Epistemology**

1. **4 Days of Knowing God**
2. **God makes Himself Known through His Relational patterns in the Covenant of Grace**
3. **God makes Himself known through His Gift of Righteousness**
4. **God makes Himself known through His Power in our Struggle and Weakness**
5. **God makes Himself known through His Providence and Prayer**

**VI. Covenant Knowing as Paradigm for All Knowing**

1. **How do you know God? (Examples)**
2. **One on One Knowing Exercise**

**GOAL: To get your friend to share a “Knowing Story”**

**How they discovered and came to know a new skill, or relationship…**

**So you can see God’s faithful working in their lives and connect your story with theirs**

***All KNOWING HAS A RELATIONAL COMPONENT TO IT***

***God is at work in every situation of our lives***

***loving us and inviting us to know Him more.***

***The answers to the questions will demonstrate***

 ***the personal aspect of knowing***

**VII. 4 Categories of Relational (Covenant) Knowing**

**What are we looking for in our friend’s story**

 **which reveal Covenant Knowing as The way of Life?**

1. **Love and Invitation**
2. **Promise and Pledge**
3. **Process**
4. **Indwelling/Embodiment**

**VIII. Covenant Category Questions**

1. **(Love and Invitation)**

**When speaking with someone you can easily find out what they love to do and how they ended up doing what they do in life.**

1. **What do you do well? What are you gifted to do? What do you love to do?**
2. **How did you know what you should be pursuing?**

**(What we the “clues” you put together?)**

1. **How were you “invited” to discover what you know? How did you sense your “calling?”**
2. **How did you know you should do what you are doing?**
3. **What was big “aha” moment or “eureka” moment that opened up all kinds of possibilities in your life?**
4. **(Promise and Pledge)**
5. **What was “promised” to you as a result of knowing a skill or a new relationship?**
6. **Describe the PROCESS of knowing your skill new relationship**

**(Describe your journey of knowing or discovering what you were called to do. )**

**1. Who had the biggest influence on your knowing? Who was your authoritative guide?**

 **2.What was the source of your knowledge for your skill?**

**3. What was the “body of content” you needed to learn and commit to?**

1. **Indwelling and Embodiment**
2. **Describe what it is like to live out or embody what you know?**

**(mystery of communion and joy) “I feel God’s pleasure when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Monday Session 2-Knowing Stories and Examples of Covenant Knowing in the Bible**

1. **Love and Invitation-Describe your “invitation” or “call?”**
2. **What do you do well? What are you gifted to do? What do you love to do?**
3. **How did you know what you should be pursuing?**

**What we the “clues” you put together?**

1. **How were you “invited” to discover what you know? How did you sense your “calling?”**
2. **How did you know you should do what you are doing?**
3. **What was the Big “aha” moment or “eureka” moment that opened up all kinds of possibilities in your life?**
4. **Promise and Pledge-**
	* + 1. **What was “promised” to you from knowing a new skill or relationship?**
5. **Describe the process of knowing your skill, role or new relationship**

**(Describe your journey of knowing or discovering what you were called to do. )**

**1. Who had the biggest influence on your knowing? Who was your authoritative guide?**

 **2.What was the source of your knowledge for your skill?**

**3. What was the “body of content” you needed to learn and commit to?**

1. **Describe what it is like to live out or embody what you know?**

**(mystery of communion and joy) “I feel God’s pleasure when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

1. **Getting People to think through this pattern of Relational Knowing**
2. **Helps us see how God designed all knowing (All knowing has a relational component)**
3. **Helps us to connect with others (we hear their story)**
4. **Helps to connect us to them and can easily move us to a conversation about knowing God (evangelism) (see VII for examples)**
5. **Pointing People to God’s Grace in Christ**
6. Where do you see God at work in your life?
7. What does God offer us in the Gospel? (Promise/Pledge)
8. How are you growing in grace? What is your strategy to know God better?
9. Do you sense joy of God in your life?
10. Are you hopeful and confident about your future?

**Monday Session 3-Covenant Pattens in the Scripture (Relational Knowing)**

1. **God made a Covenant with Abraham to bless the world through His descendant (seed) (Gen. 12/15/17)**
2. **Abraham the idolater (Joshua 24:2)**

**A. Heard God’s call and promises and responded in faith (Invitation/Promise/Pledge)**

**B. God taught him how to walk in His ways (Process)**

**C. Abraham struggles yet grows in “hearing” and “obeying” God (embodies truth)**

1. **God’s Covenant Faithfulness to His People in The Exodus**

**In the Old Covenant God-**

1. **Loved and Invited (Accepted by the Grace of God) His People in fidelity to His Promises**
2. **Comforted them by His Word of forgiveness through Passover Lamb and sacrificial system**
3. **Gave them Security in His Presence (Visibly with them in the pillar of fire and cloud of glory.**
4. **Sent them a leader to guide them in the PROCESS of Knowing God (Mediator of Covenant, Authoritative Guide)**
	* + 1. **Moses reminded the people of God’s Promises**
			2. **Moses reminded the people of God’s Law**

**(Gave the Law through Him so they could know the LORD and walk in His ways)**

**THEY WERE TO KNOW GOD THROUGH LIVES OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

1. **Worship**
2. **Brokenness**
3. **Prayer and Praise**
4. **Thanksgiving**
5. **Rest**
6. **Repentance and Renewal**
7. **Giving**
8. **Reveals His Visible Glory through Moses, the ultimate Knowledge about God**

