

I. RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

- A. **Grace is God's goodness, favor, and power which He bestows on people.** Grace imparts God's enabling power (to our inner man to walk in righteousness and to function in ministry). This is not saying that we grow in forgiveness, but in God's power (Gal. 6:18; Philemon 1:25; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 12:9)
- B. Legalism (simple definition) is engaging in spiritual activities to earn favor from God. Two signs that you might be living under legalism: 1) Pride. "I'm doing well! Yahoo! God likes me and I'm better than you." 2) Beating yourself up when you fail. "I failed! God hates me!"

II. JESUS CALLS US TO STRIVE TO ENTER THE NARROW GATE

- A. We strive to enter the narrow gate (walk in full obedience and to experience the Spirit's life).
Enter by the narrow gate...¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life (experience God in our inner man), and there are few who find it. (Mt. 7:13-14)

"Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, ²⁴ Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (Lk. 13:23-24)
- B. Paul exerted much effort in seeking to live without any compromise before God and people.
I always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. (Acts 24:16)
- C. We do not strive to earn God's love (acceptance, affection or forgiveness) but to live in holiness (breakthrough in the heart so we might enjoy what He enjoys). It has been freely given to us because of Jesus' work on the cross. Nor should we strive to establish God's promises for our life in our own way and timing by pressuring people to respond to us.

III. PURSUING 100-FOLD OBEDIENCE

- A. We strive or exert great effort to bring all of our life energies into conformity with what pleases Jesus
- B. The Christian life is cooperation with God's grace.
- C. To come to God with the true teaching of grace is essential because the power of grace in the Christian life is only experienced in consistently pursuing 100-fold obedience. This pursuit is different than attaining it.

Phil. 3:12-13 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended (NASB: laid hold of it yet); but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- D. The pursuit of “complete obedience” includes making a *covenant with our eyes* (Job 31:1), *bridling our speech* (Jas 3:2; Eph. 4:29-5:4), *managing our time* (for service and prayer with the Word) *and money* to increase the Kingdom beyond our comfort and honor (Mt. 6:19-21) as we engage in *communing prayer* with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14).