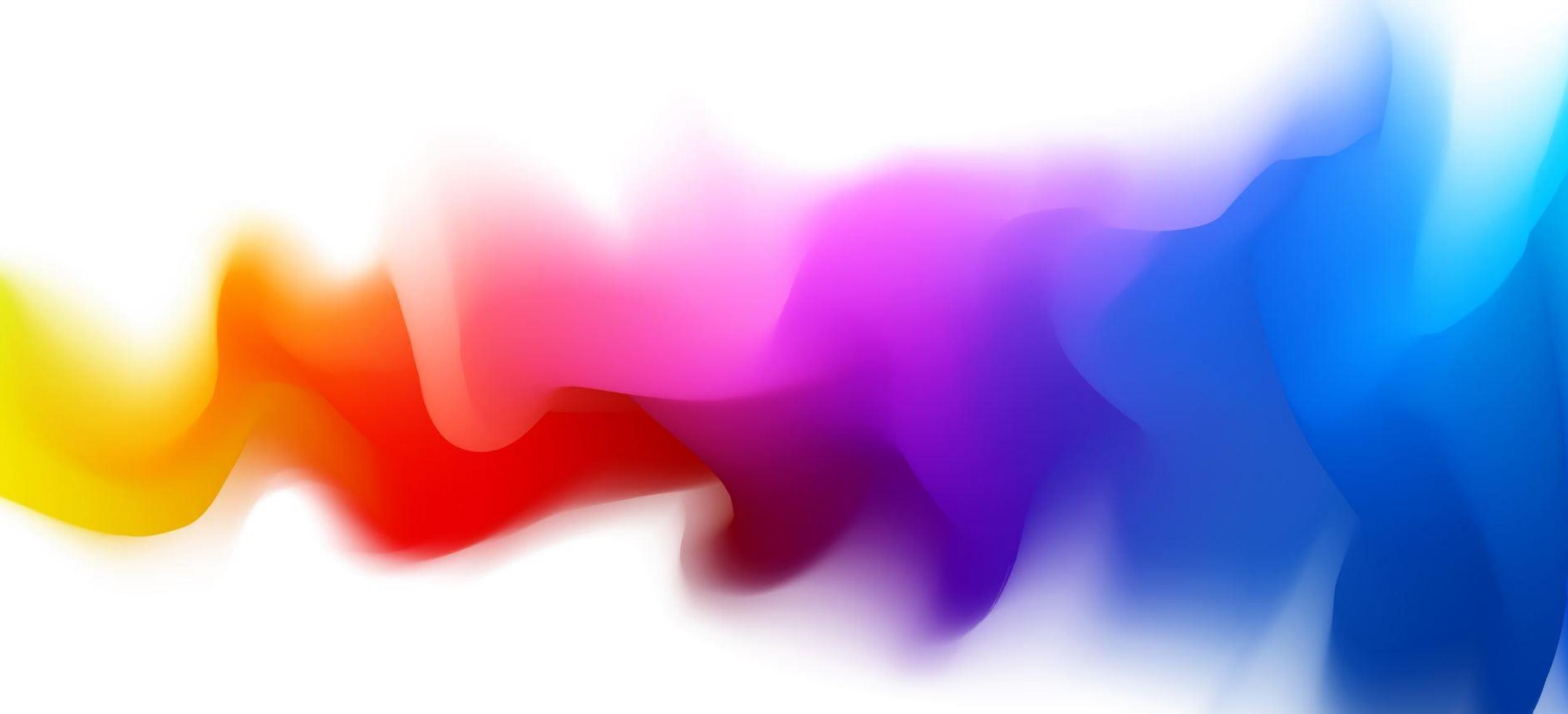


HE NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN *JOHN 16:33*



John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.

**In the world you will have tribulation but take courage;
I have overcome the world.”**



Matthew 11:28-30

..... For My yoke is easy and My burden is light ”

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and LEARN FROM ME, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For ... My yoke is easy and My burden is light ”

Jesus prays to the Father for us

John 17:15-19 ...

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. (HOW)

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

As You did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:20-23

I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me, through their word;

That they may all be one; even as You, Father are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You did send Me.

that they may be ONE, JUST AS WE ARE ONE.

