



**Module** : Understanding, Accessing & Growing in GRACE

**Session 13** : Humility Accesses A Greater Grace - Part 5

**Focus** : Having Sight and Tracking the Spiritual Development and Upgrades of Your Spiritual Father Positions you for Greater Grace

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This study is a direct continuation from the previous session twelve. In that session, we demonstrated from the Scriptures that costly, courageous and daring obedience in both spiritual fathers and spiritual sons evidences and expresses true humility, to which grace is attracted for the accomplishment of strategic Divine purposes.

Grace configures our identity as God's sons, but also serves to empower our function as we execute the will of God. If grace is most amplified within the spiritual father-son dyad, then grace will also serve to enable and empower both father and son in the execution and successful attainment of the divine purposes of God attendant with that mandate. The father-son relationship must go beyond love and loyalty expressed inwardly between the two parties, to being a powerful dynamic that God would use to fulfill some significant purpose He has, not just for that relationship but beyond that relationship, for the benefit of people far and wide – even globally. You and I must commit to the father-son dyad not only with the motivation of it benefitting our own spiritual development and maturation in Christ, but also with the desire for it to be used by God to attain His will relative to that relationship, a will that involves others outside of that relationship.

There must be love, loyalty and an intense spirit and soul commitment between fathers and sons. But also, there must be an awareness of the PURPOSE OF GOD, which will be transmitted in and through that relationship with others in mind. There was substantial divine purpose attendant with the following father-son relationships in Scripture:

- Abraham and Isaac
- Isaac and Jacob
- Jacob and his sons
- Moses and Joshua
- Naomi and Ruth
- Mordecai and Esther
- Elijah and Elisha
- Paul and Timothy
- Paul and Titus

The present study focuses on exploring how sons walked closely with their fathers so that ultimately Divine purpose was attained – purposes which transcended the immediacy of the

relationship and which played out for other people in their sphere, beyond their sphere and even beyond their time, to generations to be born years after them. For this to be true, it demands of a son to track the spiritual movement and development of his spiritual father in Christ.

### LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

#### (1) PAUL AND TIMOTHY

Spiritual sons must track their spiritual fathers in terms of how God speaks to them, their expressions of obedience and faith, etc. Much of this would take place in and through the Word of God released through the spiritual father.

**2 Tim. 2:1,2** You therefore, my son, be **STRONG IN THE GRACE** that is in Christ Jesus. The things which **YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME** in the presence of many witnesses, **entrust these** to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Timothy is encouraged to be **STRONG IN THE GRACE** that is in CHRIST JESUS. How will this take place? Timothy is to focus on **'THINGS HE HAS HEARD FROM PAUL'**. Grace is transmitted through the Word of God which we hear. Faith comes by hearing. Sons must be immersed in the doctrine of their spiritual fathers so that faith for obedience can be produced. One hearing is insufficient. The son must hear the same teaching over and over again until it is incarnated within his life through obedience. Faith comes by **HEARING, AND HEARING** by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). The phrase 'and hearing' does not simply seek to elaborate the first 'hearing' indicated in the sentence. The deeper symbolic truth is that **the 'second' hearing** produces faith. The second hearing does not literally mean the second time, but the **hearing sufficient enough to produce faith**, which is manifested as obedience (works).

**Psalms 62:11** **ONCE** God has spoken; **TWICE** I have HEARD this: That power belongs to God.

God may speak once, but with your spirit, you must hear it twice, meaning if you fail to listen to sermons more than once or fail to meditate on what you have heard, the principle of the 'second' hearing will not be produced in you.

Also, God's speaking 'once' but you hearing 'twice' alludes to you hearing things beyond what was originally spoken. At times you must hear something that serves as a trigger or a key, opening up a new realm of truth to you.

Paul implied to Timothy that the only reason why is he able to pass on to others what he has received from Paul is that he (Timothy) has HEARD them from Paul.

**NOW HEAR THIS:** You must not only hear the word from your spiritual father and observe his own obedience of that word in his person, but also **seek to note the process of God's communication with him in how he receives that Word.** Having sight of and insight into this process, is a powerful means by which a significant quality of grace is imparted – specifically grace to accomplish significant purpose.

