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TWO MOUNTAIN PEAKS--FAITH AND SUPER GRACE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 20
HEBREWS 4:3

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Keep in mind always this thought--God The Holy Spirit must be controlling us and we must be in fellowship with God when we study Scripture. (So rebound and get back into fellowship before we study this amazing truth.)

We come to the cross, believe in Jesus Christ and are saved. It is permanent. It is a faith transaction. Behind all that is the faith provision of the cross. That's salvation grace, what we call phase 1 grace. Then there is what we call phase 2 grace, grace which God provides for the living of the Christian life. This salvation grace, phase 1 grace, does not involve your volition. We call this pure grace God provides whatever it takes to keep you alive in the Devil's world while you live in the midst of the Angelic Conflict. He gives air to breathe, food to eat, clothes to wear, water to drink, and etc. He gives all that is necessary for life. Then when we move on in life, God provides what we have in James 4:6 which we call "more grace" but more correctly translated "greater grace" or "super grace." Here your volition is involved. Super grace is the issue in living the Christian life.

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRIST DETERMINES YOUR SALVATION.

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD BIBLE DOCTRINE DETERMINES SUPER GRACE.

Then there is phase 3, which is the rapture or death, which ever comes first, and for this we are provided with what is called in Ephesians "Surpassing Grace."

So we have three kinds of grace--Salvation grace, super grace for living the Christian life and surpassing grace for eternity. The road toward super grace and surpassing grace is the road of positive volition. The road toward reversionism is the road of negative volition. On this upper road toward super grace there is the cup, and into this cup God pours and pours all the blessings we will take.

HEBREWS 4:3 "For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." This sentence begins with the word "gar" and it is used to give additional information. It may be translated "For" or "Now you see." Next we have the words "We which have believed" and this is an aorist, active, participle of "pisteuo." It is a constantive aorist and it sweeps the whole realm of faith and gathers it all up into one point. Our attitude toward doctrine is the turning point. Positive volition is necessary if we are ever to transfer doctrinal truth from our soul into our human spirit. So this aorist tense is a picture of the process by which you enter super grace. "Do enter into rest" is the main verb, but the action of the participle must proceed the action of the main verb in a greek sentence. In other words, it is necessary to believe before you can enter into rest. This brings us to the glorious doctrine of faith.

THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH1. DEFINITION.

Faith is non-meritorious thinking. Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception. It is contrary to all other meritorious systems of perception like rationalism and empiricism. Faith is the basis for all of our knowledge. Everything we have ever learned has a faith base.

2. FIVE GREEK WORDS FOR FAITH.

First The word, a noun called "pistis" and it means faith, faithful, reliable. In Greek it has four meanings--Faith, faithful, reliable, and doctrine.

Second The word, an adjective called "pistos" and it means dependable, inspiring trust, believing, the believing ones.

Third The word, a verb called "pisteuo" and it means to believe. It is a transitive verb and must have a subject and an object.

This is a verb where the merit always lies in the object, never in the subject. The subject is always non-meritorious. The subject is any member of the human race, and the object is Jesus Christ, the one and only Saviour. The result is salvation. (In super grace the object of faith is doctrine.)

Fourth The word is called "Peitho" and it means to obey. In the present tense it means to obey. In the aorist tense it means to persuade. In the perfect tense it means to have confidence.

Fifth The word is called "pistoo" and it means to show yourself to be faithful. It means also to have confidence.

3. HEBREW WORDS FOR FAITH.

First The word is "aman" and it means salvation. The root stem means a foundation. Abraham had believed the Bible says in Genesis 15:6 and it means he had God as a foundation. He believed and was saved.

Second The word is "Emun" and it means faithfulness. To be constant and consistent as a believer. This is a masculine noun.

Third The word is "Emunah" and this is a feminine noun and means truth, firmness, to be steady.

Fourth The word is "amen" and means truth.

Fifth The word is "omen" and means faithfulness.

Sixth The word is "Emeth" and means true doctrine.

Seventh The word is "Batach." This is the basic word for faith rest. It is a wrestling word. You wrestle and slam your opponent on the ground. Here you slam your problems on the Lord.

PSALM 37:3 "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

PSALM 91:2 "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

This word is usually translated trust.

Eighth The word is "Chasah". Used of a rabbit running from a larger animal and finding a safe place in the rock where the larger animal cannot go. It means to take refuge in something.

PSALM 57:1 "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast."

Ninth A verb "Jachal" (pronounced yachal). It means to trust God in times of great pressure or pain.