I in them, and You in Me

1 Corinthians 6:17

**“But the one who joins himself to the Lord, is
ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM”**

2 Cor 4:8-12

We are afflicted **IN EVERY WAY, but not crushed**

Perplexed, but not driven to despair

Persecuted, but not forsaken

STRUCK DOWN, but NOT DESTROYED

Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 - Paul

- His labour, his imprisonments, countless beatings to near death (5 times 39 lashes - near death).**
- 3 times beaten with rods, stoned, 3 times shipwrecked floating day and night in the sea**
- Danger from rivers, robbers, Jews, Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, false brothers, sleepless nights, hungry, thirsty, often without food and exposed to the cold.**

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

For we would not have you ignorant of our trouble in Asia, that we were **pressed out of measure, above strength, in that we despaired even of life.**

We had the **sentence of death in ourselves**, **that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a death (past) and does deliver (present); in whom we trust that He will deliver us (future).**

**GRACE is not a formula.
It's not a doctrine.**

PAUL – 3 times pleaded with Lord to take away the thorn, but He said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness” Therefore I’ll boast gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

GROW IN GRACE and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ 2 Peter 3:18

Grace is MORE THAN JUST unmerited favour. **ONE ASPECT.**

HOWEVER, UNMERITED FAVOUR IS IMPLIED

Ephesians 2:8-9 - saved by grace through faith, no works

Romans 11:6 - if salvation is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace

1 Peter 4:10

BUT GRACE IS MULTI-FACETED

HIS PRESENCE – ONE SPIRIT WITH THE LORD

Hebrews 4:16 – we approach God, **confidently**, because of our union with Christ.

Ephesians 2:6 - God raised us up with Him and **seated us with Him in Christ**

1 Corinthians 6:19 – **our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**

We're in a permanent relationship with God –
permanently in His presence.

1 Corinthians 6:17

**“But the one who joins himself to the Lord, is
ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM”**

GROW IN GRACE

and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

2 Peter 3:18

GRACE IS NOT PASSIVE

Paul could not deliver himself ...

2 Corinthians 1:9

“We had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that ... we should not trust in ourselves; our own strength and ability ...

But in the grace, strength, power and ability of God, who raises the dead!”

2 Corinthians 1:10

Who **has delivered us** from so great a peril of death,
and **will deliver us**, He on whom we have set our
hope.

And He **will yet deliver us.**”

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore **draw near** **with confidence** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and **may find grace to help in time of need.**

but I'm in His presence

but I'm in His presence

Isn't that enough !!!!

**GOD IS NOT A HELICOPTER PARENT,
NOR A CONTROLLING FORCE IN OUR LIFE !**

WE HAVE GRACE ...

Psalm 23:6 - goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.

Romans 5:20 – where sin increased, grace
increased all the more.

Ephesians 1:18,19 – however, Paul prays

I pray the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you'll know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (YOU AND ME)

That you would know what is the surpassing greatness of His power for us who believe. This is the working of the strength of His might, which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand ...

HE NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN

**WE ARE GOING TO EXPERIENCE
HARD TIMES**

BUT

**GROW
IN GRACE !**

BUT HOW !!!

GRACE

IS OUR GO-TO

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO ?

IF IT'S NOT GRACE

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO ?

Paul said, that's why some of you are sick and have died.

1 Corinthians 11:18

THEN

WE WON'T GROW IN GRACE

HUMILITY – James 4:6-8

But He gives more grace.

Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

GRACE IS NOT A DOCTRINE

1 Timothy 3:1

An overseer must be above reproach, husband of one wife (a one woman-man), temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **not addicted to wine** or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, **free from the love of money.**

Verse 8: deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or **addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain.**

But holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience

Ephesians 5:18

“do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit”

Galatians 5:21

Drunkenness is a work of the flesh

Galatians 5:22-25.

Go-to Fruit

But the fruit of the spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Gentleness, self-control – against such things there is no law.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Paul said... WE DO NOT FAINT!

Though the outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed (*made new, recharged, injected with new life*) day by day!”

2 Corinthians 4:16

What renews the inner man?

The grace of life that flows out of our life in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:17

**“But the one who joins himself to the Lord, is
ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM”**

GRACE IS A DAILY EXPERIENCE

LEARN THE SECRET OF GRACE!

LEARN THE SECRET OF GRACE!

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens (delivers strength to) me”

Philippians 4:13

Paul learned the “secret of flowing in the grace of God”

HOW?

... by carrying in himself, a continual awareness of all Christ had provided through His death, burial and resurrection.

“For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life also of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh”

2 Corinthians 4:11

John 17:15

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

HOW ?