Thus it becomes all the more important for spiritual sons to continuously and persistently listen to messages from their spiritual father. This includes being present at meetings, and also listening recurrently to recordings of those messages. I cannot overestimate the great importance of and profound spiritual value in this process.

Timothy also followed Paul's lifestyle and trials in varying contexts.

**2 Tim. 3:10a**      Now **YOU FOLLOWED** my **TEACHING, CONDUCT, PURPOSE,** faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, ...

Note the word '**PURPOSE**' in the text above. Timothy followed Paul's purpose and sought to facilitate that purpose being executed in the earth. The first three issues mentioned that Timothy followed in Paul are:

1. Teaching
2. Conduct
3. Purpose

A son can never seek to follow and support his father's purpose, if his father's teaching is not solidly imbibed within himself, and secondly if he is not convinced as to the integrity and accuracy of his father's conduct. May I encourage all sons to do this. When these three things are in place, the spiritual father's '**faith, love, perseverance, persecutions and sufferings**' will also be followed and embraced by the spiritual son. The imperative, though, is couched in the word **FOLLOW!** Follow closely! Follow consistently! Follow ardently! Follow with your whole heart!

Timothy adopted the purpose of God vested in Paul. He became as one soul with Paul (see texts below). He did not pursue his own ambition but only what was modeled in him in Paul's life.

**1 Cor. 4:17** For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my **beloved and faithful child in the Lord,** and he will **remind you of my ways** which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

Timothy teaches 'Paul's ways' - BUT only his ways WHICH ARE IN CHRIST. Thus, it is really Christ's ways modeled in and through Paul. But Timothy cannot teach Paul's ways if he has not ardently followed and tracked Paul's ways. Paul's 'ways' are literally the ways of Christ.

**Ways = hodos<sup>1</sup>** = - Way of thinking, feeling, acting, manner of life and conduct  
 - Way or method of proceeding, of doing or affecting something

In tracking and following Paul's manner of life and closely observing his methodologies of administration of various things, Timothy comes into imbibing the same qualities. What was in Paul came to be in Timothy to such a degree that Paul said he has the same soul as himself.

**Phil. 2:19-22** But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their OWN INTERESTS, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth, that he SERVED WITH ME in the furtherance of the gospel like a child SERVING HIS FATHER.

'KINDRED SPIRIT' is also rendered 'LIKE-MINDED' in the King James Version of the Bible. In the Greek, this means 'equal in soul'. Timothy thought like Paul, decided like Paul and felt like Paul. For a spiritual son to come to such sameness of soul as his spiritual father demands that he studies and knows his fathers' 'ways' which ARE IN CHRIST.

Note, Timothy served WITH Paul by serving Paul. In serving Paul, he served the purposes of God in Paul. When he did this, great GRACE attended Timothy because of the mandate of purpose associated with their relationship. Wanting more grace without positioning yourself to support the purposes vested in your spiritual father is futile, because grace in this context is given specifically among other things to empower and enable the attainment of purpose. Prioritising, pursuing and seeking to supportively facilitate Divine purpose stewarded by one's spiritual father, positions one for progressive and significant increase in the GRACE OF GOD.

## **(2) NAOMI AND RUTH**

Ruth functioned as a spiritual son to Naomi (see Ruth 4:15). Ruth committed to follow Naomi, saying, "Where you go, I will go", implying she would track Naomi's spiritual movement and growth (Ruth 1:16). When she said, "Your God will be my God", she was not just indicating a desire to worship Jehovah God of the Jews, but that the quality of Naomi's relationship with God would indeed be hers also (Ruth 1:16).

If you are able to "go where your spiritual father goes" – tracking his spiritual upgrades and upward 'ascensions' in his own pursuit of expressions of God's nature and execution of HIS purpose, THEN "his God will be your God", i.e. you enter into the experience and privileges of the quality of relationship he has established with every ascent in his own progression. You 'go where your father goes' not physically but spiritually, by closely following and obeying his teachings and pursuing the purposes of God vested in him.

