

## **I. GROWING IN GRACE**

- Grace is God's goodness, favor, and power which He bestows on people.
- Legalism (simple definition) is engaging in spiritual activities to earn favor from God. Two signs that you might be living under legalism: 1) Pride. 2) Beating yourself up when you fail.
- Justice is getting what we deserve both positively and negatively. God's mercy grants us forgiveness so that we do not receive the wrath that we fully deserve. God's grace imparts His power and blessing to those who do not deserve it (Heb. 4:16)

## **II. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OUR REPENTANCE**

- We receive God's righteousness, love and favor because of what Jesus did not because of what we do (Rom. 3:21-31). Our acceptance before God in eternity will not be more than it is now (2 Cor. 5:21; Titus 3:4-5).
- It is necessary to have a sincere heart attitude of repentance to receive God's saving grace. Repentance means to turn from sin and to God. It is a change of the attitude of the heart that always eventually results in a progressive change in our character (Luke 13:3)

## **III. GOD'S ENJOYS US EVEN IN OUR WEAKNESS**

- The pursuit of full obedience is different than attaining it. The Lord is pleased with us from the time that we set our heart to obey and long before our obedience matures.
- Struggling in weakness (spiritual immaturity) is not the same as being a hopeless hypocrite (rebellion). Rebellion is a heart response that persistently says "No" to God and has no immediate plan to obey Him (1 Sam. 15:22-23).
- God understands our weaknesses far greater than we do (Ps. 103:10-14; 78:37-39).
- Jesus feels compassion over the prodigals on the day they repent. Jesus immediately rejoices over us at the time of our repentance (Luke 15:4-7, 18-22)
- The revelation of God's love and grace gives us confidence that we can stand boldly before God (1 John 4:17-18).
- We view conviction of our sin differently when we feel God's tender love (Song 1:5). We embrace spiritual disciplines and work through the unsettled issues of our heart with more consistency if we have confidence that God enjoys us (2 Cor. 12:9).