 **(He is compassionate and forgiving yet completely just) (Exodus 34)**

1. **The Struggle with Sin**

**People forgot the Gospel Sequence of the Covenant (Ex. 20:1-2)**

**Which comes first, Promise (Gospel) or Law? (Paul, Galatians 3)**

**True Believers in Israel Understood God’s renewing Grace through sacrifices-(David, Psa. 51)**

**God in His glory is always just and merciful (Ex.34)**

**The Promise (s) (Who God is and what He has done, what He will do)**

**INDICATIVES ALWAYS EMPOWER THE IMPERATIVES!!!**

1. **TEACH THE PROCESS OF KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE LAW!!**

**(Teach the Law and the commandments!) Don’t forget!**

1. **Law was given through Moses, grace and truth come through Jesus Christ (John 1:17)**
2. **The Law also contains the mercy of the Sacrificial System**
	* + 1. **There was mercy and forgiveness built into the Law!**
			2. **The imperatives are always empowered by the Indicatives**
3. **The commandments lead us first to Jesus (Gal. 3:24)**
	* + 1. **The Law is a Guardian not a School Master**
			2. **The Law will lead you to repentance and faith in the True Teacher-Jesus**
			3. **One we repent…and believe the Promises We walk in new life**
			4. **Renewal as a Way of Life…**

**In both the Old and New Covenant, we know God through ongoing repentance and faith**

**Covenant Knowing is The Way to Life**

1. **God’s People Today**
2. **Loved and Invited (Accepted by the Grace of God) in fidelity to His Promises in Christ**
3. **Comforted by God’s Word of forgiveness through ONE TIME SACRIFICE OF Jesus**
4. **Secure in His Presence because of Jesus Christ**
5. **Live in the Process God gives us to know and love Him (Faith expressed through)**
	* + 1. **Worship**
			2. **Brokenness**
			3. **Prayer and Praise**
			4. **Thanksgiving**
			5. **Rest**
			6. **Repentance and Renewal**
			7. **Giving**

 **Jesus is: 1.**  The Mediator of the New Covenant

 We have a great leader to guide us. OUR AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE

* + - 1. Jesus is the God-Man who is the Great Shepherd of His sheep.
			2. The Word of God, who has always known God "face to face" (John 1:1)
			3. **The Greater Moses, Mediator of a New Covenant who leads us to know God Process of Knowing God (John 14:6)**
			4. **With us through His Spirit (Mt. 28:20)**
			5. **Sends the Spirit to write His Law on our hearts**

**When we struggle with Sin the Holy Spirit leads us back to Christ and the Cross**

* + - 1. **Empowers us to live a life of faith and repentance (Gal. 2:20)**
1. **The Glory of God who reveals the ultimate Knowledge about God in the Cross**

 **(He is compassionate and forgiving yet completely just)**

The Holy Spirit used God’s Law

to lead you to Jesus…

*“In His presence is fullness of joy”*

*Come to Me and I will give you rest*

**What did you think and feel when you realized God had forgiven your sins and accepted you as righteous because of Jesus?**

**Monday Session 4-Who is this God of the Covenant We Can Know?**

1. **What are you responsible for?**
2. **If knowing God is the most important thing we do…**

**Who is this God and how do we know Him?**

1. **I am the LORD**
2. **Yahweh means “I am Who I am” or “I will be who I will be”**
3. **God’s Covenant Name is used over 6800 times in the Old Testament**
4. **Yahweh is the God of:**
5. **Presence**
6. **Control**
7. **Authority**
8. **God is 1. Accessible, Responsive and Engaging**

**God is always at work throughout His Creation**

**Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." (John 5:17)**

1. **Jeremiah 9: 23-24**
2. **God’s Main Work is His HESED, or “Covenant Faithfulness”**

**(Yahweh is in Present, in control, ruling in His authority, accessible and responsive to His people.**

**SUM: HE ENGAGES HIS WORLD**

**A.“Love or faithfulness” “lovingkindness”**

**B.“Covenant Faithfulness 245 times in OT**

**C. “His HESED” endures forever 41 times in the OT**

**God is ACTIVE in all the Events of His world God’s makes Himself known through Covenant**

**God’s People are His Covenant People**

1. **God is always working on our Behalf:**
	1. **He is always loving and inviting us close (Isa. 55:6; Jer. 29: 12-14; James 4:8)**
	2. **He is always reminding us of His pledges and promises to us**
	3. **He is always teaching us how to live the life that is truly life**
	4. **He is with us and is our Security**
2. **The New Covenant Begins with Jesus**
3. **Jesus is the Mediator of a New Covenant (Heb. 12:24)**
4. **“in the same way after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” (Luke 22:20)**
5. **Old Moon-New Moon**
	* + 1. **Same moon in a new light**
			2. **All God’s Covenant Promises are “yes” and “Amen” in Jesus**
			3. **In Jesus we see New Adam who fulfills the Promises of God (Gen. 3:15)**

**and Who lived in faithful obedience to God’s Law**

1. **We live in the tension of the All Ready and the Not Yet**

**A. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:11)**

1. **God is the God who practices (works) Covenant Faithfulness (HESED)**

 **(ultimately in the NEW MAN Jesus the Messiah)**

1. **Jesus is the “New Adam” or the “New Man”**

**In Jesus we become who we were created to be…People who love and know God and others**

**PEOPLE WHO HEAR GOD’S VOICE AND RESPOND IN TRUST TO HIM**

**Monday Session 5-Read and Discuss Article-“How Can I Know God?” Tim Keller**

**Monday Session 6-God gives us His Kingdom through Jesus**

1. **God Delights to Give us the Kingdom**
2. **“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom (Lk. 12:32)**
3. **The Kingdom is a Kingdom of Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17)**

