

# Gods Mercy, Grace And Love

Dave Roberson

*You and I will have our house built upon a rock and the storms of this life will come and will not be able to shake it. We shall be called the children of the most HIGH GOD.*

More and more I am finding out from God the things that work the most havoc for Satan's kingdom.

It is just 'like God to take such gentle sounding forces like MERCY, GRACE, and LOVE and make them the most powerful weapons of ALL. Yet He HAS done it and, for anyone who has ever had the 'spiritual insight to make these gentle forces his refuge, living, life, family, God, and religion take on a whole new meaning. Business and the daily affairs of life can be looked upon as opportunities.

In fact, when you take these three forces into battle with you, you are something to be reckoned with and the devil knows it. Have you ever thrown gasoline on a fire? When I was younger, (quite a bit younger), I tried to rekindle a fire by throwing gasoline on the smoldering coals that lay beneath a bed of ashes. It blew my hair back, singed my eyebrows, and scorched my hair. At the time, I remember thinking "that was stupid" and it was!

Yet, this is the best example I can think of to get you to understand the kind of impact that mercy, grace, and love can have on your FAITH.

When you add mercy, grace, and love to your faith, it is like throwing, gasoline on a fire and the devil knows it. **YOU WILL BURN HIS HAIR OFF!**

Before we can look at why mercy, grace, and love do what they do to our faith, let's look at the level of faith the mass majority of believers walk in.

I have been in church since my early twenties and I remember many testimonies. by the saints of God of His goodness and how He was helping them. These churches were the Holy Ghost kind that spoke with tongues and moved In the gifts. Yet I noticed that most of the testimonies were of a rather common sort.

Now, I appreciate the glory that anyone gives to God for any thing. But most of these testimonies fell far short of the glory and power that almost every preacher was preaching and teaching about.

The people testified of things like raises on their jobs, how God helped them buy a new car, trips abroad, etc., all of which are ood. But there were always one or two who really stood out and, .hen they were through testifying, you knew that their God was GOD .. things like giving millions away and living on ten percent or how they were in a wheel chair when they got a hold of God and Jesus came into their room and got them out.

Even back then I knew that, for so many people to hear so much word and do so little with it, we must be up against a foe who is not only smarter than we thought but who must also be responsible

for a whole lot more than we give him credit for.

Satan is a conniving, scheming murderer and his tactics are to consistently try to lead you away from what he fears the most. He knows we are too smart to be told that mercy, grace, and love do not work. So he will not try to tell a Holy Ghost-filled, tongue-talking believer like us something as stupid as that. We are too smart. He has to handle us with something more sophisticated.

So, instead of telling us that they do not work, he just keeps us from finding out how really powerful they are by preoccupying us with things of an opposite nature like strife, unforgiveness, or hatred.

Looking back, I remember one situation after another revolving around strife, mostly petty strifes, that would end up in church splits and in hurting the sheep.

The more I meditated on this whole thing, the more I realized that the devil does not just keep strife stirred up because it hinders our walk with God but he keeps it stirred up to keep us blind to the things he fears the most ... LOVE, MERCY, and GRACE.

If you want to become all you can be, there are things you can walk in that will release the most incredible power in your life, especially in the areas of answered prayer. So, let's take the blinders off and pull this truth out from under Satan's blanket of strife and explore its POTENTIAL.

Luke 6:47-48 says: *"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will skewer you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."*

To me, this is one of the greatest promises in the Word of God. Jesus is giving us His personal guarantee that, if we would dig deep and lay our foundation on the rock of doing His sayings, it would not matter what Satan threw at us. When the storm was over, our house would still be standing.

Do you realize what He is saying? The devil does not have enough seduction, deception, worry, torment, fear, poverty, lack, sickness, pain, or disease to shake your house off its rock ... if you are doing Jesus' sayings.

I took a long look at the sayings contained in this chapter when I saw so many Christians falling short and living in anguish, fear, and unanswered prayer and it launched me into one of the most exciting times of my Christian walk since being born again.

It caused me to take a long look at the sayings that Jesus was talking about when He said a man would have to dig deep and lay a foundation upon a rock to survive the storm. Just the fact that He said you would have to "DIG DEEP" ought to tell you that the kind of sayings Jesus is talking about are not the kind found lying around on top of the ground.

In fact, the deep digging Jesus is talking about is not only into His Word but past the surface level of

flesh and carnality that so many of us walk in, past the levels of strife and unforgiveness, and past the penny ante bickerings and wars that saints destroy each other with.

Even though many Christians walk continually with their houses built on the sand, it does not exclude the fact that, if you want it and if you want to dig deep enough to get it, there is raw material available that will secure your house so solidly that Satan cannot move it and that raw material is the pure unadulterated forces of MERCY, GRACE, AND LOVE.

So, let's look at Jesus' sayings.

To find out what Jesus is saying in Luke 6:48 where He talked about building your house upon a rock, we have to at least back up "o the 27th verse of this chapter.

Are you ready for this? Here are the sayings that will put your house on the rock. Luke 6:27-30 says: "*BUT I SAY UNTO YOU WHICH HEAR, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you; And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee, and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.*"

My first reaction to these verses was, "Wait a minute. This is a little extreme. Do good to those who hate me and pray for those who despitefully use me?"

Then I remembered the saints in all the churches whose testimonies were of a common sort and down inside I knew this was the reason why ... somewhere they stopped short of God's best.