Ruth's sonship toward Naomi was purposeful. A significant result of her obedience to Naomi was her marriage to Boaz. This union produced Obed, who became the father Jesse, who became the father of King David. From David's line, of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ would come to be born. So Ruth's following hard after Naomi's walk with God within Bethlehem (House of Bread) of Judah (this highlights the 'apostolic' principle), secured the attainment of God's purposes not just for their time and context, but even set the basis and foundation for God's will playing itself out successfully to future generations to come. In fact, you and I today are direct beneficiaries of Ruth's relationship with Naomi, because Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Saviour of the world, would issue forth from David's genealogical line. David was the great grandson of Ruth. The spiritual father-son relationship can produce strategic results. The imperative is for a son to obey the instructions or Word released in and through the spiritual father, and also to track the spiritual development of the father closely, and so follow.

### (3) ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Elisha, as a spiritual son to Elijah, wanted a double portion of his anointing. For Elisha to receive the double portion from Elijah, the only requirement was that Elisha must SEE Elijah when he is taken up into Heaven (2 Kings 2:9-10).

2 Kings 2: 9,10 When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let **a double portion of your spirit be upon me.**" He said, "You have asked **a hard thing.** Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

This did occur, for as Elijah was taken up into Heaven, he threw his mantle upon Elisha. The principle is that as a spiritual son is able to perceive and note the '**ascent**' of his spiritual father, in that process of him observing the elevation of his father, whatever grace is present within the father becomes the preserve of the sons. Sons must keenly track the upward development of their spiritual fathers. Every upward ascent, if observed, understood and assimilated, could very well bring the son into the same. There is a significant potential grace deposit for the son if he closely tracks the growth and development of his spiritual father in Christ.

**See = raáh =** Look at, inspect, perceive, consider, to inspect<sup>2</sup>  
To look at, regard, look after, see after, learn about, observe, watch, look upon, look out, find out, give attention to, discern, distinguish<sup>3</sup>

As indicated above, the word "see" does not simply indicate a casual glance but **intense perception**. You must SEE your spiritual father – behold him, not simply in the flesh but in the spirit. Your LOOK toward him must be an appropriate one because you perceive the importance of his role and the purity of his spirit. This "SEEING" has reference to your outlook and fundamental view that you have of your father. If it is favourable, based upon your honest and

accurate perceptions regarding him, then you are ideally positioned to receive a double portion of his anointing and grace. If it is negative because you fail to accurately perceive the importance of his role and the sincerity of his heart posture, then you will inhibit the transmission and impartation of his grace and anointing to you.

Elisha and his spiritual sons continued the purposes of God given to Elijah. Their relationship was not just loving but purposeful.

### God's command to Elijah:

#### 1 Kings 19:15-16

- 15 The Lord said to him (*Elijah*), "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram;
- 16 and Jehu the son of Nimshi **YOU SHALL anoint king over Israel**; and **Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.**

Elijah was commanded to anoint Jehu as King of Israel, but never got to actually do this. Elisha, who was Elijah's spiritual son, realises that a mandate over his spiritual father's life was still unfulfilled, so he takes up this assignment upon himself. He does not actually do it himself, but instructs one of his own sons – one of the sons of the prophets to fulfill this assignment. The commitment of Elisha as a son to Elijah was so strong and authentic, that he acts to complete his father's assignment. The commitment of Elisha's sons toward him was strong, so that Elisha could literally send them as accurate representations of himself and his father Elijah.

### Elisha's commandment to one of the sons of the prophets :

#### 2 Kings 9:1-4

- 1 Now Elisha the prophet called **one of the sons of the prophets** and said to him, "Gird up your loins, and take this flask of oil in your hand and go to Ramoth-gilead.
- 2 "When you arrive there, search out Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in and bid him arise from among his brothers, and bring him to an inner room.
- 3 "Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, 'Thus says the Lord, "I have anointed you king over Israel." ' Then open the door and flee and do not wait."
- 4 So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead

The command or assignment given to a spiritual father was fulfilled three generations later. A spiritual son is passionate about bringing finalisation to all outstanding, unfulfilled matters in reference to his fathers' spiritual assignment on the earth. When God sees this in the son, He will dispense GREAT GRACE to facilitate this because HIS WILL is at stake.