**(If you are part of God’s New Creation in Christ, you enjoy the Righteousness, Peace and Joy of the Holy Spirit)**

1. **Righteousness and the Kingdom (The Gift of Righteousness)**
2. **God expects His people to live righteous lives**
3. **Bad News-All fall short of God’s glory” (Rom. 3:23)**
4. **Good news is God gives us the “gift of righteousness”**

***21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***

 ***24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.***

 ***25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. (Romans 3:21-25)***

1. **God presents Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement so that we may be justified before Him through faith in the Son of God**
2. **Philippians 3:9**

**What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.**

1. **Romans 5:17**

**17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.**

1. **The Gospel**
2. **Jesus lived the life we should have lived, and He suffered the death we should have suffered because we are sinners. He lived in our place and died in our place. He rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to teach us the good news about Him, so that we can know God as our Father.**
3. **Old Covenant Glory**
4. **In Old Covenant, God revealed His Visible Glory in Many Ways**
5. **Pilar of Cloud by Day and Pilar of fire by Night**
6. **God revealed His Glory to Moses as He revealed He was a God of mercy and compassion (Ex. 33-34)**
7. **Moses the Authoritative Guide**

 **The glory of God was visible in Moses’ face as he spoke God’s Word, which focused on Yahweh’s mercy and justice (Ex. 33-34)**

1. **The greatest demonstration of God’s glory occurs in the New Covenant, when One Greater than Moses, Jesus the Righteous, because our Substitute.**

**The Greatest Demonstration of God’s Glory in history was the Cross, where His justice and mercy demonstrated God’s mercy and justice in the Greatest.**

**6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

**(2 Co. 4:6)**

**In the Cross God simultaneously reveals His mercy and His justice (Ex. 33-34)**

1. **God is the Righteous One who justifies those who have faith in Christ. (Rom. 3:26)**
2. **God ultimately reveals His glory in the face of Christ (2 Co. 4:6)**

**6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

**God gives us the Gift of Righteousness so that we may know Him**

**Monday Session 7-Read and Discuss The Value of True Humility**

**Tuesday Session 1-Who is Jesus? Fully God**

The Name Above All Names

1. The Life of God
2. The One God has existed eternally and relational in the 3 Persons of the Trinity
3. God revealed His name to Moses (Exodus 3:14)
4. The Covenant Name of God (the Name above all Names) is used 6000 times in the Old Testament-

hw"hy

1. Yahweh means “I am Who I am” or “I will be Who I will be”
2. Alexander the Great and the Greek Language 300 B.C.
3. Jewish people needed a translation of the Old Testament
4. God’s name “Yahweh” was translated by the Greek word kurios

ku,rioj

1. The Greek New Testament
2. The Apostles apply kurios to Jesus
3. Paul says Jesus has been given the name above all names
4. Jesus is Yahweh
5. Philippians 2: 1-11
6. The King James translated Yahweh: LORD
7. A few times in Genesis, Exodus, Judges and Isaiah KJV translated Yahweh as “Jehovah”
8. Jesus is Yahweh…Jesus is Jehovah
9. Jesus is the Word of God
10. We fellowship with the Divine Nature (2 Pe. 1:4)

Tuesday Session 2-Who is Jesus? Part II Fully Man

1. Jesus is the New Adam, the Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6) father of a New Humanity
2. Head of a New Humanity who renews His people as Prophet, Priest and King

(Jesus lives the life Adam (and we) should have lived…died the death we should have died

1. Jesus as King where Adam failed
2. Jesus as Prophet where Adam failed
3. Jesus as Priest where Adam failed (presence and sacrifice)
4. Paul’s use of “Old Man” and “New Man”
5. We live in the tension of being “in Christ” and being “of Adam.”
6. Jesus the New Israel
7. Jesus is the True Son of Abraham who reenacts Israel’s history
8. God brings (His Son) out of Egypt (Mat. 2:15)
9. Jesus is tested in the wilderness
10. Jesus leads His people in the Greater Exodus
11. Jesus keeps God’s Covenant out of perfect love and obedience to His Father
12. Jesus is the Suffering Servant of Isaiah who brings the light of God’s glory to the nations
13. Jesus is the answer to the dilemma of how God can be forgiving and just at the same time
14. Jesus is the Prophet Greater than Moses
15. In His Exodus of the Cross, He rescues us from our Greatest enemies in the Present Evil Age (Sin and Death)
16. He preaches Grace and Law in the Sermon on the Mount (God’s Authoritative Guide)
17. God gives us grace, we mourn over our sins and God’s comforts us
18. God gives us grace and we hunger and thirst for righteousness
19. We see God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:6)
	* + 1. Moses and Visible Glory

 a. Justice and Mercy of Law (Ex. 33-34)

* + - 1. Jesus the Invisible Glory
				1. Full of grace and truth (John 1:17)
				2. Justice and Mercy in Cross
1. Jesus is Our Great High Priest
2. Offers Himself for our sins (Hebrews 9: 11-15)
3. Constantly Prays for us (Hebrews 7:25) for our growth in the knowledge of Go
4. Jesus is the King Greater than David
5. David had the hearts of the people as the Shepherd of God’s people
6. Jesus captures the hearts of His people like no other (Mt. 11:29)
7. He is the Good Shepherd (John 10) Who invites us (Mt. 11:28)
8. In His resurrection Jesus is validated as the True King of God’s People
9. Jesus is Yahweh…He has the Name above all Names
10. Jesus is Fulfillment of all God’s Promises (2 Co. 1:20)
11. One Greater than Solomon (Mt. 12:42) God’s True King
12. One Greater than Jonah (Mt. 12:41) God’s True Prophet
13. Book of Hebrews (Heb. 4:14) God’s True Priest
14. Sends the Spirit, who writes the Law (Christ) on hearts leading us to Christ
15. Glory of God in the Cross
16. John and the transfiguration
17. The Cross is God’s Wisdom (1Co. 1:18-15)
18. The Glory of the Cross

