



2021

SEMINAR FOUR

THE GRACE OF GOD WAS UNLOCKED BY THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS BY REV. DR. SEGUN JOHNSON

1. All the patriarchs enjoyed tremendous grace from the Lord.

- Abraham was very rich in gold, cattle and silver
- Isaac was very rich and waxed strong and very strong
- Jacob was very rich; richer than his employer; his uncle
- Joseph was blessed
- Moses was empowered.

All the fathers obtained good reports because they could unlock God's grace with their faith. God's grace of abundance, goodness and mercy was never in doubt or to be debated. But only those who could keep the faith enjoyed it all.

Everyone has a package of blessing from God waiting to be unlocked by his/her faith in God. Your package of blessings is yours irrespective of your behaviour. Grace abounds. For example, your salvation package is ready, paid for by Jesus Christ irrespective of your past behaviour.

The salvation of the unbeliever is ready today but would need the grace of God through faith to be received. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* - Ephesians 2:8 (KJV).

So, what did the fathers know that we need to know? How did they do things that we need to uncover and also do?

2. Since the beginning of the world, everything was created by the faith of God and subject to the principle of faith.

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF FAITH?

Everything on earth is created by the Word of God and consequently must respond to it (the Word of God).

God created the heavens and the earth by the Word of faith. *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* - Hebrews 11:3 (KJV).

Consequently, the fig tree that responded to the admonition of Jesus did so because it was created by God and MUST RESPOND to the WORD OF GOD.

“By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed and created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” - Hebrews 11:3 (AMP).

In Hebrews 11:2, the patriarchs simply took the Word of God, cringed unto it, trusted it, relied on it and therefore obtained a good report. *“For by it the elders obtained a good report.” - Hebrews 11:2 (KJV).*

They were commended and obtained a good report (approval) which becomes a recommendation to us.

THE EXAMPLE OF MR FORD AND THE BROKEN DOWN FORD CAR.

NOTE: Your good report from your head teacher or WASC result or university degree is a commendation of your effort or lack of it. This in turn becomes a recommendation to your employers.

ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD IS MALFUNCTIONING.

Gideon's army of 22,000 men malfunctioned in fear. Their report which God saw was that they were not faithful but fearful of the enemy. Another 9,700 of the remnant of Gideon's army had a watchful error. Only 300 of them had a good report of God's kind of faith and Gideon's. With that kind of God's faith, Gideon was bound to win. The Word of God to Gideon which he held on to was: *“...By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.” - Judges 7:7 (KJV).*

3. THE POWER IN THE WORD OF GOD

a) The creative ability of the Word of God.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” - Genesis 1:1-3 (KJV).

b) The dynamic life in the Word of God. *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” - Matthew 4:4 (KJV).*

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” - Acts 17:28 (KJV).

c) The Word of God destroys the works of Satan. *"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."* - Isaiah 54:17 (KJV).

4. THE WORD OF GOD TRANSFERRED TO OUR TONGUES

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." - Luke 10:19 (KJV).

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God..." - Mark 11:22-24 (KJV).

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)..." - Romans 10:6-10 (KJV).

"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye..." - Matthew 18:18-19 (KJV).

5. WHAT IS THE GRACE OF GOD?

It is the release of God's abundance of goodness, beauty and blessedness unto man. God's grace did not start in the New Testament. It has been in the inside of God before the foundation of the world.

Before man was formed, God had released the abundance of His goodness for making the creation of the heavens and the earth. The Garden of Eden was filled with all sorts of food, rivers, beautiful stones, etc. EVERYTHING GOD CREATED FOR MAN WAS VERY GOOD. *"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* Genesis 1:31 (KJV).

6. WHEN GOD SAW THAT THE LONELINESS OF MAN WAS NOT GOOD, HE STARTED THE PROCESS OF MAKING IT GOOD

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." - Genesis 2:18 (KJV).

In verse 22, God gave Adam the wedding speech for his wife. In verse 23, He told him to treat her like his bone and flesh and call her 'woman'. In verse 24, He told him to leave and cling to her until they become one. In verse 25, He asked him to open up to her and not be ashamed.

THAT GOD IS GOOD MEANS HE IS GRACIOUS, BENEFICIAL AND PROFITABLE

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" - II Timothy 3:16 (KJV).

GOD'S GRACE HAS BEEN THERE IMMEMORIAL.

IN HIS GLORY WAS HIS GRACE.

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” - Exodus 34:6-7 (KJV).

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.” - Numbers 6:22-27 (KJV).

THEREFORE GRACE IS THE RELEASE OF THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S GOODNESS INTO HUMANITY

7. TO UNLOCK THE GRACE OF GOD, YOU NEED TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND HAVE GOD'S KIND OF FAITH

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.” - Mark 11:22 (KJV).

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6 (KJV).

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” - Hebrews 10:38-39 (KJV).

8. THE FATHERS KNEW THAT THEY HAD GRACE (THE RELEASE OF ABUNDANT BLESSINGS) WITH GOD AND STOOD FIRMLY ON THE WORD OF GOD UNTIL THE EVIDENCE CAME TO PASS.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” - Hebrews 11:1 (KJV).

- a) Abraham's faith unlocked Isaac; a coveted and covenanted child of God. Abraham received abundant goods in the times of famine from Pharaoh and Abimelech. - Genesis 12 and 18.
- b) Isaac received a covenanted child from God in Jacob and plenty of goods in the time of famine at Gerar - Genesis 26:12.

- c) Jacob released the 12 tribes of Israel from his loins and received abundance of material blessings in Padanaram and Egypt during the time of famine - Genesis 32.
- d) Joseph unlocked his abundant blessings during famine in Egypt - Genesis 41.
- e) Moses lived a princely life in Egypt though a Jew and released 3 million souls from the captivity of Pharaoh - Exodus 14.
- f) David had uncommon victories over a lion, a bear and Goliath and became the king of a united Israel.
- g) Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and was saved. *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”* - Gen. 6:8-9 (KJV).

WHEN YOU KNOW IT, YOU OBTAIN IT. WHEN YOU OBTAIN IT, YOU USE IT.

The founding fathers knew that the Word of God is powerful and sharper than any edge of sword and USED IT.

FAITH EQUATION

FAITH + THE WORD OF GOD = THE RELEASE OF UNIQUE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- Hebrews 4:1-2, 12 (KJV).