

Grace, Grace to It!

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Zechariah 4:1–10 (NKJV) *“Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’ So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, ‘What are these, my lord?’ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts. “Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.’”*

One of the purposes of Christ’s redemption is to build His church with those He redeems: *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:18-19) The church is not the work of man. It is the work of the Spirit of God. As ministers and members of the church, we make a big mistake when we think we can build the church in our own effort and strength. Jesus will accomplish His work in the church by the power of the Spirit, specifically the Spirit of grace. Jesus began building His church by grace and He will finish His church through grace.

The apostle John declared, *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”* (John 1:17 NKJV) The tabernacle in the Old Testament was built according to the law. The Temple of God, the Church, in the New Testament is built according to God’s grace. The house that Jesus is building is a spiritual house. The apostle Peter says, *“you also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 2:5 NKJV) The apostle Paul says, *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for **a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**”* (Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV)

The foundation of the church is none other than Jesus Christ, the Agent of God’s grace. Paul declared, *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

In addition to the grace of God in the foundation, the house itself is being built by grace. Zerubbabel, the restorer of God’s house, foreshadowed the ministry of Jesus Christ in building the church. God said to Zerubbabel, *“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”* (Zechariah 4:6 NKJV) God

reminded Zerubbabel that He will not build His house through human ingenuity and strength. He will build His church by the Spirit of grace: *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”* (Zechariah 12:10 NKJV) The Spirit of grace is like the oil in a lampstand. Without the oil the wick will be consumed. In order to for the church to shine the light of Jesus in this world, we must have a continual fresh anointing of grace!

Not only did Jesus begin building His house with grace but He will finish His house with grace no matter how much it is opposed. Regarding the mountains of opposition that would arise against the church, God declared, *“Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ”* (Zechariah 4:7 NKJV) We are assured that no matter what “mountain” the church may face, God’s grace will overcome them all!

Each of us is individually a member of the church that Christ is building. As such, we are each individually objects of God’s grace: *“For by grace are you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV) Not only does God begin His work of salvation in us by grace, He will also finish His work in us by giving us more grace.

To whom does God give more grace? He gives grace to the humble: *“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”* (James 4:6 NKJV) The opposite of humility is pride. Pride says or acts as if, “I am a self-made man” and “I can do it myself.” If we are proud we cannot receive God’s grace. Therefore our pride must first break before we will be in a position to receive His grace.

The humble access God’s grace by faith: *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5:1-2 NKJV) God’s grace is available to the humble as they rely upon and trust Him for the grace needed to succeed in doing His will.

As individual members of His church, each of us is given a measure of grace to contribute to the building of His house: *“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.”* (John 1:16 NKJV) The apostle Paul says, *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”* (Romans 12:3-5 NKJV)

God has given each of us a job to do and the grace to do it. When we fail to submit to God’s grace and do our part, the church is robbed of God’s blessing and we are robbed of the reward of His grace. The church is the house that grace is building. The church began by grace and it will be finished by grace. God will bring forth the completion stone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”

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