

RESPONSIBILITY DEFINED UNDER GRACE

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Last week, on Fathers Day, I spoke on the heart of the Father, in God. In this series I am talking about fruit and how fruit comes. You know what I have seen people go over to the grace of God focusing on the unconditional love of God, the mercy of God and then what happens when people go over into the message of grace is they are loosed from the bondage of what they were in and kind of don't know what to do now. They don't know how they should be involved in church, how does their giving work, how does their involvement in winning souls work, and all those kind of things. They don't know how it works and they want to know and the worst thing you can do is force them into what you think they should do because that will bring forth more bondage in their lives and they will just see it as we are in the name of grace just going back into the old system, instead of just allowing the Gospel to bring forth the fruit that God wants to bring forth in people's lives.

Then we will get teachings like responsibility like how we have responsibility towards the church and towards our family. I want to talk a little bit about the fruit of responsibility and how that works in our lives. Now the worst thing that can ever happen is for me to say is, "You are responsible towards a family member and you better take up your responsibility." If we look in the natural sense, like I am the man of the house and I have to care for my family. The Bible even says that and I need to take up a certain responsibility in caring for my family and we know that but how do we do that? That's the big question. We know where we want to end but how we get it right is what it is all about. That's where the whole Gospel system comes in and I want to do and where we will end with today is that God makes it His responsibility to bring forth the right fruit in you! It's not your responsibility to bring forth the right fruit in you! God made it HIS responsibility! When we can have a change of mind, we can have a change of life!

The Bible says, "My ways are not your ways. My ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts." That doesn't mean that God is mystical and we cannot know His thoughts. It just means that the way God thinks is different than the way humans think. A human thinks that he has to take up his responsibility and now start to be a good spouse. What God thinks and says, "Listen, the only responsible life there is is MY life and I want to give you My life as a free gift!" That's how God's way is higher than our way! We think that we must do it. God thinks that He wants to give it! That's the difference. That's why His way of reasoning is different than ours. We want to look at what we have available and then we want to make use of what we have that is available, and then we try to form a life out of making use of our own ability. But God says, "Listen, I give you, whatever you need, as a free gift!"

That's how it worked from the beginning. Adam didn't do anything so that God would create him. God made the earth for Adam and Eve, for humans. What did they do to deserve life, to deserve receiving the Holy Spirit, to receive the whole planet? They did nothing! God said that the only way that man could ever have it is if God gives freely to man what belongs to Him. And God's mind has never changed! His mind is the same, yesterday, today and forever... He will be the same.

I like that verse that Reinhard Bonnke preached many years ago. He said that in Revelation it says that Jesus is the one who is, who was and He is to come.' "Is to come" is a very strange Greek. What it actually says is that it is like standing at a river where you say, "The river was there a year ago, five years ago, ten years ago, a hundred years ago... the river was. When you look at the water in front of you, you say, 'But the river is.'" When you look upstream you see, "And it is coming, and coming, and coming." It's the same thing over and over. It can never change. The God that was, that made the earth and man and decided to give everything for free has not changed! He was. He is now and He will be the same forever! This same God is coming all the time. That means the way He thinks is He is He will give it to you as a free gift. When we can have this change of mind, we will have a change of life.

I'm thinking of a wonderful story that my hair dresser told me. She said that she listened to something on the radio and it was so beautiful. She said that they decided to get some money together for a poor family in the church. It is a wealthy church and they are going to give to this poor family. They had some months in which they can save up and gather money to give to this family. One lady was a widow and she told her kids that they were also going to partake in this giving. They were excited and they were gathering things. The kids had plans and ideas of selling stuff at school. They did a lot of things to get money together. One of the things they did was they would switch the electricity off at night and sit in the dark and just chat and in such a way save money. After a few months they had a nice amount of money together. There was a certain day that was set up to give the money to the church and they took their money. Two weeks later the reverend came to their house and said, "You are the family that we gathered this money for!" Then she said, "That is really sad. We never knew that we were poor!" They could never use that money. When the church had a building thing again, the church took all that money, which was a large sum of money, and gave it to the church. Then they said, "We can be free again because that made us poor because we are not poor!" Isn't that beautiful!

