



Module : Understanding, Accessing & Growing in GRACE

Session 12 : Humility Accesses 'A Greater Grace' - Part 4

Focus : Courageous and Costly Obedience in both Father and Son Evidences and Expresses True Humility, to which Grace is Attracted for the Accomplishment of Divine Purpose.

Grace attends humility. Humility is expressed through and is evidenced by obedience. Obedience must be made 'complete'.

2 Cor. 10:6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

Complete Obedience: A 'complete' or 'fulfilled' obedience is one that is 'filled out'. This in part refers to obedience to all of God's principles in His Word, as well as a consistency in the same. This also includes and will demand that we all resolve to obey God to the point of death, as Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient unto the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8). As explained in the prior sessions, this refers to courageous and daring acts of obedience without concern for self-preservation.

Father Instructs; Sons Obey: If within the spiritual father-son wineskin, there exists potential for profound and maximum grace transfer, a son must subscribe to a level of **obedience to the accurate, biblical doctrine and commands of his spiritual father** in Christ to the degree where the son does not live is self-preservation, but is prepared to 'lose his life'¹ in the process of obedience. Likewise, the **father too must be willing to obey God** to the point of death, not just in reference to God's own revealed dictates for his life, but also the **courage to command his son to comply with expectations God lays on the son**, expectations which God expects to be communicated via the father. Consider that Abraham was willing not just to obey God in sacrificing Isaac, but in communicating this to Isaac such that Isaac, true to the pattern of what we would see in Jesus, lays his own life down to be sacrificed. Recall also from our previous session that no one prepared to obey in this fashion actually loses his life but gains it.

In this session I want to connect the following principles explained in prior sessions:

- Grace is communicated through the Word of God.
- The Word of God is communicated to you through your spiritual father in the Lord.
- The spiritual father-son wineskin is a most ideal construct for the grace of God to have maximum flow and operation. Spiritual fathering is not a command; it is a privilege and opportunity. Those who embrace it find an abundance of grace available.
- There must be an open heart of mutual love and honour between spiritual fathers and spiritual sons for maximum grace transfer.
- The heart of a spiritual son must be TURNED, OPENED and GIVEN to the spiritual father.
- The Word of God released through the spiritual father to the son must be received as God's Word, and not the opinion of the spiritual father.
- This Word must be received with the SPIRIT of the spiritual son and not primarily with the mind of the soul. This is crucial if the son is to obey the Word.
- Humility is evidenced by obedience to the Word. It demands a death to one's own opinions that contradict God's Word and the obedience thereof.
- Through the act of obedience, grace inherent within the Word heard, infuses the life of the spiritual son such that the glory of God is displayed for men to see in his/her life.
- Private acts of obedience foster corporate welfare and facilitate corporate progression of the Body of Christ into maturity.
- **In addition, the obedience of a spiritual son has the powerful and perhaps least understood effect of catapulting the spiritual father into a higher level of understanding aspects of God's nature and functioning within a wider and more powerful expression of God's purposes.**

It is this last point above that I want to demonstrate.

❖ Example 1: OBEDIENCE OF ESTHER

We saw in our previous session, in our focus on the relationship of Mordecai and Esther, that **Esther declared her willingness to obey Mordecai's directives as though they were God's direct commands**. When she said, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16), she was literally declaring, "I would rather die in the process of obeying God than to live, employing disobedience as a means of survival". Like Jesus, she became 'obedient unto death'.

This level of obedience expresses deep humility, and thus a significant quantum and quality of grace is received. We all need to 'grow in grace'. We all desire 'a greater grace'. But to what lengths are we willing to go to obey a command of God which costs us everything. Jesus' commitment to obey unto death recruited unto Himself a significant measure of grace, grace by which He was actually able to proceed in His resolve to obey, and thus He **'tasted death by the grace of God'** (Heb. 2:9). As you take the **first initial steps in obedience in**

complying with what seems a difficult command of God that will cost you everything, GRACE kicks in to empower you to go through with it.

Esther's individual bold act of obeying Mordecai, her spiritual father, actually not just benefited her, her brothers the Jews, but also further elevated Mordecai into a powerful position as Prime Minister. Mordecai, in this position, now would administrate this function to the advantage of Esther and the Jews (Esther 10).