**Tuesday Session 3-Discuss Centrality of the Gospel**

**Tuesday Session 4-We Know God through the Gift of Righteousness**

**Justification and Adoption Through Jesus**

1. **Romans 1: 16-17**
2. **God initiates a Relationship with us through the renewing power of the Gospel**
3. **Zacchaeus**
4. **Salvation comes the home of this son of Abraham**
5. **Jesus connects God’s Salvation to the Promises He gave to Abraham**
6. **God will bless the world through Abraham’s descendants**
7. **Context of Genesis chapters 3-11-Self-absorption and ruined relationships**
	* + 1. **Sin erects an immovable barrier between God and those made in His image**
			2. **God promises “to make everything that is sad come untrue”**
8. **Abraham and Sara childless but Abraham believed God**

**Abraham trusted God’s Word**

**God “counted” “reckoned” “declared” Abraham RIGHTEOUS**

1. **God’s Power to Recreate Us (2 Co. 5:17)**
	* + 1. **God “Words” Abraham righteous**
2. **Logidzomai (logi,zomai) “Worded” rather than “imputed” or “counted**
3. **Emphasis on God’s Power of God’s Word**
4. **Mighty Speech acts, for example Creation**
5. **Accounting and Transaction**
6. **A Necessary Transaction**
7. **Salvation is Personal and relational knowledge versus information**
8. **“You have been born again through the Living Word of God” (1 Peter 1:23)**
9. **We are given the status of being declared righteous through the message of the Gospel**
10. **We are given God’s everlasting Presence in our lives, the “Life that is truly Life” (1 Ti. 6:19)**
11. **Justification by Grace through Faith**

**Justification is the act of God's free grace by which He pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in His sight. He does so only because He counts the righteousness of Christ as ours. Justification is received by faith alone. (WSC Q. 33)**

1. **Faith of the Object of our Faith?**
2. **God is the Power of our Salvation, our faith is not!**
3. **Faith is a Gift from God (Ephesians 2:8)**
4. **We get Jesus…not a commodity!**
5. **Adoption-The Personal Nature of Knowing God (Galatians 3: 4-5)**
6. **Great Treasure of God’s Salvation**
7. **God’s pursues us a His children**

**Deeply personal and relational**

**We receive every Spiritual blessing in Christ**

**Adoption is the act of God's free grace by which we become His sons with all the rights and privileges of being His. (WSC Q. 34)**

1. **God the Holy Spirit gives us “ears to hear”**
2. **Gives us hearts that want to Know and Trust God**
3. **“Gives us ears” to hear to we may know God**
4. **We are New Creation by God (2 Co. 5:17)**

**Union with Christ by faith**

1. **What is the one word you would use to describe your relationship with Jesus Christ?**

**WE are united to Jesus and part of the New Humanity (New Creation!)**

**Who is Jesus that you are united to by faith?**

**Jesus is Kurios**

**Jesus not ashamed to call us brothers or His friends**

1. **What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

**That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the Devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me, wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

**Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1**

**Tuesday Session 5-Read and Discuss the Transforming Power of the Gospel**

**Tuesday Session 6-Read “Grace of Forgiveness” (Paul Tripp)**

**Titus 2:12**

**Hebrews 2:15**

**2 Co. 5:14**

#### 1. The Grace of Forgiveness

It's inconceivable to think that all our sins of the past, present, and future have been completely covered by the blood of Jesus. We don't have to work to excuse what we've done or make our conscience feel better by blaming someone else. No, we can stand before God just as we are, without fear, because in Jesus Christ we're fully accepted! The grace of forgiveness not only gives us confidence and assurance; it mobilizes us for ministry. When we've experienced God's forgiveness, we want others to know the joy, rest and hope we have.

Finally, the grace of forgiveness makes us want to obey. In our gratitude for the One who has forgiven us, we desire to think, do and say things that are pleasing to him (see Luke 7:36-47).

#### 2. The Grace of Enablement

Because of forgiveness, we can live without fear of God's judgement. But a new fear should grip us: **the fear that we don't have what it takes to live as we should.**

Sin not only leave us guilty; it leaves us unable. It cripples our ability to be what we're supposed to be and do what we're supposed to do. Along with daily forgiveness, we also need daily power. In grace, God gives us the only thing that can truly help: **himself.** The Spirit of God unzips us and gets inside us, enabling us to desire, think, do and say the things that fit within the boundaries of his plan and purpose for our lives (see Galatians 2:20 and Ephesians 3:20).

God will never assign us a task without first giving us the grace to accomplish it. He animates and strengthens us with his presence, so that we can say "no" to sin and "yes" to the call of his kingdom.

#### 3. The Grace of Deliverance

One day, sin will die and we'll live forever, permanently liberated from the tyranny of sin. It'll be the only funeral we joyfully accept the invitation for!Until then, our dissatisfied Redeemer Father won't rest until every microbe of sin has been eradicated from every cell in our heart. Moment by moment, he wars on our behalf to deliver us from the sin that still remains.

To summarize, grace means that we're never alone in our struggle with sin. God doesn't grow discouraged, tired or weary. He never leaves us alone to deal with the temptations and realities of life in a fallen world.

Our gracious Father is resolute in his determination for us to experience the complete spoils of the victory he gained over sin and death through his crucifixion and resurrection.

Now that's a reason to get up every day!

