

The Whole Church #24 – Grace #6 - Giving

AT Snacks-- August 11, 2024

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Monday:

If you go to the Digging Deeper on Wednesday nights, and especially if you go to Life Class on Sunday mornings, and you get the things that we're handing out, and you're paying attention to what we talk about on Sunday mornings, you are getting disciplined in the things that matter most.

We believe around here that the greatest move of God that the planet will ever see is in progress right now. But you have to look with kingdom eyes to see it. If you'll tune in to the spirit, you'll start to see God do stuff in plain old, simple, everyday things in life.

We teach basically seven things that form and shape what we call our spiritual DNA. These are characteristics that God has set in motion here that identify us and set us apart. These are: The Kingdom of God, Our Relationship with the Father, Grace, Relationships with One Another, Equipping the Saints, Signs and Wonders, and the Poor.

It's taken a lot for God to get all of us to this place, geographically and spiritually, and He has a purpose for doing that. So, if God worked that hard to get us into relationship with one another, and you are a part of this family, maybe, just maybe, these relationships are more important than you are even aware of at this moment.

Grace is God's unmerited, unearned favor. Grace of God is a gift.

Tuesday:

Because we are grace-oriented people, terms like cheap grace and hyper-grace are used against us as accusations, which could have some validity to it.

- People receive grace without any kind of personal transformation in their life. I agree with that. If you're receiving grace, there ought to be some evidence of a personal change, a personal transformation in your life.
- They neglect the sacrifice of following Jesus. If we receive grace, we're born again and then we go right back to the world, and we just live in the world without any kind of relationship building with Jesus. **SO there has to be time involved. You have to give time. It's giving and taking. It's talking and listening. If you're not hearing God, there's a good chance the problem is not on His end.**
- The spirit of complacency. Just getting lazy and apathetic about what you have received from the Lord. Those are good criticisms against grace people, **so we need to pick it up a notch. Grace is not a license to be mediocre or lazy.**
- They see grace as an opportunity to compromise in morals and behavior. **To get saved, just so you can sin again, doesn't make any sense at all.**

Grace is an invitation to be all that the Father has purposed and designed for you, and your life, and your people.

Hebrews 10:26 says, *“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin”*. So we don’t get saved so that we can sin more.

Do you believe that it’s once saved, always saved? Absolutely! You can’t lose your salvation. You’re not going to lose your salvation. The Father would never call someone as a son, and then kick him out and say, *“No, he’s no longer part of it”*.

Wednesday:

We should make a change in our life. There should be a transformation. There should be a change. The New Covenant is not about sin, it’s about righteousness. We would never, ever say sin is okay.

As Kingdom believers, we are to address, confront and displace every piece of darkness and sin that we encounter in this life and set it straight according to the Kingdom of God. You have a particular anointing to do that. The world is not going to change if it’s not for you.

What have you done with the grace the God has extended you? I would think about that a little bit.

Please, please read Malachi 3: 1-15. This scripture will set the tone for the rest of this message. This is a revolutionary teaching.

Giving is one of the best kept secrets of the Kingdom. When you understand, really understand, about giving, you’re going to want to give more.

I remember that still small voice of the Lord saying to me, *“Andy, if I have to put an oil well in your backyard, I’m going to take care of what I put in motion”*. God will do that for you. He’s doing that here. He’s done it here for 35 plus years.

99% of the time, the subject of giving is taught from a legalistic standpoint, and not from a position of grace. When we finish this teaching, you’re allowed to be yelling Amen, because you’re going to get yourself set free if you are willing to.

The judgments of God is another facet of the grace of God. In Malachi 3: 8, God is giving a harsh word so people can understand what to do and what not to do, so that He can get them in a place where He can bless them in a strong, profound way. In supernatural, extravagant ways.

God doesn’t put a curse on you. That’s how it’s taught under legalistic, law-based, rule-oriented religion.

Thursday:

I’m going to teach you the difference between the tithe and the offering. You can only tithe 10% because that’s what it is. Tithe means a 10th. Anything over and above the tithe is an offering.