Note the Following:

- a. The obedience of a son benefits him directly. Grace received in the hearing of the Word is activated in the obedience of the Word and then glory is displayed.
- b. The obedience of a son brings a positive effect upon his brothers in the Body of Christ. The brothers receive favourable or graceful dealings of God with them.
- c. The obedience of a spiritual son can facilitate in the spiritual father, a new or more deeper understanding of specific aspects of God's nature.
- d. The obedience of a son enhances the position of the spiritual father for greater functionality or expression of function within an enlarged sphere or domain.
- e. True spiritual fathers seek the maturity of their sons in Christ. Spiritual fathers seek after the well-being of their sons. But also too, **it is in the best interest of a spiritual son to seek after the advancement of his spiritual father in respect of the points above, because every elevation of the father in some respect would ultimately benefit the son.**

As the spiritual father ascends in growth, greater grace is accessed and endowed upon him, and this increased endowment of grace naturally benefits the son, to whom that grace is intended to flow. In a prior session we saw how that Abram grew in grace as a spiritual father - indicated in the change of his name from Abram to Abraham (Gen.17:5), denoted by an insertion into his life of greater grace (alluded to by the addition of the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet into his name – with 'five' indicative of grace).

Lot, who disconnected from 'Abram', before he was 'Abraham', did not experience the benefit of the increased grace deposit within Abraham (Gen.13). In that study, I stressed the importance of spiritual sons maintaining an enduring connection to a valid, authentic and relevant spiritual father through that father's own process of growth and development, as the sons will in no doubt come to benefit from that. There is something profound in a son observing the growth of his father in Christ. Every new place of increased growth in the spiritual father means that the son becomes a beneficiary of that increased grace. I will demonstrate this principle with more case studies in our next session.

WALKING OBEDIENTLY WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

Amos 3:3 KJV: Can two walk together, except they be **agreed**?

Nasb: Do two men walk together unless they have made an **appointment**?

Agreed/Appointment = yâ'ad²

- = To appoint, to summon, to engage, to agree, to assemble.
- = It also means allotted or appointed time, such as the amount of time David appointed to Amasa to assemble the men of Judah (2 Sam. 20:5).
- = This word can also take the meaning of appointing or designating someone to be married (Ex. 21:8, 9).
- = Another meaning is to meet someone at an appointed time

Applying the above:

- Can two walk together unless they **covenant intimately**, i.e. the spiritual father-spiritual son relationship is a deep commitment.
- Can two walk together unless they agree, i.e. **are of one heart and one mind**. Timothy and Paul were equal in soul (their thoughts, decisions and feelings were identical).
- Can two walk together unless they **agree upon the destination**, i.e. do they fully understand the nature of their walking together and what it is to accomplish. The **goal is the formation of the image of Christ - total maturity**; the father seeks to mature the son in the image of Christ.
Beyond this, a mature father-son relationship will be used by God as the means through which **significant divine purpose is effected** in the earth. Paul brings Timothy to maturity, but Paul and Timothy working together also accomplish significant purpose. The same could hold true for Mordecai and Esther, Naomi and Ruth, Elijah and Elisha, etc.
- Can two walk together unless they agreed upon the **appointed time**, i.e. not chronological time ('chronos' in the Greek), but are they both **aware of and discerning of the gravity** of the spiritual hour (denoted by the Greek term 'kairos') in which they live?

Rom. 13:11-14 Do this, **knowing the time**, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us **lay aside the deeds of darkness** and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Knowing the time implies knowing what behaviour is appropriate with every 'kairos' in God. Certain activity may be inconsistent with the 'kairos'. Journeying is a process that

must bear relevance to the outcome.

Haggai 1:2-4

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘This people says, “The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.”’” Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate.”

Spiritual fathers and sons must walk together because they both realise the pressing expectation of God upon them in a set season. It is frustrating to a father, for a son who expresses a desire to ‘walk with him’, when that son has no understanding of the critical nature of the times in which they live, the urgency thereof and what priorities God expects for them within that season of time.

- Can two walk together unless they know the allotted time in which they are to work with a **sense of urgency, soberness and seriousness?**

2 Sam. 20:5 So Amasa went to call out the men of Judah, but he delayed longer than the **SET TIME** which he had appointed him.

