



5785 2025 The Year of Greater Grace for The Next Level Pt. 3

Sunday Sermon – 11/10/2024

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

James 4:6-10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

To operate in the greater grace of 5785, we must get a clearer picture of our real reality as born-again believers.

Most Christians just see themselves as saved, just being saved from hellfire and going to heaven, and that's it. But we need to understand that our salvation entails so much more!

The next level encourages us to view the world from a kingdom perspective, embracing a broader and deeper spiritual reality that can transform our understanding.

This expanded spiritual awareness of the kingdom will help us learn how to operate according to its rules and principles.

This approach represents a completely different ideology that consistently produces kingdom results.

How can you handle your enemies from the kingdom's perspective? **Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons (Mature Children) of your Father in heaven;**

How to get more of what you need or desire. **Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."**

The reason most born-again believers don't work these principles is that they haven't truly identified their born-again citizenship

The Bible says that we are citizens of a Kingdom that is not of this world (the Kingdom of God) This must become our reality. **Philippians 3:20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.**

Once this becomes our reality, we talk, think, and perceive this natural reality differently.

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family (His Household).

The term "household" holds profound significance, as it emphasizes that we are not merely within the Kingdom but rather we reside in the sacred Household where Father God, the Creator of the Universe, lives.

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This implies a deep family connection, highlighting the intimate relationship with All Mighty God as His Children, and WE SHARE ALL THINGS WITH JESUS.

The reality is that we are His children because we have been brought with a price (the Blood of Jesus), and we are not our own.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1:17 (NLT) And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do.

This law has been in effect from the beginning. **Genesis 4:7 (NLT) You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."**

Since the Bible says God shows no favorites, then why does it look like some people get rewarded more than others? It's because God is a rewarder of principles, not of people.

1 Peter 1:17 ...So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners (*foreigners meaning that we must identify ourselves as being in this world but not of this world*) in the land (*land meaning on the earth*)." 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors.

The principles that embody the promises of God's Kingdom are crafted to offer a life rich in abundance and fulfillment.

They invite you to experience a profound existence like God, one that overflows with joy, purpose, and generosity, enriching every aspect of your being.

And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

God knows that the most precious commodity in the universe is the blood of the innocent, for it was by the blood of Jesus that we are saved and heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Without the blood of the innocent Lamb of God, Our Faith would be limited.

*The price that it took to buy us back from the possession of Satan was already determined by God before the foundation of the world. **Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

Those of us who are born-again believers are part of the Kingdom of God, which is a different government, economic, social, and governmental system that surpasses any other in this world.

As members of the Kingdom of God, we can find renewed strength and hope, knowing that we are supported by a divine King who cares deeply for us. He promises to meet all of our needs, nurture our pure desires, and

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shield us from harm. No matter what challenging circumstances or unfamiliar environments we may encounter, we can rest assured that we are under His vigilant watch and unfailing protection.

The best that this world has to offer, God's kingdom is at least a thousand times better!

We, born-again believers, have an opportunity to operate from that kingdom right now.

Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Many Christian perspectives on reality appear to be largely shaped by the influences of the world around them. As a result, individuals often find themselves living lives that mirror those of their non-Christian peers. These are people who tend to seek God's assistance only in moments of desperation when they feel they have exhausted all other possibilities. In those times, they may pray fervently, hoping for a response, and occasionally, they might find that He answers their pleas in unexpected ways.

Most born-again believers don't know who they are or the kingdom they are in!

The governmental system of the Kingdom of God is founded on love, fueled by faith, and run by the Word of wisdom of the Almighty God.

This government system has a king named Jesus Christ. This king has been given His authority from the orchestrator and creator of all things, "Father God."

In the Kingdom of God, there is a hierarchy.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Family order, governmental order, and priestly order.