

Steward's of God's Grace Part 5

**The Danger of Stepping
Outside of God's Grace**

“What grace has God called you to excel in today?”

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)
7 But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

“What grace has God not called you to today?”

“God’s order, his pleasure, his will, his action and grace, all these are one and the same. What he ordains for us each moment is what is most holy, best and most divine for us. All we need to know is how to recognize his will in the present moment. Grace is the will of God...”

Jean-Pierre De Caussade

“God’s will never leads you where His grace cannot keep you.”

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:3-6a (NIV)

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...

Examples of those who stepped outside of God's Grace

1. David stepped outside of God's grace when he put on King Saul's armor.
1 Sam 17:38-40 (NIV)
³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

2. Abraham stepped outside of God's grace when he fathered Ishmael.
Genesis 16:1-2 (NIV)
¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

3. Moses stepped outside of God's grace when he killed the Egyptian.

Exodus 2:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹² Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

3. Moses stepped outside of God's grace when he killed the Egyptian.

Exodus 2:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

4. The Churches in Galatia stepped outside of God's grace when they tried to attain holiness through human effort.

Galatians 1:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

4.The Churches in Galatia stepped outside of God's grace when they tried to attain holiness through human effort.

Galatians 3:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Oh, foolish Galatians! What magician has cast an evil spell on you? For you used to see the meaning of Jesus Christ's death as clearly as though I had shown you a signboard with a picture of Christ dying on the cross. ² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the law? Of course not, for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ.

4.The Churches in Galatia stepped outside of God's grace when they tried to attain holiness through human effort.

Galatians 3:1-3 (NLT)

³ Have you lost your senses? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

1. Are you wearing someone else's armor?
2. Are you trying to fulfill God's promise with your own plan?
3. Are you alienating the people God has called you to serve?
4. Are you trying to finish the work God started by His grace in your own strength?