God bless,

Paul Tripp

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 7:36–47. What is one lesson that you can apply to your own life in light of the grace of forgiveness?
2. How did you provide empirical evidence last week that you are unable (on your own) to live a righteous life?
3. Find a different example from last week week of how God's enabling grace allowed you to say "no" to sin and "yes" to his kingdom plans.
4. Identify one area of your life where you still need the grace of deliverance from sin. What practical steps can you take this week to stand under the fountain of God's grace (i.e., spend time in prayer, study the Word, reach out to the body of Christ, etc)

**Tuesday Session 7-Read and Discuss “The meaning of True Repentance”**

**Wednesday Session 1 “Knowing God in the Wilderness’**

1. **“Ortho Walking” (Peter and Paul in Galatians 2)**

**Peter knew God’s Promises (quote on great and precious promises)**

**Knew Jesus and had experienced His acceptance, comfort and security through Gospel of Grace**

**Peter knew God’s forgiveness and mercy!**

1. **The Setting**

**Paul was missionary to Gentiles planted a church in Antioch in Galatia**

**Peter visited the church in Antioch**

**Leaders from Jerusalem come to Antioch who seek to impose Old Testament ceremonies and food laws on the church**

**Peter withdraws from “table fellowship” with Gentiles**

* + - 1. **The implication is that don’t measure up as Christians**
			2. **This probably meant he was not taking the Lord’s Supper with them**

**Other Jews and Barnabas followed Peter’s withdrawal, their hypocrisy**

1. **The Problem**

**A. Competitive Pride Chapter 8 - "The Great Sin" from "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis**

 I now come to that part of Christian morals where they differ most sharply from all other morals.  There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else' and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves.  I have heard people admit that they are bad tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards.  I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice.  And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others.  There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are  more unconscious of in ourselves.  And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

… Pride is essentially competitive – is competitive by its very nature – while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident.  **Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others.** If someone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about**. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest.** Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone.

1. **Paul rebukes Peter (14) and says he is not “ortho walking” in the truth of the Gospel**
	* + 1. **They were adding to the Gospel!**

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1: 6-7)

**They were implying that the Cross wasn’t enough to know God**

**They were adding to the Gospel, which is no Gospel at all**

1. **The Heart of Paul’s Rebuke**

"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law **no** one will be justified. (Gal. 2: 15-16)

1. **In his pride, Peter also “over-desired” the approval of men**
2. **He had forgotten Jesus’ words on the Cross “it is finished” (John 19:30)**
3. **Nothing we do that can add to the work of Christ, His life in our place and His death in our place. He lived the life we should have lived, He died the death we should have died.**
4. **Paul reminds Peter of the Gospel**
5. **“We” too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ”**

**“Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy Cross I cling. Naked come to Thee for dress, weary come to the for rest. Foul I to Thy fountain fly, wash me Savior, lest I die!”-Toplady**

1. **“All you need is need. All you need is nothing”- John Gerstner**
2. **How can a pastor “add” to the Gospel on His ministry?**
3. **How can a pastor “add” to the Gospel in his own life?**
4. **What are some “idols” people trust in? ( for example, acceptance, approval, security, comfort)**

**Wednesday Session 2 What is Peter’s problem in Antioch? (Old Man-New Man)**

**(Same problem we have!)**

1. **The world (and sometimes the church because it thinks like the world) believes**

**“either” or rather than “both-and”**

1. **Is the Bible God’s Word or written by men?**
2. **Is Jesus God or Man?**
3. **Can God work through weakness?**
4. **Do I struggle with Sin as a Christian or am I making progress in the Christian life?**
5. **Chart of the Ages**
6. **We live in tension of the Present Evil Age**
	* + 1. **Sin as a power has entered the world (Romans 5:12) Destroying relationships:**
				1. **Between God and ourselves**
				2. **Between Ourselves and others**
				3. **Between ourselves (we have no peace**
7. **We are free from the Penalty of Sin**
8. **We battle with Sin as a Power**

**The World**

**The Flesh**

**The Devil**

1. **Good News! Jesus rescues us from the present evil age (Gal. 1: 1-4)**
2. **Paul uses same word used in Exodus describing God rescuing His people from slavery in Egypt**
3. **Because Jesus has united us to Himself by grace through faith, we are free**
4. **Even as a Christian, Peter was like us ,He struggled as a sinner, even as an Apostle**
	* + 1. **Should come as no surprise, Paul struggled too! (Romans 7:15; 7:19)**
5. **Nothing good dwells in my flesh (Romans 7:18)**
6. **The “sinful nature” we inherit from Adam**
7. **The Flesh is a synonym for the “Old Man”**
8. **Paul uses this description of fallen man:**

*a. For we know that our old* ***MAN*** *was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—*(Romans 6:6)

*b. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old* ***MAN****, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (Ephesians 4:22)*

*c. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices (Colossians 3:9)*

1. **Paul also uses the phrase “New Man” to describe our true identity in Christ**

by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, (Ephesians 2:15)

*and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:24)*

*and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. (Col. 3:10)*

1. **Paul’s terminology for mankind as “old man” or “new man” comes from Romans 5:12-21**
2. **Sin enters the world through the first Man**
3. **Every person is born as a sinner because of our connection to Adam**
4. **The Good News is the Man from heaven (1 Co. 15:47), the Second Adam is both God and Man**

**1.He lived the life we should have live**

**2. He died the death we should have died**

 **3.He was raised for our justification**

**The LORD used Moses to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus (Yahwh Incarnate) rescues His people from Sin and Death.**

1. **What was Peter’s problem in Antioch? What was Paul’s problem? What is the major problem of the Christian in this life?**
2. **We are stilled joined to Adam**
3. **The good news is that we are united to Jesus**

