

Brand New – 6

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may **live new lives**.

God's Grace is so much more than forgiveness.

God has given us all the power we need to live a “Brand New” Life in this world. And eternal life beyond that.

Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

³ For you died to this life, and your **real life** is hidden with Christ in God.

Luke 9:23 (NLT)

²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

In **Romans 10:9** it states that we should confess Jesus as Lord Lord – *kurios* – *master, owner, supreme in authority*

No Slide: Exodus 33:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

- I no longer call you slaves but friends – **John 15:15**

Every move of God has been marked by people of strong moral character who long for His presence

Jesus expects to return to a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle; and without blemish – **Ephesians 5:27**

Titus 2:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² **teaching** us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age

Grace is empowerment!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

Grace – Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance:

“gift, benefit, favor, gracious, and liberality”

“the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life”

John 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

It’s like Jesus is living on the inside!

Here we see that the first place Grace is mentioned in the NT God introduces it as possessing His fullness – His power, virtue, nature and empowerment!

The battlefield is our mind. Our thoughts, will and emotions must be held in check. The battle usually occurs when we least expect it. In particular, when we are a round un-believers or believers who accept a compromised lifestyle.

All of the NT authors deal with lifestyle issues, as does the Apostle Peter

1 Peter 2:11, 12, 15 (NLT)

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

¹⁵ It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.

- The key is living as “temporary residents”
- Am I visiting or moved in?
- We should live properly among our neighbors
- Our honorable behavior should cause them to give honor to God
- Our lifestyle should silence our critics

2 Peter 1:12–15 (NLT)

¹² Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. ¹³ And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. ¹⁴ For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, ¹⁵ so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.

- Peter thought it was important enough to “remind” the believers to live as they were taught
- It was something they already knew

To grow in Moral excellence

- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Patient endurance
- Godliness and Love
- Growing in our relationship with God
- When we fail to grow we’ve forgotten that we were cleansed of our old sins
- We should work hard to prove that you really are called and chosen by God

“We regard falling from God’s friendship as the only thing dreadful and we consider becoming God’s friend the only thing worthy of honor and desire” – Gregory of Nyssa – 335-394 AD

1 Peter 1:14–15 (NLT)

¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

- Don't live life to satisfy your desires only
- Live to please the Lord
- In your lifestyle
- We are temporary residents! – 1 Peter 2:11

Titus 1:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.

- It's about having a pure heart
- Am I keeping my heart pure?
- Am I allowing the things of this life and the world's way of thinking to corrupt my beliefs?
- All sin begins in the mind, will and emotions
- What am I allowing in?
- The morals and attitudes of the world are quite different from a kingdom mindset

James 1:21 (NLT)

²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

1 Peter 4:4–5 (NLT)

⁴ Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. ⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.

- We “used to live” wild, destructive lives
- Do my friends know I’m different?
- Am I still changing – becoming more like Jesus?

It is so culturally correct today to not challenge people on immorality and their lifestyle

This may make your “Church” popular but it will not bring the presence of God into our lives

2 Peter 2:2 (NLT)

² Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.

- False teaching will occur in “The Church”
- In the last days a little truth will be mixed with a lie
- This is where deception creep’s in
- It’s hard to distinguish between right and wrong
- People start to live a lifestyle that draws us away from God’s heart
- Adhering to Gods word is labeled – legalistic and judgmental

These Church leaders and teachers may have started out in the right way but didn't persevere

Peter is warning us that if we pursue a godly lifestyle we will not be lured into this way of thinking – 1 Peter 4:19

2 Peter 2:20, 21 (NLT)

²⁰ And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before.

²¹ It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life.

- It is possible to be set free of sin and become entangled again
- It is better to never accept the truth than to slip back into ungodly, unholy living

We have a new nature that empowers us to live holy lives
We must continue to grow in grace

2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

We have two unbeatable forces that enable us to live out of our new nature!

Passionate love

John 14:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, * keep My commandments.

- Footnote: * “you will keep”
- Jesus did not say we would prove our love by keeping His commandments
- He already knows if we love Him or not
- He was saying that if we fall in love with Him “we will” keep them
- When you fall in love with someone you want to please them!
- We find delight in fulfilling their desires
- It’s no longer burdensome
- His love “Grace” empowers us!

Revelation 2:2, 4-5 (NLT)

² “I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars.

⁴ “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! ⁵ Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

When we first fell in love with Jesus we would do anything for Him

Now our passion has waned; obedience has become our duty

- It is no longer our desire
- Repent: turn our desire back to Him
- Spend time “with Him” getting to “know Him”
- Allow Him to fill our hearts with His love again

Romans 5:5 (NLT)

⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- God’s love “never” fails – 1 Corinthians 13:8

Holy Fear

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NLT)

¹ Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

- As we mature He perfects holiness in us
- Cleansing ourselves should be a process
- It is not a onetime occurrence
- It is ongoing
- A sign of maturity

Philippians 2:12 (NLT)

¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, **obeying God with deep reverence and fear.**

1 Peter 1:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So **you must live in reverent fear of him** during your time here as “temporary residents.”

Hebrews 12:28 (NLT)

²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.

- A “spirit of fear” and “the fear of the Lord” are not the same thing
- There is a difference in being afraid of God and having a holy reverence
- We are only scared when we have something to hide
- When we reverence Him as holy we come into His presence and He cleanses us from sin

Exodus 20:20 (NLT)

²⁰ “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!”

- Being afraid and fearing God are two different things

“I have met so many people that are afraid to meet with the pastor for fear that they are in trouble when the truth is I just want to help them”

Holy fear gives God the place of glory He deserves; we quake and tremble before Him in profound awe

- We embrace His heart by esteeming His desires above all others including ourselves
- We love what He love
- We hate what He hates

Proverbs 8:13 (NLT)

¹³ All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.

Proverbs 16:6 (NLT)

⁶ Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin. By fearing the LORD, people avoid evil.

- When we are in Awe of Him we love to please Him