To do good to those who hate me, to pray for those who despitefully use me, and to love my enemies was like reaching out and jerking off Satan's sheepskin, leaving him stripped of all authority to judge my house and to cause it to go down the river with the tides of persecution.

The kind of love Jesus is talking about is so powerful because it is in total opposition to any and every seductive, lustful, and elf exalting ploy that Satan's nature consists of. This ZOE LOVE is the parent of MERCY and GRACE.

I somehow always knew that it was God's great love for lost humanity that caused Him to extend His Hand in mercy and grace. John 3:16 says: "*For God SO LOVED the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

God's great love fathered mercy and grace. But what I did not know was that the same ZOE kind of love that God extended when He made mercy and grace available to me when I was lost is the same ZOE GOD-KIND of LOVE available to every believer. God wants to release these incredible gifts of MERCY and GRACE through OUR lives.

I knew God had the capacity to show mercy to me. What I did not know was that, the more I conformed to the ZOE GOD-KIND of LOVE, the more my capacity to show mercy to other people would increase.

You must understand what I am saying. When mercy is employed as a weapon, it is equivalent to Jesus walking into your room and saying, "As far as the North is from the South and the East is from the West, is my nature from Satan's and you have chosen to fight him with my NATURE."

This is why Jesus said what He did in Luke 6:35-38, as He progressively headed towards those great classical verses of building upon a rock.

Look at Luke 6:35-38: *"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. BE YE THEREFORE MERCIFUL, AS YOUR FATHER ALSO IS MERCIFUL. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Now, here is the part I never understood before. When the 36th verse said, *"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful,"* what Jesus is asking us to do is to have the same kind of mercy on the unthankful and the evil as our Heavenly Father does.

For the first time, I saw mercy in a new light. When Jesus said "love your enemies", by doing so, it is YOU that is having mercy on them. When He said, "do good to them that hate you", by doing good, it is YOU that is having mercy on those who hate you. When He said "pray for those who despitefully use you", it is YOU that is having mercy on them. When He said "bless those who curse you,, by doing so, it is YOU having mercy on them. And, finally, when a man smiteth thee on the one cheek", it is an act of mercy on OUR part to offer him the other.

While I was meditating on this chapter, I thought, "Wait a minute. Even though it is the other guy suing me and slapping me in the face, I am the one having mercy on him by letting him do these things to me?"

Yes, a thousand times "YES". Let me tell you why. To understand why MERCY is so powerful, you must understand the difference between MERCY and GRACE.

As much as I think about it, I know I cannot really conceive what happened the day that Adam fell. Hell must have been celebrating. They had pulled God's man into a void of spiritual death and locked him up with no way out. Hell had alienated this man and left him with nothing to bargain with. He had absolutely no rights before an all powerful, omnipotent God. He had nothing to approach Him with.

Then God had MERCY and sent Jesus across that void and gave us His Blood to bargain with. He gave us the right to approach the throne room of Grace and ask for salvation.

This is where GRACE comes in. GRACE takes you and I who have presented ourselves before the throne room of God and makes us the righteousness of God in Christ, clothing us in the purple robes

of royalty adopting us into the Family of God, and calling us His brethren.

In other words, it is one thing to come home and catch a thief in the act of robbing your home and, even though he does not deserve it, have mercy on him and forgive him. But it is quite another thing to take this same thief and adopt him into your family and call him your brother.

This is the difference between MERCY and GRACE. When Jesus said, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful", He was saying that, although the person who is despitely using you does not deserve anything good from you because he is bent on your destruction, it is you that is having mercy on him by letting him do these things to you because YOUR LIFE WILL EXTEND TO HIM THE HAND OF SALVATION.

For us to extend this kind of mercy is so pleasing to God that Jesus said in Luke 6:35, "And your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest."

Now, if you really want to know how to prosper, follow very closely. When Jesus said, "And your reward shall BE GREAT", He was talking about that all-time great scripture Luke 6:38: *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, SHALL MEN GIVE INTO YOUR BOSOM. For with the same measure that ye mete withal IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN."*

You see, even though a man sues you for your cloak, Jesus said give him your coat also. When a man takes away your goods, Jesus aid ask them not again. As incredible as it may seem, it is you having mercy on him because you may be the only obstacle between him and his pathway to HELL. Even though he may despitely use you to the point of taking everything he can away from you, just remember that this is what the 38th verse is all about. Give and it shall be given unto you! While this man to whom you are extending mercy is carrying your goods out the back door, God is walking in the front door pressing it down, shaking it together, running it over, and then causing other men to give into your bosom.

Remember, this same man you are extending mercy to may soon be born again and, when he is, God's grace will make him your BROTHER. You and I will have our house built upon a rock and the storms of this life will come and will not be able to shake it. We shall be called the children of the most HIGH GOD.

Most believers have an earnest desire to draw close to God. But what does it mean to draw close to God? We lift our hands and worship God, quoting verses about conforming to His image, but what image are we being conformed to?

Most believers have no idea of the incredible power available for answered prayer because they fall short of "love your enemy". They fall short of doing good to those who hate them much less blessing those who curse them. But, these things are what the very image of Christ consists of.

In this decade of the nineties, many changes are going to take place in the Body of Christ. Persecution against the saints will be on the rise as Satan tries the very foundation of the church. But,

at the same time, there will be a great revival of LOVE accompanied by a great revival of power ... life-changing, transformation POWER!

So, the next time you find yourself under an ungodly attack by the enemy (or perhaps you are engaged in a struggle at this moment), lift up your hands before God and pray for strength that you might show mercy.

**GOD WILL ANSWER!**