Two cannot walk together in disagreement. Further, two cannot walk together unless they agree on the time of their appointed meeting to commence their journey and the time allotted in which to accomplish the journey. Spiritually applied, two cannot walk together unless they have the same prophetic awareness and sense of the urgency of the times.

- ✓ Jacob walked in agreement with Abraham.
- ✓ Joshua walked in agreement with Moses.
- ✓ Ruth walked in agreement with Naomi.
- ✓ Esther walked in agreement with Mordecai.
- ✓ Elisha walked in agreement with Elijah.
- ✓ Eleven apostles, apart from Judas, walked in agreement with Jesus.
- ✓ Timothy walked in agreement with Paul.

Let us illustrate these truths indicated up to now with a few more examples ...

❖ **Example 2: OBEDIENCE OF METHUSELAH**

Walking in agreement together with your spiritual father is powerful. Also, the ‘obedience unto death’ of a spiritual son can enhance his spiritual father’s walk with God.

Gen 5:21,22 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah : and Enoch walked with God **AFTER** he begat **Methuselah** three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah ...

The name, '**Methuselah**' means '**when he is dead it shall be sent**' or '**messenger of death**'³. His name also means '**dart or javelin**'⁴ – which is akin to an arrow, denoting sonship. Hence, only when he as a son is obedient to the point of being dead unto self, will he be launched as a dart to accomplish the purposes of God. Methuselah embodies this disposition within his name.

When the son enters obedience to the point of death, which is dying to self, his father enters a new realm or revealed knowledge of who Christ is. After Enoch becomes the father of one who is dead to self, he enters a new phase or level in God. Enoch walks with God only after Methuselah, with all that his name represents, is born. Methuselah's birth and presence elevates Enoch into a heightened walk with God. A spiritual father (Enoch) enters a new realm in God due to an obedient spiritual son.

Enoch WALKED with God for **300 years** after Methsulahs birth. The number 300, amongst other things, **denotes ONENESS**. (Consider Gideon's 'one loaf' in the dream of a man – this was a reference to Gideon's 300 – see Judges 7). Enoch did not just walk with God but did so in a new degree of oneness. The Scriptures teach that it is impossible for two to 'walk' together unless they are in agreement.

Enoch **walked with God** - i.e. **there was forward movement and progression** in the will and purposes of the Lord. Things started to develop and shift to the next phase. You as a son, through obedience or disobedience, can affect the rate at which your spiritual father is able to move forward with greater speed into the fullness of the mandate he carries. God provides every son with this opportunity to walk in agreement with his father. Failure to do this does not hinder the purpose of God, for God will raise up another one who is willing to obey to the point of death to self.

Enoch has keen prophetic sight – he saw aspects of the end of the age:

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

Enoch was only seven generations from Adam, yet he had such keen prophetic sight that he saw the Lord's coming to earth with thousands of the saints. I personally believe that his spiritual sight was so sharp because of his 'walk with God in agreement' – with all that that phrase implies as indicated above. His son brought him into rest through his disposition of living in obedience unto death.

Enoch walked with God. We can assume he did so humbly.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And **what does the Lord require of you** But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God.

He certainly pleased God in his walk with God.

Heb. 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that **he pleased God**.

When Methuselah lives in the culture of DEATH unto obedience, it activates the apostolic dynamic in him and also causes his father, Enoch, not to see death. For Enoch that was physical. For us, our spiritual fathers will not see a death to corporate destiny or purposes so long as sons within their households embody the principle of obedience unto death.

❖ Example 3: OBEDIENCE OF ISAAC

Much is known and made of Abraham's obedience to God when he displayed a willingness to sacrifice Isaac in compliance with a command from God. Yet, equal credit must also go to Isaac, the son. He was younger and stronger than Abraham. He could have resisted, but he too, like Jesus did, 'humbled himself unto death'.

Gen. 22: 6-8

- 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. **So the two of them walked on together.**
- 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, **"My father!"** And he said, "Here I am, **my son.**" And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the a lamb for the burnt offering?"
- 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." **So the two of them walked on together.**

This is the first time a father and son relate to each other in this way in the Bible. Note the terms of reference in verse 7 "my father" and "my son". The recognition of who your father is, is the key to obedience. Obedience will flow from that relationship. Once a son has recognised and established that he is a son in a household, obedience will be no difficult task, for he trusts his father completely, even unto death.

