

SUPER-GRACE (Charis) [Part 3]

In our last Bible study, we covered how God's grace works in **stages 1 and 2** of spiritual growth.

In this study, we will cover how <u>God's grace works</u> in stages 3 and 4 of spiritual growth.

1. Stage three (teknon) [spiritually immature adult] (Gal.4:19; 2 Tim.2:1)

- a. Needs basic meat doctrines of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) (Heb.5:14).
(**2 Tim.2:1**) "You therefore, my son (**teknon**), be strong (endunamoo/ p.m.impv.2ps) in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (1 Pet.1:14) (Be strong - Eph.6:10; Rom.14-15)

In **1 Pet.1:10-16**, Peter gave three points important to spiritual growth development of stage 3.

- 1st - At stage 3, it is important to understand the prophetic gospel of the OC fulfilled historically by Jesus Christ (1 Pet.1:10-12; Rom.5:1-2; Gal.3:8; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Isa.53:13-53:12; Ps.22; 16:10).
- 2nd - Consistent inhale and exhale of the word of God is important to stage 3 (1 Pet.1:13; 2 Tim.3:16-17; Eph.6:17/ AC).
- 3rd - Consistent spirituality and breaking the cycle of carnality in CWL is important to stage 3 (1 Pet.1:14-16; James 1:14-15; Gal.5:16-17; Rom.13:13-14; 1 Pet.2:11).

The **writer of Hebrews** points out two things every of believer should learn about his priesthood by stage 3 from **Heb.4:14-16**/ 1 Pet.2:5, 9; Rev.1:6; 2 Cor.3:4-6).

- 1st - His priestly confession of New Covenant (NC) priesthood after the high priesthood of Jesus Christ (4:14-15; Heb.5-10).
- 2nd - His NC priestly confidence to approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace in time of need (eukairos boetheia/ to come to the aid/ timely help) (**Heb.4:16**; 1 John 3:21-24; 5:14-15)

Peter closed the book of 2 Peter with a warning that is important for every stage of spiritual growth in 2Pet.3:16-18.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (3:18)

2. Stage four (teleios) [spiritually mature adult] (Eph.4:13; Phil.3:12-16)

- a. Needs Advance meat doctrines for the Christian Way of Life (CWL) (Heb.5:14).

(2 Thess.1:3) "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another **grows ever greater** (huperauxano)."

Once the Church Age Believer (CAB) **reaches** spiritual growth maturity of stage 4, he / she has the responsibility to **maintain** this level through the inhale and exhale of Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) to be conformed into the image of Christ (Rom.8:29).

You will recall in an earlier study of **Eph.4:13** the three prepositional phrases that outline three phases of stage 4 spiritual growth (Eph.4:11-16) [All in one Greek sentence].

- Phase 1 “To the unity of the faith and of the Son of God”
 - **Reaching** stage 4 (Heb.6:1)
- Phase 2 “To a mature man”
 - **Maintaining** stage 4 (Col.1:28-29)
- Phase 3 “To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”
 - **Super-grace** (Rom.8:29)

Super-grace status: “And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, **so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have abundance for everything.**” (2 Cor.9:8)

Paul used the Greek conditional clause grammar in the most unique manner in Phil.3:11-12. He used (ei/ 1cc) [true] with the subjunctive (that requires (3cc/ ean) [maybe].

- Phil.3:11 “if (ei) possible I may attain (katantao/ a.a.subj.1ps/ reach)”
- Phil.3:12 “If (ei) indeed I may lay hold (katalambano/ a.a.subj.1ps/ so as to possess as one’s own)”

Theologians began writing on it in the 19th century. Robertson points to a similar usage to Phil.3:11 in Rom.11:14.

This doesn’t surprise me as a student of Paul (2 Pet.3:16). Paul does this type of thing to force you into the context of the message.

Context – Study Bible – “No Confidence in Flesh” – Phil.3:1- “Finally (to loipos/ asn)” marks a new section of study in Philippians.

Suppose Paul did it deliberately. Suppose he used the 1cc [and it is true] to point to the importance of doctrinal truth along with the aorist subjunctive [maybe you will] to point to the importance of believer’s volition leaving conformity to the world (Phil.3:1-6/ OMCD) for transformation to Christ through volitional faith in God’s word (Phil.3:7-16/ NMDV).

Paul’s Point: Maintaining Super-Grace Status until Dying Grace is the goal of stage 4 (Phil.3:10-16).

Next Tuesday class: At super-grace status, the Church Age Believer (CAB) has the capacity for maximum blessings and testing (Eph.1:7-8; 1 Tim.1:14; 2 Cor.12:7-10).