**He makes it possible for us to be forgiven**

**He gives us His own righteous standing before God.**

1. **The Flesh or sinful nature is not just something inside of men…it’s ME!**
2. **The Flesh is my whole being in rebellion against God**

**In our pride, sinful man suppresses the truth about who God is**

**We do not hear His voice, therefore we do not love and obey Him**

**We KNOW Sin, we listen and over-desire the good things God has given us**

1. **Union With Christ**
2. **Paul’s favorite phrase for the Christian “in Christ” over 130 times**
3. **Paul says we are sinners…but never says “we are in Adam”**
4. **Now, we hear the voice of Christ through the Word and the Holy Spirit and we know the LORD**
5. **We simultaneously participate in the 2 humanities of history until the 2nd coming of Christ or our death. At that time the “flesh” or “Adam-ness” will be gone forever! Right now”:**
	* + 1. **We are 100 % “in” Christ**
			2. **We are 100% “of” Adam**
6. **We delight in God’s Law after the “inner man” (Romans 7:22)**
7. **Paul’s great relief from his struggle comes in Romans 8:1**

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8: 1-2)*

1. **There is no condemnation for those “in Christ Jesus” (who still struggle with Sin)**
2. **We know Sin…but we know God and depend on Him to live His life with Him**
3. **The Role of the Law in the Christian Life**
4. **The Law of the Spirit**
5. **The Law of Sin**

**“Motorcycle of Rick”**

**Rick’s motorcycle**

1. **Paul talks about Sin’s Law and the Spirit’s Law**
2. **The Doctor and the Scalpel**
3. **Sin and our Flesh always uses the Law of God to condemn us**
4. **The Spirit always uses the Law to lead us back to Christ (Galatians 3:24)**
	* + 1. **Jesus loves us with an everlasting love and invites us to Himself**
			2. **Jesus reminds us of all of God’s promises and pledges to us**
			3. **Jesus leads us as our Great Authoritative Guide to know how to live the life that is truly life (He is the Living Word)**
			4. **We see God’s Glory (His mercy and justice) fully displayed in the Cross**
			5. **We run the path of God’s commands in the power of the Spirit (Psalm 119:32)**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.(Romans 8: 1-2)

1. **A Helpful Way to Describe the Tension we experience as Christians**
2. **“No one can be a slave to 2 Masters” (Mat. 6:24)**

**We are not slaves of Sin**

**At times we are “servants” of Sin just like Peter and Paul**

**This knowledge of ourselves at the present time is humbling and our weakness drives us to the power of Christ in our lives**

**Our True Identity is in the New Man, Jesus Christ**

**Wednesday Session 3-“Gospel Coaching”**

1. **Paul and Peter**
2. **Apostles**
3. **Brothers in Christ**
4. **Love for one another**
5. **Sinners**
6. **Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph. 4:15)**
7. **“In front of them all” (Ga. 2:14)**
8. **The Truth is the Gospel**
9. **Was it wrong for Paul to rebuke Peter in front of others?**
10. **Context**

**1. Purity of Gospel was at stake**

* + 1. **Adding to the Gospel is “another Gospel” (Gal. 1: 5-6)**
		2. **Most rebukes should be private (Mt. 18)**
		3. **“If anyone is caught in a sin, you who are Spiritual should restore him gently (Gal. 6:1)**
1. **Paul’s GOAL with Peter personally**
2. **to know God…to know God’s love**

**To remind him of his acceptance, comfort and security in X**

**(that’s what pastors and Christian friends do!)**

1. **“Negative Situations” and “Positive” negative and positive situations (most are negative)**
	* + 1. **God uses “all things” for our good (Rom. 8:28)…Especially hard things!**
			2. **God’s strength and power flow in and through us through weakness (2 Co. 12:9)**
2. **Paul the Coach (Imagine a private conversation between Paul and Peter)**
3. **“What’s going on?” What is the situation? HE DIAGNOSES PETER’S NEED**
4. **“What emotions are going on in you and others involved?”**
5. **“How does what you are doing line up with the Gospel?”**

**1. Paul would help Peter see his heart identifying what he was “over-desiring”**

**2. Paul would point Peter to God’s Grace**

**a. our acceptance in Christ**

**b. our comfort in Christ**

**c. our security in Christ**

**He would not say “STOP IT!” “GET ALONG AND MOVE ON!”**

1. **“What is your strategy for making things right?”**
2. **How do you want me to pray for you and the situation?**
3. **When can we meet again to see how this is working out?**

**VI. Professional Coach of Soccer Team, What does he really do?**

**A. His GOAL is to Develop them into Champions**

**B. Builds relationships among players**

**Reminds:**

 **C. Team of their Story**

 **D. What got them there, their gifts and opportunities**

 **E. What the end GOAL is (they want to “embody” being a champion)**

 **F. He develops strategies for the games (PROCESS)**

**HE MOTIVATES through reminding them of who they are and what they will become**

**VII. “Coaching to Know God Together”**

1. **Goals:**
2. **Gospel Coaching is Pointing People to the Love of Christ in the Gospel**
3. **Gospel Coaching is diagnosing their need and helping them to embody the truth of who they are in Christ**
4. **WE learn to ask good questions (Powlison this afternoon)**

**A.“What’s going on?” What is the situation? We diagnose their NEED**

**B.“What emotions are going on in you and others involved?”**

**C.“How does what you are doing line up with the Gospel?”**

**D. We help people see their hearts and identify what they “over-desire”**

**E. We point people to God’s Grace**

**1. our acceptance in Christ**

**2. our comfort in Christ**

**3. our security in Christ**

***11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.***

 ***12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (Titus 2: 11-12)***

**G. “What is your strategy for handling the situation?**

**H. How do you want me to pray for you and the situation?**

**I. When can we meet again to see how this is working out?**

1. **C.R.O.S.S. Model for One on One Ministry**

**Connect**

1. **To one another**
2. **To the Gospel**
3. **To the Holy Spirit**

**Review**

1. **This assumes you have met with the person before and catch up on what has happened in their life**