In Malachi 3:10, God says, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, and try Me now in this”*. This is the only place in the Bible where God says this.

The work of God is going to keep moving and succeeding, and by understanding and walking in this, you could be a huge part of that.

Giving has always been a part of worship. Adam and Eve knew something about worship and giving, how they were connected, and they taught their boys that, but when they brought their offerings to God, Cain didn't stay true to how he had been taught, and Abel did. That made Cain mad and he killed Abel.

The tithe was initially, and still is, for this one particular reason; for the support of the ministry. That's what it was, and specifically for the Levites. The other 11 tribes of Israel tithed to the tribe of Levi, because they had no inheritance in the land and were responsible for the temple.

In the wilderness, when the Ark of the Covenant was moved, it was hoisted up on the shoulders of the Levites. The Ark is symbolic of the Glory of God. **You're the Levites. You are the Levitical priesthood. You are the ones who are in charge of caring and being responsible and being a good steward of the Glory of God. That's you.** If you ever catch that, it's going to mess you up for life in a really good way.

Friday:

The Tabernacle wasn't a permanent structure. It was portable. It wasn't just a tent. It was a place for the dwelling of the Glory of God.

The tribe of Levi belonged to God. The tribe of Levi, under the New Covenant, are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers.

Many now say that the tithe was just an Old Covenant reality and should not be a factor to consider under the New Covenant. That we no longer have to pay attention to be obedient to it or anything. I disagree!

Again, the tithe is for the support of the Ministry. The scripture says, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain*". He's talking about those whose lives are given, those who are called out of the Levites to lead the rest of the Levitical priesthood.

In Numbers 18:21, the Lord said, "*Behold, I have given the children of Levi all of the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting*". **They then offered up a heave offering of it to the Lord which was a 10th of the 10th that they received from the other tribes.**

Here at Trinity, we have a tithe account, we have an offering account and we have another tithe account. Those of us who are on staff here at Trinity put our tithes in another account called the tithe of the tithe account. Every penny of that is given away to ministry people, those out there who we see, who are doing Kingdom work, which happens once a year.. We have been faithful in that, because that's what the Bible says to do.

Is there more responsibility under the law or under grace? You are not under the legalistic requirement from God to give anything. And there are those who are immature that might say, "*Well, praise the Lord. I don't have to give any*". So it's easy! There is more responsibility under grace.

Under grace, it's your choice. You don't have to give a nickel, but you don't get to receive the blessings that come as a result of your activity in giving. Giving activates the supernatural sometimes.

The tithe is the first fruits offering. It's the practice of giving the first and best portion of a harvest to God as an act of worship and gratitude. The offering as meant to acknowledge God's provision and sovereignty over the land and over people's lives.

Saturday:

Tithing is not giving. Tithing is rendering to God that which is already His. It's a 10% confession that everything belongs to God.

The giving of that 10% reveals the condition of a person's heart, and it's a really, really clear indicator.

Part of the nature of God's people is to be givers, to be extravagant, supernatural givers, who are locked in and rise above the world's economic system, and they enter a kingdom economic system that's not phased one bit by the world's economic system.

God said in Malachi:3, *"Test me in this says the Lord, if I'll not open the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it"*.

If you are going to believe God, you need to kind of start believing Him with your finances and your resources, too. And I'm teaching this with some passion, because we're living in a time where God has raised up people and blessing people, and there's no limit to how much God will bless you. You're the only one who can put limits on how much God wants to bless you.

It's supernatural, and if you will give this stuff a try, you will have your own stories. God will make sure that you have some stories to tell about your obedience in giving. I've seen it!

Very few people, unless they put it to the test, get the revelation that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

Remember now, under grace, you are not under the legalistic requirement to do that. You're not robbing God. If you don't give, you could be robbing yourself. What God says, *"I'll open the windows of heaven and pour you out such a blessing you don't have room enough to receive"*. It's your choice!