Tenth "Qawah" and this is the strongest word in Hebrew for faith. ISAIAH 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

LAMENTATION 3:25 "The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."

This word is generally translated "to wait." We are hopeless and helpless and must wait on him. It is like the central thread, very weak in itself. But other threads are woven around it and it becomes a rope that can't be broken. This word is often used for the super grace status.

4. DESCRIPTIVE DEFINITIONS OF FAITH.

HEBREWS 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Most of these definitions refer to the reality in unseen things.

5. BELIEVE VERBS ARE TRANSITIVE VERBS.

There is always a subject and always an object. The whole value of faith always lies in the object, not in the subject. Like "Have faith in God." The important thing in that sentence is the object of faith.

6. CLASSIFICATION OF THE OBJECTS OF FAITH.

a. Salvation The object of faith in salvation is Jesus Christ, the only Saviour.

Acts 16:31

You believe and you will be saved.

(Also John 3:18 and John 3:36 and John 20:31)

The object of salvation is always Jesus Christ.

b. In living the Christian life

The object is the Word of God and Bible Doctrine. Promises are for baby Christians, then you move on to adult doctrine.

(Your "Charlie rest" will be superceded by your "Sammy super grace.") (2 Cor. 5:7) (Also Heb. 4:1-3 and Heb. 11:6)

7. LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF FAITH WE HAVE DEVELOPED.

a. All the believing in the world receives nothing but condemnation from God. Someone says, "Have faith, brother" or "Have faith, sister" and then they give you no doctrine and you have nothing. We all have faith. That's the only way you have ever learned anything. That's the way you learned math or history or geography. You study a map and you believe that country is there though you have never been there. Faith is your basic system of perception. Rationalism and empiricism come later. But at least 75% of all you ever learn in life rests on faith.

- b. However, the tiniest bit of faith, when you put it in Jesus Christ, is enough to save you. Just a little more than zero faith is enough to save you when you put it in Jesus Christ. (So, never doubt your salvation. You are not the important one in salvation, but Jesus is.)
- c. The efficacy of faith lies in the object of faith, not in the amount of your faith. It is the quality of the object, not the quantity of your faith that is important.
ACTS 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- d. Since Christ did all the work for your salvation when he died on the cross, then there is no work you do in believing. He did it all--you simply believe in the all he did.
- e. Therefore, faith is not something we do. But faith is the channel whereby we appropriate what God has already done for us.

8. LOOK AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAITH.

Now after salvation, faith must take on muscle and strength. You can't continue to exist on that little salvation faith with which you started. How do you develop faith?

- a. The daily function of faith perception.
ROMANS 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
This is putting strength in your faith. You believe doctrine and as you take in doctrine, strength flows in.
- b. The filling of the Holy Spirit puts strength into your faith.
GALATIANS 5:22. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"
- c. The function of faith-rest produces faith. Our passage here in Hebrews 4.
- d. Once you begin to develop a little faith, it has to be tested. Suffering is designed to test your faith.
1 PETER 1:7-8 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"
This is the same concept you have in weight lifting. You lift weights to test your muscle and to develop them.
- e. The quintessence of faith is occupation with Jesus Christ.
Hebrews 12:2

9. THE VICTORY OF FAITH.

1 John 5:4-5

All of this explains that phrase "the one having believed." The action of this participle preceded the action of the main verb, so the believing takes place before "you can enter into his kingdom." And you must believe before you can enter into the super grace life. "Do enter into rest" is a present, middle, indicative of "eiserchomai." This is a customary present, and it means this is the way it happens every time anyone believes and then goes on and takes in doctrine. Every time an Edification Complex is built in the soul and then truth is transferred over into the human spirit and you enter super grace. Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Positionally, we are seated at the right hand of God for we are "in Christ." And this is the

place of victory in the Angelic Conflict. That's the thing that broke Satan's back. He is still the ruler of this world now--but disaster awaits him down the road. So God starts pouring and if you have a big enough cup, he will just keep on pouring and the more he pours the more God is glorified. The middle voice of this "eiserchomai," this entering in, means that you are deeply involved in this process. It means the believer willingly enters into this process. The indicative mood means the reality of the result of his entering into super grace. "Into rest" is from "eis katapausis" and this is a real fulfillment of Romans 8:28. "All things blend for good" and you come out with super grace every time. The word "katapausis" is always used for super grace

THE DOCTRINE OF SUPER GRACE

1. DEFINITION.

Super grace is the final stage of growth beyond the Edification Complex of the soul. It is the final stage of growth as far as the Christian life on this earth is concerned. It is the area of reaping what God has sown. It is characterized by occupation with Christ. Super grace capacities like life, love, happiness, prosperity and adversity. Also it includes super grace blessings like promotion, wealth, success.

2. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPER GRACE.

It is characterized by "the cup that runs over."
Psalm 23:5

The cup is built out of a maximum intake of doctrine every day. You reap what God sowed for you in eternity past.

3. SOME DISTINCTIVE THINGS ABOUT SUPER GRACE.

Super grace must be distinguished from God's grace. It comes from such passages as James 4:6 where we read "more grace" but a correct translation is "greater grace." Grace is God's eternal provision apart from human volition. In grace God provides certain things for you apart from your volition, we call it salvation. Then he also provides our daily needs. Air to breathe, and other necessities of life. The fact that you are alive is a grace provision. But the "greater grace" of James 4:6 is God's provision for the believer based on human volition. This is the issue in the Angelic Conflict. So salvation grace is not the issue in the Angelic Conflict for God provides this without your help or consent.

4. THE SUPER GRACE LIFE IS ANALAGOUS TO GOD RESTING ON THE SEVENTH DAY.

We find this in the latter part of Heb. 4:3 and in Heb. 4:10.

5. LOOK AT LOVE IN SUPER GRACE.

God loves every believer with maximum love because of propitiation. However, the believer's love response varies according to the amount of doctrine in the mind. The super grace believer loves God on the level of Romans 8:28 or 1 John 4:19. God's love is expressed toward the believer in blessings. God's love is expressed toward the reversionist in cursings. Hebrews 12:6

6. THE KEY TO SUPER GRACE.

The key to the super grace life begins with the super grace spectrum. It starts with tranquility and goes all the way to ecstasies. It is the place of maximum God-given happiness. It is acquired through the intake of doctrine.

Phil. 4:4 and 1 Thess. 5:16

7. THE CELEBRITY-SHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

The super grace believer has maximum love for Jesus Christ always Lamentation 3:23-25, Hebrews 12:2, Col. 3:1-2

8. THE CAPACITY FACTOR.

The super grace believer has capacity.

a. Freedom Gal. 5:1, Romans 8:21, 2 Cor. 3:17

b. Capacity for life. 1 Samuel 17:47, 1 Samuel 18:5, 14, 30.

c. Love It applies in all three categories of love.

Category one--Deut. 6:6 and 30:20, Joshua 23:10-11, 1 John 2:5, 1 John 4:19

Category two--Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Category three--2 Samuel 1:26

d. Happiness Psalm 9:1-2, 21:1, 31:7, 43:4, 97:12, John 17:13

e. Capacity for suffering 2 Cor. 12:7-10

The availability of super grace is beautifully described by Isaiah 30:18. "And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him." The promotion of super grace is described in Psalm 84. It is illustrated by 1 Samuel 17. The super grace believer is God's man for the crisis.

We now complete our study of Hebrews 4:3.

We now have "As he said" and this sites an Old Testament documentation "As he said" really means "As he perfectly communicated." Now we have a quote of Psalm 95:11. The word "As" is from "Hos" and should be translated "In keeping with the facts." "I have sworn" is an aorist, active indicative of "Omnumi." "In my wrath" is from "en orge" and means "In my disgust." God is disgusted because he has all these wonderful things to give us and we won't provide the cup in which he can pour them. This is an idiom and is an elliptical oath and goes like this--"I am not God if they shall enter into my rest." "Shall enter" is a future, active, indicative of "eiserchomai." "Into my rest" is from "eis katapausis" and means into my super grace.

The verse goes on to say "Although" and this is from "kaitoi" and should be translated "And yet." Then we have "The works" and this is a genitive absolute plural of "ergon."

It means no human being can do what God has done. Not Satan, no person, no one but God can do what God has done. This is "The works God has done for you." These works have been finished before the foundation of the world and they were done for you. The words "Were finished" is an aorist, passive, participle of "ginomai." So this statement says, "The works have been brought into existence from the foundation of the world." It means before the foundation of the world.

So as we close, get a correct translation of this verse--

"For the ones having believed are to enter into the rest of super grace as he said in the past with the result that it stands perfectly communicated forever, in keeping with the facts I have made a solemn oath in my disgust, I am not God if they shall enter into my rest (my super grace provision) having been brought into existence from before the foundation of the world."

God did it in eternity past for us.

To reap it, we have to enter into super grace.