#### (4) DAVID AND HIS MEN (SPIRITUAL SONS)

The four hundred men who gathered unto David at the Adullam Cave joined to him before he was recognised as king either by Judah or by Israel (1 Sam. 22). When they eventually regarded his Kingship at Hebron, they confessed that even while Saul was king, it was he, David, who led them out and in.

##### 2 Sam. 5:1-3

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. Previously, when Saul was king over us, YOU WERE THE ONE who led Israel out and in. And the Lord said to you, 'You will SHEPHERD My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them before the Lord at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel.

In other words, all the while, even before Saul's kingly reign would end through his death, they had been **studying David, tracking him, observing his patterns of movements, behaviour, influence and leadership** over Israel. Many of these would become David's mighty men. Through their association with and support of David, the grace of God on David's life would be imparted to them such that they would do extraordinary things. But the process of this is underpinned by **a keen observation these men had of David**.

Note the emphasis of the following verses, which highlight how men came to David to help him at Hebron:

##### 1 Chron. 11:10

Now these are the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who gave him STRONG SUPPORT in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

**Support = chazaq** = to be strong, to strengthen, to be courageous, to overpower<sup>4</sup>.

##### 1 Chron. 12:1

Now these are the ones who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men WHO HELPED HIM in war.

**Help = azar** = to surround, to protect<sup>5</sup>, to support, to give material or non-material encouragement to a person<sup>6</sup>.

##### 1 Chron. 12: 17,18

17 David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to me to help me, my HEART SHALL BE UNITED with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide."



18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, and he said, "WE ARE YOURS, O David, And WITH YOU, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to him who helps you; Indeed, your God helps you!" Then David received them and made them captains of the band.

1 Chron. 12:20,21

- 21 THEY HELPED DAVID against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and were captains in the army.
- 22 For day by day MEN CAME TO DAVID TO HELP HIM, until there was A GREAT ARMY LIKE THE ARMY OF GOD.

1 Chron. 11:10 quoted above says that David's men gave him 'STRONG SUPPORT'.

The word for support here is **chazaq = to be strong, to strengthen, to be courageous, to overpower**<sup>7</sup>. The literal meaning of this word is '**TO FASTEN UPON**'. David's men literally 'fastened' or attached themselves to him. The King James Version renders this verse as follows ...

*These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had,  
WHO STRENGTHENED THEMSELVES WITH HIM in his kingdom, and with all Israel,  
to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.*

Where the NASB simply says they gave him strong support, the KJV says they strengthened themselves with him. Herein is a powerful principle: Holding fast to and supporting your spiritual leader will be beneficial for both of you. In fastening yourself in submission and support to him, you are in actual fact, strengthening yourself in the process.

The opposite is also true: if you rebel and withhold your support, you will be spiritually impoverished and weakened. **AS A SPIRITUAL SON, IT IS ULTIMATELY IN YOUR BEST INTEREST THAT YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER IS STRONG AND HAS YOUR STRONG SUPPORT. YOU ACTUALLY STRENGTHEN YOURSELF BY STRENGTHENING HIM.**

## **(5) MOSES AND THE SEVENTY ELDERS**

To assist Moses with the task of leadership, the Spirit on him was transferred to seventy elders, who would not only share the burden of leadership with him, but also function according to the same frequency and proficiency as he would. The only requirement God gave to Moses in order for the spirit that was on him to be transferred to the seventy elders, was that they '**stand where he stands**' at the Tabernacle of Meeting and note how 'God speaks to Moses'.



**Num. 11:16-17:** The Lord therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them **TAKE THEIR STAND WITH YOU THERE.** Then I will come down and **speak with you there,** and **I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put Him upon them;** and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear it all alone.

