



## **5785 2025 The Year of Greater Grace for The Next Level Pt.2**

**Sunday Sermon – 11/3/2024**

**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 invites us to see the world through a kingdom perspective, embracing a broader and deeper spiritual reality that will transform our understanding.*

*It must become a reality to us that we are in this world, but we are not of this world. **John 17:15-17 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.***

*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.*

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.

*No matter who wins the election, this world is headed towards a one-world government with the antichrist being its leader and the false prophet backing him up!*

*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 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, as 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,**

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*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.*

This governmental system has an army greater than any other man-made army in the physical world. This army comprises angelic hosts who go out and minister on behalf of Jesus Christ and on behalf of Saints.

We are called-out believers who are Kings and Priests, born of the spirit and not just of the flesh.

*I will keep reminding us of this until our speech changes to the language of the kingdom as servant leaders.*

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, (out of the eight billion people on this earth we are the ones chosen in this generation to be called by God)**

**a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.**

**Revelation 5:9-10 ...And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."**

Kingdom-born-again believers are royal priests who operate as servant leaders, understanding that we have authority, but we also recognize that we are responsible for those we serve, both God and man.

We, who are kings and priests, are now being trained in the age of grace.

We must learn how to think like royalty in training. Operating in humility while knowing you have whatever you need at your disposal.

One reason for this age of grace is that we are training, which gives us an opportunity to make mistakes while we prepare to rule and reign. *In other words, it gives us another chance to get it right.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT) God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can**

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**boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

Without grace, mistakes would lead to disqualification from our ordained position established before the foundation of the world.

*Notice we are a masterpiece. When we were saved, we became a blank canvas. As we navigate the peaks and valleys of our lives, as we follow the Holy Spirit, God is painting a picture on the blank canvas of our lives, revealing, molding and making what He had planned for us before the foundation of the world.*

God is getting us ready for our ultimate goal which is to rule and reign with King Jesus for 1000 years.

As this world gets worse, we, God's called-out ones who are training to be kings and priests, will have an opportunity in this season to embrace greater grace than we ever have before.

**James 4:6 But He gives more grace (Greater 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.**

**Romans 5:20 ...But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, As sin increases, grace "super-increases." It brings us good despite our wrongdoing, grace cannot be overwhelmed by our sinfulness. The more we sin, the more grace God offers forgiveness and the opportunity to get it right.**