Note verse 6 above: "The two of them walked on together". They walked on together in agreement to the place of obedience unto death. You can only come to the place of obedience when you walk together with your spiritual father. You cannot enter into obedience through any other way, but walking with your spiritual father. If Isaac never **walked with** Abraham he would have never been able to be obedient to that degree. You have to have a relationship before obedience.

Relationship with your spiritual father builds trust, and trust is essential so that when he/she speaks, you consider it as the voice of God. You cannot come to this position of dying to self unless you trust him, because it is him that will administer the death to your soul.

Relationship built on trust is developed by the esteemed priority the son attaches to God's Word communicated through the spiritual father. It also demands of the son that he follows the spiritual father closely. This is done by tracking and listening to his teachings and where possible to be physically present at meetings he calls.

Isaac's obedience to Abraham in laying his life down to be sacrificed by him brought Abraham into a new revelation of God as Jehovah Jireh (Gen. 22). The obedience of a son can have the effect of propelling the father into deeper and more profound revelations of God and His person. Isaac too was privy to the revelation of God as Jehovah Jireh that his father Abraham received – He saw the provision of God and he heard his father exclaim, "The Lord is Provision".

As a son, Isaac's obedience unto death, coupled in tandem with his father Abraham's obedience to destroy the means through which his prophetic destiny as a father of nations would be fulfilled, opened him up to a powerful dynamic in God's character, viz. His nature as a God of provision. When a son obeys, the father's sight into Divinity has the potential to enlarge, but the son too enters that new perspective, that new revelation, which will change the mindset and behaviour of the son in reference to how he executes God's purposes on the earth. Isaac never had lack of provision in his life. He sowed in a time of famine and reaped 100 fold in the same year (Gen.26:12). He was never need-oriented and never doubted God's capacity to provide for him. All this was founded in that experience of obedience of him and his father on Mount Moriah.

JOINT-OBEDIENCE: Here we see the power of both father and son obeying God to the point of death. Two are better than one (Eccl. 4:9). Two always amplifies the potential attached to them jointly as opposed to each of them individually (Lev. 26:7-8). One puts a thousand to flight – but two can set ten thousand fleeing (Deut. 32:30). Where at least two agree upon anything it shall be established for them (Matt.18:19). Principles governing spiritual things have tremendous impact, influence and result. In any context, where you get agreement between spiritual father and spiritual son, not just mentally or cognitively, but agreement in how they obey as fellow heirs and co-labourers – the results of blessing and Divine-determined outcomes are always hugely accentuated.

When a son obeys his father, this brings the father into rest about certain aspects of your obedience so that his focus can elevate to others issues. Imagine a church for example, where everyone single one is 100% accurate in obedience relative to biblical financial principles all the time. The spiritual father would not have to spend lengthy times speaking on finance. A father can rest as far as that issue is concern and can address other, more pressing issues.

That a sons obeys to the point of death and this elevating the father into a higher place spiritually is ultimately in the best interest of the son himself too, because greater grace accessed by the

father will finally be the sons portions. Mordecai's ascension to prime minister no doubt would benefit Esther and the rest of the Jews. Paul also intimated that his personal apostolic sphere or 'metron' of spiritual influence will increase when the faith of the Corinthians has become enlarged.

2 Cor. 10:14-16 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord.

Abraham asked Isaac to lay his life down on the altar. Mordecai asked Esther to go to the king in the inner court at the risk of death. To the natural mind, these actions spelt certain death – almost suicidal. But how do you obey someone's instruction that seems to be leading you to your death. You have to have a relationship with them. You have to establish in your heart that this man or woman has been placed over my life to father my soul in order to bring my soul to rest. The primary reason that God has placed spiritual fathers over people is that they can come to this place of rest.

Bear in mind that the obedience of a father and son ACTIVATES MORE GRACE which God desires to bestow upon them both, for the accomplishment of His purposes in and through the relationship.

❖ **Example 4: RUTH AND NAOMI:**

Ruth clung to Naomi in her walk with her from Moab to Bethlehem in Judah.

Ruth 1:14c Ruth clung to her.