**Stand = Yasab<sup>8</sup>** = To stand, to confront, to take one's stand.  
 To station oneself, to take a firm stand (1 Sam. 3:10).  
 It has the sense of presenting oneself at a location (Deut. 31:14) or to take a firm position on something (2 Sam. 18:13).  
 It is used of putting oneself in a place of honor (Prov. 22:29); of a soldier taking his place in the armed forces (Jer. 46:4); or a person placing himself among the people of Israel in assembly (Judg. 20:2).

If the seventy are to stand where **Moses** stands, they must follow him closely. In the process of their observation of how God speaks to Moses, the Spirit on Moses is transferred to them. If they cannot keenly note the impartational flow from God to Moses, they would not receive an impartational flow from Moses to themselves.

Herein are important lessons for spiritual sons:

- (a) spiritually, always strive to 'stand' where your spiritual father 'stands' – follow closely;
- (b) by keenly listening to his preaching and teaching, you must note not just the content of his delivery, but you will also gain insight into the manner of God's speaking to him.

## **(6) ABRAHAM AND ISAAC**

Isaac witnessed the obedience of his father, Abraham, in a courageous act of obedience, in willing to sacrifice him on Mount Moriah. He too heard God's affirmation of Abraham because of this act of obedience and the endorsement of previous prophetic promises, which now was firmly entrenched that it would certainly come to pass. Isaac walked up the mount with his father Abraham. This is a picture of a son following closely after his father, observing his 'ascent' to a higher place of obedience to God, and following that same pattern of obedience (See session 12 in this series for the effects this had on Isaac).

## **CONCLUSION**

As we conclude this session, be aware of this fact: Tracking your spiritual father's development and growth by following his doctrine and the example of his exemplary behaviour in Christ will definitely position you for great grace. This grace is essential for the sons' spiritual development and empowerment for the fulfillment of the purposes of God attendant with that father-son union.

One of the other great ways in which a son ensures an unimpeded grace transfer is by being a support in spiritual and practical ways. We saw this with David and his men and in how Timothy served Paul.

Here are a few more examples of this:

- **THE PHILIPPIANS SUPPORTED PAUL**

Paul indicated that the needs of the **Philippian church** would be provided for by God, but he referenced God as 'his God' supplying 'their need' (Phil. 4:19).

**Phil. 4:19** And MY God will supply all YOUR needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

As spiritual sons to Paul, they partook of the grace of God (Phil. 1:7) in him primarily by their financial gifts to him (Phil. 4:10-12). They became recipients and beneficiaries of the privileges enjoyed by Paul based on the level of intimacy he personally enjoyed with God. Their financial support ensured his execution of God's will in his apostolic calling, and by this, grace was imparted to them. They too now enjoy the benefits of Paul's ministerial success and quality of relationship with God. Paul uses his place with God as the vantage point from which God will provide for them in view of their direct participation in the grace of God given to him (See this principle also demonstrated in 2 Cor. 9:8). The obedience of the Philippian church in honouring Paul financially as a spiritual father benefited them directly.

- **ELISHA SUPPORTED ELIJAH**

**2 Kings 3:11** But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."

Elisha's greatest validating factor making him eligible to minister prophetically, giving direction to a king, was not so much his miracles nor accurate prophetic record up to that point, but the way in which he positioned himself in reference to Elijah - by pouring water on his hands, an image which refers to the readiness to execute divine purpose.

- JOSHUA SERVING MOSES

**Ex. 24:13** So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

**Ex. 33:11** Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

- RUTH SERVING NAOMI

Ruth's (the spiritual son's) rapid movement into complete redemption by Boaz (who symbolically represents Christ), was amongst other things, because of the manner in which she consistently ministered to the material and practical needs of Naomi (the spiritual father).

**Ruth 2:11** Boaz replied to her, "**All that you have done** for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me.

**Ruth 3:17** She said, "These six *measures* of barley he gave to me, for he said, 'Do not go to your mother-in-law **empty-handed**.'"

The principles I have shared in this study have been among the most important factors that have been the cause of my own spiritual growth and development. I trust you find that these truths will aid your progression in spiritual things too.

May all grace and peace abound to you,  
Randolph Barnwell

[See Endnotes Overleaf]

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