

## Brand New – 8

### Romans 6:4 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> 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)

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

### Luke 9:23 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> 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)

<sup>11</sup> 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**

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”*

Passionate Love

John 14:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, \* keep (you will keep) My commandments.

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.

2 Timothy 2:20–21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. <sup>21</sup> Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- If the container is clean, then we are fit for the Master’s work

It is up to each individual believer to present themselves to God learning to discern between the good and the bad

How do we keep from mixing up good and evil, especially in a day when deception is so rampant?

Our relationship with God is tested best when we face trials

- Those who have a poor relationship with God will murmur and complain that things never work out
- Those who have an active relationship speak of the goodness of God when faced with similar trials
- They fight through fear and believe what the word says about their circumstance
- They are more concerned with God's desires, plans, and kingdom than their own discomfort
- Through authentic, godly fear we develop discernment

### Habakkuk 3:17–19 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— <sup>18</sup> Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.

## Discernment

### Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Our heart has 5 senses

- Taste and sight – **Psalm 34:8** – Taste and see
- Hearing – **Matthew 11:15** – he who has ears to hear
- Touch – **2 Corinthians 6:17** – do not touch what is unclean
- Smell – **2 Corinthians 2:14** – we are a fragrance of Christ

Those who are full age are the ones who are mature, not physically but spiritually

The degree of our ability to discern is proportional to our fear of God

### 1 Kings 3:9 (NLT) Solomon

<sup>9</sup> Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”

### Proverbs 2:3–5 (NLT) Solomon

<sup>3</sup> Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. <sup>4</sup> Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

*In the beginning of his kingship Solomon feared God greatly but towards the end he had become so confused about fearing God he couldn't tell the difference between good and evil*

He believed everything had become vanity or grasping at the wind

He had given his heart to the gods of the women he married

**1 Kings 11:4 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the LORD his God, as his father, David, had been.

Godly fear motivates us to cooperate with God's grace to cleanse ourselves of impurity

- Discernment hinges on living a godly life
- Holiness is the structure of life's decisions
- Career, relationships, finances, social opportunities, etc.

Our passion first and foremost should be to fear God

- If so promotion, success and abundance will not deceive us
- Proverbs tells us that if our trust is in riches we will fall
- Yet also tells us that riches and honor come through humility and the fear of the Lord
  - It's all about motive and priorities
  - True riches are what enable us to fulfill what God placed us here to do

### Proverbs 11:28 (NLT)

<sup>28</sup> Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.

### Proverbs 8:14, 16 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> Common sense and success belong to me (*wisdom*). Insight and strength are mine.

<sup>16</sup> Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments. \*

### Proverbs 22:4 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

Resources, riches, wealth and abundance are good. But if we make them our target we will lack the discernment to know if the means by which we attain them are good or evil.

Story:

*It was tradition in Israel when you went to inquire of a prophet you would bring him a financial gift*

*Saul wanted help finding his father's lost donkeys*

### 1 Samuel 9:7 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> “But we don’t have anything to offer him,” Saul replied. “Even our food is gone, and we don’t have a thing to give him.”

On another occasion in another time:

*Naaman came to Elisha to receive instructions that would heal him of his leprosy*

*When returning to the prophet to give him a gift, Elisha wouldn't take it – he was a heathen, idol worshiper*

## 2 Kings 5:16 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts.” And though Naaman urged him to take the gift, Elisha refused.

- Once Elisha left Gehazi chased after Naaman and lied to obtain the offering
- Naaman gives him twice as much as was needed
- Gehazi returns and hides the loot
- Elisha asks him where he had been
- He lies and says he hadn't gone anywhere

## 2 Kings 5:26–27 (NLT)

<sup>26</sup> But Elisha asked him, “Don't you realize that I was there in spirit when Naaman stepped down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and cattle, and male and female servants?”

<sup>27</sup> Because you have done this, you and your descendants will suffer from Naaman's leprosy forever.” When Gehazi left the room, he was covered with leprosy; his skin was white as snow.

- Gehazi's lack of godly fear caused him to lack discernment that it was not the time to receive the offering

Unfortunately, many Christians lack good judgement and discernment in the marketplace

- Selfishness, lying, stealing, envy, fraud, and embezzlement seem commonplace – Why?
- The end justifies the means

We think

- It's God's will for me to succeed and have resources
- But we don't use God's word as a filter
- If I wait I will miss out on an opportunity
- A person who is mature will wait and trust God if compromise is the path to get to the so called blessing

### Luke 4:5–8 (NLT) Temptation of Jesus

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> I will give it all to you if you will worship me.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, “The Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’”

- How often does Satan offer to fulfill what God has placed in our hearts
- To get it in a hurry we must compromise integrity, character and obedience
- Worship is not about a slow pretty song
- Worship is about obedience



*The first time the word worship is used in the Bible it has nothing to do with singing a song  
It is used when God asks Abraham, without giving a reason why, to offer up the most important person in his life*

Abraham journeys three days and upon reaching the foot of Mt. Moriah...

**Genesis 22:5 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will *worship* there, and then we will come right back.”

- He was not ascending the mountain to sing a slow song
- He was going to offer his most prized possession
- His worship was defined as obedience

Many times our songs of *worship* may not be considered *worship* to God at all

**Amos 5:23–24 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. <sup>24</sup> Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

**Matthew 15:9 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’\*”

We can write, gather and sing songs of worship yet our hearts can be far from God

*True worship is revealed by who we obey not who we sing to*  
– John Bevere – Good or God?

Obedience is the outward evidence of the true fear of the Lord

When we fear God we will...

- Obey Him instantly
- Obey Him even if it doesn't make sense
- Obey Him even if it hurts
- Obey Him even if we don't see the benefit
- Obey Him to completion

How many people have you heard that say, *“God has been dealing with me the past few months about...”* and they shrug it off with a laugh?” – How sad!

God tells Abraham to offer the son he had waited 25 years for and the very next day

**Genesis 22:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

God did not tell Abraham beforehand that he would provide another sacrifice if he was willing to offer Isaac

Abraham was willing to offer his most prize possession for the God he loved

### Hebrews 11:19 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

- So many of us need to see the benefit before we obey

While Abraham has the knife pulled, ready to offer his son

### Genesis 22:12 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

- How does the angel know Abraham fears God?
  - Because he obeyed instantly
  - When it didn’t make sense
  - When it hurt
  - When it cost the highest price
  - His priority was obedience

### James 2:23 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” \* He was even called the friend of God. \*