Clung = **dabaq** = to join with; to stay⁵

Ruth's commitment to walk in agreement with Naomi is captured in the statement, "Where you go, I will go".

Ruth Obeyed Naomi.

Ruth 3:1-6

- 1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "**My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?**"
- 2 "Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.

- 3 "Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
- 4 "It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."
- 5 She said to her, "All that you say I will do."
- 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her.

The level of 'security' and 'wellness' that Naomi seeks for Ruth goes way beyond the provision of personal needs – way beyond the issue of the provision of the Lord. Naomi prophetically was wanting to ensure that Ruth builds into the unfolding long-term purposes of God.

The word 'security' is translated as such from the Hebrew word, 'manoah', which also means 'rest or resting place'⁶. We must come to a place of rest in God's things, where we are not primarily concerned with issues of short-term provision. Security and rest are only attainable through our practical daily obedience to the Lord.

Ruth is instructed by Naomi to engage in intense personal sanctification and preparation at every level (3:3), and then to go down to Boaz' threshing floor (place of separation) and lie at his feet (intimacy suggestive of intense union).

Once again, note the instant and unreserved obedience of Ruth

Ruth 2:5,6 She said to her, "All that you say I will do." So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her.

To access her first level of provision (which was gleaning in the corners of the field, then in the centre of field after the reapers) was easy. Her covenantal commitment to Naomi ignited a response of FAVOUR and KINDNESS from Boaz. Now, to go the next level, the blessing of a secured future and the privilege of contributing significantly to the eternal purposes of God, will require intense personal preparation, and COMPLETE and DARING OBEDIENCE.

Her instruction to Ruth to lie at Boaz' feet was in natural terms suicidal, for this was usually the posture of married women toward their husbands. There was nothing improper or indecorous about Ruth's actions. Naomi was aware of her rights of redemption by the nearest kinsman redeemer which was Boaz. By natural standards, this act seemed blatant and presumptuous, yet Ruth fully trusting in the command of Naomi proceeds to courageously obey. Her obedience is a prophetic enactment of a reality she was about to actually enter into, viz. actually marrying Boaz. So it was not presumptuous as much as it was confidently prophetic. But Naomi had the prophetic

perspective and led her spiritual son, Ruth, into that by issuing to her instructions, which when obeyed brought Ruth into the fullness of her redemption. The same holds true for us today.

From a carnal perception, a spiritual father's instruction or command could seem that he is "leading you to death". Yet, in a way, he is leading you to death, viz. the death of your flesh. But in order to obey his instruction as Ruth did to Naomi, you have to have an established relationship based on love and trust. Ruth already established her sonship position towards Naomi on the road to Bethlehem. Have you established your sonship position? You cannot come to this position of being dead to self if you do not have a relationship with your spiritual father.

Obedience is also a position you learn from accurate fathering. The reason Isaac was obedient was because of his father Abraham, who being obedient to the voice of God was an accurate model for Isaac to follow. Ruth's obedience was due to Naomi's obedience to return to Bethlehem. Naomi heard God was visiting Bethlehem and she left to go there. Both Ruth and Isaac had the capacity to obey because they had a point of reference for what obedience looked like in the life of their spiritual fathers. Paul said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ".

Example 5 : OBEDIENCE OF DAVID and JOSEPH

1 Sam 17:17-20

- 17 Then Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers.
- 18 "Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of their thousand, and **look into the welfare of your brothers**, and bring back news of them.
- 19 "For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."
- 20 So David **arose early in the morning** and **left the flock** with a keeper and took the supplies and **went as Jesse had commanded him**.

David's obedience to his father, Jesse, catapulted him into his destiny. Jesse sent David to give food to his brothers while they were on the battlefield where Goliath taunted the army of Israel for 40 days. By all natural accounts, a parent sending a young son to a battlefield, where an entire army of Israel was paralysed by fear, would seem inconsiderate. For David, obeying this command would be the proverbial 'obedience unto death'. David, governed by two factors, viz. a desire to please his father and ensure the welfare of his brothers, obeys his father. This act of obedience was the pathway to kingship for David. When you seek the welfare of your brothers, you will rule like a king. David's obedience, motivated by a desire to please his father and nourish his brothers, would result in him slaying Goliath and never go back to tending sheep again. His sphere of function in life and operation would now be the royal courts – an environment he was meant to function in. One singular act of daring obedience to a father, fosters welfare of the brotherhood and facilitates an increased momentum toward a ruling and reigning dynamic.

