

## **I. RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE**

**Grace is God's goodness, favor, and power which He bestows on people.**

- A. Jesus lived with God's grace upon His life. He came full of grace and truth (John 1:14-17).
- B. Grace imparts God's enabling power on our hearts (2 Pet. 3:18).
- C. To receive grace is to receive God's power on our hands as well (Rom. 12:6; cf. Eph. 4:7).
- D. Grace is received by faith (Eph. 2:8-9) - confident agreement with God's Word and His Spirit.

## **II. EXPOSING LEGALISM**

**Legalism is engaging in spiritual activities to earn favor from God.**

- A. Legalism leads us to falsely think that we are in good standing with God because of our good works (Gal. 5:3; James 2:10).
- B. Legalism puts us on a roller-coaster-spirituality where we are up one week, then down the next depending on our "spiritual performance." We will eventually get worn out.
- C. Legalism minimizes God's grace and leaves us under bondage to it (Matt. 11:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:17-21).

## **III. TWO SIGNS THAT YOU MIGHT BE LIVING UNDER THE YOKE OF LEGALISM:**

- A. Pride before God and people. Measuring our dedication and calling and comparing it to others (Heb. 12:2). Seeking to live by works and not by faith (Rom. 14:23; Gal. 3:2-5). We will never reach the point where we are righteous enough on our own (Rom. 3:10).

- B. Beating yourself up when you fail. Living under a heavy burden. "I failed! God hates me!"

***Gal.5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (cf. Acts 15:10).***

Many people put *themselves* under a yoke of bondage to legalism – trying to do things to get God to accept you or to like you. True grace causes us to strive to work out what God has already put in us (Phil. 2:12). The power and energy is God's (1 Cor. 12:6). We need to respond and strive so that we do not take God's grace in vain. (1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 2:21; Heb. 11:6).

## **IV. BE AS CHILDREN: FREELY RECEIVE WITH HUMILITY**

- A. A child is confident of receiving blessing and favor from his/her parents (Mt. 18:4; Jam. 4:6).
- B. Our dedication to obedience flows out of gratitude (Rom. 2:4; Luke 7:47).