

Week 24 - Applying the Word to Our Daily Lives

Thursday

Scripture Reading: Isa. 55:1; John 1:14, 17; Eph. 4:7-16; 1 John 4:7-10

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16)

WALKING IN GRACE

The walk in grace revealed in the book of Ephesians, is directly linked to the exercise of our gifts for the building up of the church: “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (4:7). Isaiah 55:1 invites us to come to the waters, that we may buy and eat without money or price.

This is grace.

Is there a way to intensify this enjoyment? Yes! By exercising our gifts! In the human body, when a member functions, it receives nourishment and oxygen. However, if a member is immobilized or not exercised, it succumbs to atrophy. Likewise, if you do not exercise your gifts, you will not receive more grace, and thus you will not grow. When someone believes in the Lord Jesus, he becomes a member of the body of Christ and the Spirit gives him a gift. Ephesians 4:8-10 tells us that He “gave gifts to men.” The first gift we received was the gift of calling on the Lord’s name, “Oh Lord Jesus!” As a new member begins to function in the body, serving with others, the divine life will grow in him.

Jesus has descended into the lower parts of the earth and ascended into the heavens that He might fill all things. He Himself has given to the church “some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12).

The brethren mentioned in the previous verses have consecrated their lives to look after, serve and perfect their brethren for the work of the ministry. In the church, people are not replaced by others, but perfected. The goal of this perfecting is to help us grow “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting” (Eph. 4:13-14).

The care we experience in the church life is quite encouraging: “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:15-16). We are all in this process. As members of one another, we need to build up one another in love.

Walking in grace is not merely receiving something from God in a passive way, but rather becoming an active member of the body of Christ, exercising our gift to promote the growth of the whole body. When the body grows, we grow. Hallelujah!

Key Point:

Growing in life through grace.

Your Key Point:

Question:

What does it mean to walk in grace?