**Objectives-“What would you like to talk about?” What’s on your mind?**

**(what big rocks are you dealing with in your life?)**

**Strategies (SMARTER STRATEGIES)**

1. **Specific and Clear**
2. **Measurable**
3. **Aspiring (Is this “faith based” or something you do on your own?)**
4. **Results focused (What are you hoping to gain by following this strategy?)**
5. **Time Frame (Do you have a specific completion target date?)**
6. **Experts Needed (Who might give you good advice? Who will provide expertise?)**
7. **Reminders and Reward (How will you keep this goal before you for prayer and action?)**

**(How will you celebrate and reward yourself for this milestone?)**

**Supplication**

1. **It is important to develop a Kingdom Prayer Mindset about every situation**
2. **We are sons serving our Father who is always present with us**
3. **God is interested in what we do and will help us in the endeavor**
4. **We grow closer to one another as we pray for God’s will to be done in our lives**

**We know God together in community!**

1. **Not all situations are problems with idolatry, sometimes people need wisdom and counsel and encouragement. They need to reconnect with God and others.**

**The following questions are connection questions to build trust, support and understanding. You must establish your relationship. This is reflective of God’s love and invitation.**

**RELATIONAL**

**What are you excited about?**

**What types of fun things have you done with your friends?**

**How do you create margin for others in your busy schedule?**

**How do you create paths to make friends?**

**How is your spouse doing? How are you doing as a couple?**

**Does your spouse still like you? How do you experience their love?**

**What kind of things do you like to do with your children?**

**What types of things are you praying for them?**

**PERSONAL**

**How are you doing personally; not your ministry or job, but just you as a person?**

**What kinds of things did you do for fun this past month? Is It what you like to do?**

**What things do you miss from the past? Are there things you used to do but have stopped?**

**How is your sleeping? Describe your eating habits**

**Are there any medications that are adversely affecting you?**

**What is the most difficult part of managing your time?**

**MISSIONAL**

**What is your sense of call in mission?**

**Who are the types of people you serve in your community?**

**What do you see as the primary role of your non-profit in serving others?**

**How has God’s calling on your mission changed your view of your life?**

**In what ways do you see yourself reaching out to others around you in your job?**

**What kinds of friends have you made cross culturally?**

**Have you practiced generous giving in the past few months?**

**SPIRITUAL**

**How is your heart spiritually? Have you had much time in contemplation with God?**

**Is prayer better or worse? Why?**

**When was the last time you scheduled half-day or full days of prayer?**

**What is God doing in your heart right now?**

**How have you had to preach Christ to yourself this past month?**

**What has made you laugh? What has broken your heart?**

**What is the present value of the work of Christ to you?**

**How have you seen the Holy Spirit producing spiritual fruit in you?**

**Wednesday Session 4 “Union With Christ” Sinclair Ferguson**

**Wednesday Session 5 “The Key to Change” Tim Keller**

**Wednesday Sessions 6 & 7 X Ray Questions-David Powlison**

**Thursday Session 1-God’s Active Righteousness (His Providence)**

23Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

24but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me,

that I am the Lord who practices Covenant faithfulness (HESED),

justice, and righteousness in the earth.

For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

1. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you (Psa. 32:8)
2. **the main thing God wants us to know He** the LORD who practices **(works)** Covenant faithfulness (HESED), justice, and righteousness in the earth
3. **We normally think of God’s righteousness as a “status”**
4. **We are given the “gift” of being declared righteous in Christ**
5. **Justification by Grace through faith**
6. **Hebrew Mindset**
7. **In Old Testament Righteousness is an “ACTIVE” and “RELATIONAL” Term**
8. **God always acts rightly on the behalf of His children**
9. Psalm 5:8 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.
10. Psalm 31:1 In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!
11. Psalm 71:2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!
12. **Paul talks about the “gift” of righteousness in Romans 5:17**

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the **gift** **of** **righteousness** reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

1. **Paul talks about the “Act” of righteousness in Romans 5:18**
2. **Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.**
3. **God brings us into the Kingdom by one Act of Righteousness…the Cross**
4. **God works in the lives of His people to accomplish His ultimate good for you**
5. **To conform you into the image of Christ**
6. **So we will know God and others**

 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8: 28-29*

1. **God’s righteous acts are also called His Providence**

**God’s providence is His most wise, holy and powerful governing of every creature and every action for His glory. (WLC #18)**

1. **Pay attention to the clues of God’s providence in your life**
2. **God is working so you will know Him deeply as your Father, so you will depend on Him and others in the Body of Christ**
3. **We are always on a quest to “know” and “learn how” to do the next thing**

**(Husband, father, grandparent, new job, call to the ministry)**

1. **Look at the new venture through Covenant Knowing Lens**
2. **God is loving you and inviting you**
3. **He will remind you of His promises and pledges (especially the great promise of conforming you into the image of Christ)**
4. **He is at working powerfully in your life**

**Thursday Session 2-God works all things…the hard things and the good things**

1. **Dothan I**
2. **Joseph and his brothers**
3. **Sold as slave**
4. **Spent time in prison**
5. **God raised Joseph to the 2nd highest position in Egypt**