The same principles above could be applied to Jacob's command to Joseph to give food to his brothers. Obedience to fatherly command ensures corporate welfare of the brothers and positions the son for rulership. [Refer to the narrative in Gen.37 and note the details in this account – there is much to learn here]]

David's obedience to Jesse also positioned Jesse in a favourable position. Jesse's house would be 'free' - a reference to freedom from taxes and public service⁷.

1 Sam 17:25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."

Here again the obedience in sonship brings blessing upon the house of the father.

Joseph's obedience to Jacob would also many years later bring benefit to Jacob. Jacob would pray for and bless Pharaoh.

Gen. 47:7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Joseph's obedience ultimately led to his father blessing the most powerful political leader of his day. This ensured that God's favour rested on Jacob's family, which would become a great nation in Egypt. A son's obedience can position the father to function in very strategic roles.

The important issue is that grace is spread to more and more people through this process and God's will triumphs in the earth.

❖ Example 6: ELISHA'S OBEDIENCE

To receive double portion from Elijah, Elisha had to follow closely and walk with Elijah so he could see him as he is taken up. This implied he had to track his movements and keep in step with him.

2 Kings 2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." And he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So **THE TWO OF THEM WENT ON.**

There were some sons of Elijah that did not follow closely but chose to stand afar off. These did not receive the double portion that Elisha received.

2 Kings 2:7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood over against **them AFAR OFF**; and they two stood by the Jordan.

Jesus selected twelve disciples “to be with him” so that they might preach”.

Mark 3:13,14 And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach,

They cannot preach unless they are first ‘with Him’. Failure to follow closely renders the purpose attendant with relationship unattainable.

Peter followed Jesus from afar when Jesus was handed over to the High Priest and would then be submitted to the process of his ongoing trials before Pilate, before being crucified (Mark 14:54). Fear gripped him and he followed from a distance because he was not willing to deal with the great cost associated with being a close follower of Jesus. At times, sons may follow from a distance because the cost of nearness is too great.

Do not permit ‘distance’ to develop between you and your spiritual father’. Misunderstandings that may cause tension in the relationship should be quickly resolved, so that grace could flow unimpeded. Recall that you follow closely by ...

- Prioritising and being at meetings your father calls (where possible).
- Listening to his teachings not just once, but as many times as it is necessary until the Word becomes incarnate or is established firmly in your mentality and behaviour.
- Supporting him in practical ways where possible.

To pursue and walk in close agreement with a spiritual father is to pursue and access grace. Many do not understand this dynamic. I have found it to be a key factor in accessing grace.

Jordan means ‘descending rapidly’⁸ – denoting the posture of humility and submission. Elisha followed following Elijah in his descent to the Jordan - you have to go down if you want to come up. Promotion and honour attend humility expressed by obedience in a son to a father.

James 4:6 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Prov. 29:23 A man’s pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

There is GREAT GRACE within the father-son union. May we all access the promotion and honour God desires to bring to us through humility and obedience.

May grace attend you always in ever increasing degrees,
Randolph Barnwell

Stay in Touch via my Website and Social Networks

'Follow' Randolph Barnwell personally via Facebook or Twitter to receive regular inspirational and encouraging short posts and tweets highlighting key life principles from God's Word. You may also freely download notes and audio files of each session from www.randolphbarnwell.com. Additional materials on various topics are also available for download here. Enquiries: randolph@gatedc.co.za Visit and 'like' the 'GATE MINISTRIES Durban Central' Facebook page OR 'follow' Gate Ministries Durban Central on Twitter and keep informed as to themes that will be taught each week. To regularly receive our free bible study notes, ensure you are on our email distribution list – send a request to info@gatedc.co.za.

ENDNOTES

1. Matthew 10:39; 16:25
2. Baker, W. (2003, c2002). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : Old Testament. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H3259
3. Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.
4. Ibid.
5. Baker, W. (2003, c2002). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : Old Testament. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H1692
6. Baker, W. (2003, c2002). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : Old Testament. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H4494
7. Marginal note in the NASB
8. Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.