***But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Gen. 50:19-20)***

1. **Dothan II**
2. **God opens the eyes of Elijah’s servants so he could see the horses and chariots of fire with them (2 Kings 6:17) and blinded their enemies**
3. **God is sovereign over 2 different events in the same place. God’s goodness and justice is delayed in one setting. In the second event His righteousness is immediately seen.**
4. **Suffering is normal in the Present Evil Age**
5. *16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Co. 4: 16-18)*
6. *10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
7. **New City Catechism**

**Q. What does Christ’s resurrection mean for us?**

**Answer: Christ triumphed over Sin and Death, so that all who trust Him are raised to new life in this word and to everlasting life in the world to come.**

1. **Christ will raise us when He returns**

**But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

 **21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Ph. 3:20-21)**

1. **Christ raises us to new life in the power of the Spirit IN THIS AGE to know and understand His HESED…His Grace and Justice**
2. **He is at work even in the hard events of life**
3. **He leads in paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake**

**A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**

**3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.**

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**6 Surely goodness and love will PURSE me all the days of my life,**

 **and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

1. **God pursues us, especially in suffering**
2. **War Word (6)**
3. **Because God is your Good Father…**
4. **every path in your life, every situation is a knowing situation, where God is showing you His Covenant Faithfulness.**
5. **Jesus is with us until the end of the age.**
6. ***God surrounds you***

 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him (Psalm 32:10)

1. ***“Surround” in original means “to turn around”…god turns all things for good for His children***
2. **Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1**

**What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

**That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the Devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me, wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

**Thursday Session 3-Persitence in Faith and Prayer (Part of the Process)**

1. **The Widow and the Unjust Judge (Luke 18: 1-8)**
2. **Luke explains the purpose of the parable (1)**

**The Judge**

1. **Self acclaimed opposed to God (2,4)**
2. **The Widow**
3. **Widows had no one to look out for them**
4. **Persistent in seeking justice**
5. **God is just and cares for His children**
6. **He will bring justice**
7. **Jesus is saying to persevere in faith and prayer**
8. **He will come and make right.**

**Jesus won’t make new things, He will make all things new. (Haybig)**

“Just after the climax of the trilogy The Lord of the Rings, Sam Gamgee discovers that his friend Gandalf was not dead (as he thought) but alive. He cries, “I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself*!*

***Is everything sad going to come untrue?”13 The answer of Christianity to that question is—yes. Everything sad is going to come untrue and it will somehow be greater for having once been broken and lost.” (Tolkien)***

1. **The Lord’s Prayer-The Model Prayer of Faith**
2. **Our Father**
3. **Who is in Heaven**
4. **Hallowed be Your Name**
5. **Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**
6. **Give us this day our daily bread**
7. **Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil**
8. **For yours Is the Kingdom and the power and the Glory**

**Thursday Session 4-Discussion of Providence Applied-Joel Beeke**

**Thursday Session 5 Tim Keller’s Prayer and 20 Quotes**

**Thursday Session 6-The Humbling Message of Empowering Grace-**

**(A transcription from a pod cast by Paul Tripp)**

I want to talk about empowering grace. Because I think the message of power and grace is incredible. I have no independent power whatsoever to be and to do what I'm supposed to do in the plan of God. In fact it hit me when I was just beginning this project I just talked about that the only unlimited Being in the economy creation is God. Everything else is wired with limits, and we have limits of wisdom, we have limits of strength, we have limits of righteousness. And so the Christian life, any kind of life that is pleasing to God is dependent on power outside of ourselves. Something has to happen to give us the power that we need.

I want to look at Second Corinthians 12 because it really is Paul’s testimony. (In verse 7) “so to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given to me in the flesh a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this that it should leave me but he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ then I am content with weakness. Insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I'm weak then I am strong.

It's one thing to say that power is part of God's plan for us. I mean who would celebrate that? But that's not first what Paul says. What Paul is proposing is weakness is part of God's plan and I don't like to be weak. You know over the last several years had a multiple to the physical things. 10 surgeries in seven years. I don't like weakness. It's discouraging and frustrating.

But you can't avoid the fact that God chooses us to be weak and in that's just not a general thing in moments it's a very specific thing. He chooses weakness for particular people in particular situations. Paul says, God had revealed so much to me about his gospel, he knew I'd just be conceited.

Who wouldn't be? If you get this special privilege to be able to see stuff that Paul has been able to see all these things. “I was like oh taken up into the 3rd heaven.” What does that mean? Of course in human experience we're going to be like, “I know and what you don’t. It would tempt you to pride and arrogance. God opposes the proud but he gives grace to the humble.

Pride is the enemy of grace, because pride says, “look who I am.” It’s like the pharisee in the temple saying, “God, I just wanted you to know I still don't need you.” Yeah you're so blessed to have.”

If only we preach the gospel that way! How often do we go to that passage to preach the gospel? We need to be like the gentile who beats his chest and doesn't even look up and says “God have mercy on me a Sinner.” What does that look like to receive the grace and goodness of God we're talking about?

We’re talking about weakness here. We offer weakness to people when we offer them the gospel. That doesn't sound sexy. That's not attractive on the surface. But when you dig into this and you finally understand Paul was probably one of the most influential people in the in the history of the world. And he's talking about being weak so that God would help hi to become a greater messenger of the truth.

**Thursday Session 7-The Abiding Presence, Discussion,**

 **Questions and Exam project Assignment**

**EXAM- Project Assignment**

**Please give a one page summary of any 4 articles included in your course material. In your summaries, implement some of the things you’ve learned about knowing God’s love and His invitation to live “the life that is truly life” in His presence.**

**Your teacher will discuss how to submit your work.**

**Please visit my website at Ricksearle.com for more articles and updates on my ministry with World Reach**