What I am trying to say is that a change of mind brings a change of life. If you can think differently, think the way God thinks, your life will change. Everyone saw this family as poor, in need of help, but they weren't poor because poverty is something that is in your belief. In the very same thing when it comes to God and when it comes to fruit bearing. We can struggle to bear fruit if we have the wrong belief about it. For this lady and her kids, how difficult was it to live in prosperity? It was only a belief away. That's all... only a belief away. It's the very same way with fruit bearing. It is not an effort away. It's a belief away. That's what I want to talk about today and how God sees this and how God's whole plan with man was not that you will bear fruit but that He can bear His fruit in you.

The human race is almost like soil that God created that He wanted to bear fruit in. It would be absolutely ridiculous for a farmer to go to a piece of land and tell the piece of land, "Listen, if you bear fruit, then I will bless you with fertilizer. You know that the land cannot bear the fruit. Neither can the land, unless it is fertilized or it is healthy soil, can it bring forth any fruit. It needs a seed. The seed needs to be placed in the ground and that is how God made man. He made His word, His love, His acceptance, the seed that needs to be in our heart and we are the soil. His unconditional love, mercy, His influence upon the human race, His acceptance towards you, how He blesses you, is when you believe it, when you receive the seed into the soil of your heart. Then that seed will bring forth the fruit that the farmer intended. So the only responsibility that we can have is in receiving God's love, allowing Him to love you! .

If we look at a relationship, unless both of them allow the other one to love him, how will they have the fruit of a successful marriage? It can never be outside of the one allowing the other one to love him or her. That's what it is all about.

I've seen in my life if I want to be good to Helena, good to my kids, good to the people in this church, good to the people on the web that watch my ministry and what I preach, the most responsible thing that I can ever do is to allow God to live His responsibility in my life which is that He will bring forth fruit in me and not stand in God's way by trying to bear fruit by my own effort. I need to listen to His word of His love, allow Him to wash my feet, to clean me, to bless me by His love and then I will be a good pastor. I will be a good father and I will be a good husband because God brings forth that quality of life in me. So my responsibility is not to try and be a good father. My responsibility is to allow God to love me! That's my responsibility because God is not forcing it down on anybody. He makes His word available and when we hear His love and His goodness towards us, we find it brings forth fruit.

The goal of the Gospel is not to be able to say, "Thank God I am out of danger of an angry God but to share in His quality of life!" Many times we thought that the end of the Gospel is just to get free from the place where the plagues are going to fall because God is going to punish somebody or rings somebody's neck. You know He really got ticked off with Adam and He still wants to kill somebody and Jesus gives you the opportunity that He will not kill you if you just live right and believe right and do right. The end of the Gospel is not just to veer away from punishment. The end of the Gospel is to experience His quality of life which He, from the beginning, intended to share with us. Jesus does not base cleanliness on works but belief.

I'm going to explain this and then we are going to read some of the verses. Jesus comes and He wants to wash their feet and Peter said, "You can't wash my feet!" Then Jesus said, "If I don't wash your feet, you cannot have any part in Me. That means that, "If I don't serve you, you cannot be a partaker of Who I am." Now let me explain that. What He is actually saying is, "If I cannot be good to you, you cannot partake in My quality of life." So the only way that you can know what it is to have true peace is to allow God to wash your feet.

I am going to explain what "washing of the feet" really is. You know we've seen the washing of the feet just as a physical washing of the feet. Sometimes in churches we say, "We are going to wash feet this Sunday. We have a hundred and fifty members and then the next Sunday we have twenty five members because in that church you don't know if your feet smell. It's embarrassing. We try to use a Jewish custom when we don't even know what they actually did. Jesus even said to the Jews, to His disciples, "You don't know what I am doing!" He said to Peter, "I am washing your feet but you don't know what I am doing." If you read chapters 13-15, you will start to see what He was actually doing and what he was signifying.

Then Peter was this wise guy and said, "Jesus, then just not my feet but my whole body!" Then Jesus said, "You, are already clean, Peter! Only your feet need to be washed." Now what does that mean? I don't have time to go over that but I will put up a message that I did on the baptism of John where I explained why Jesus was baptized. In the baptism of John He was baptized as a sinner although He was not a sinner. In doing that, He took the sin of the whole world upon Him. When He took the sin of the whole world on Him, then man was not seen guilty anymore as pertaining to the law and sins because Jesus took it upon Him. So, in a certain sense, everybody was clean and innocent because Jesus took the sin upon Him. But, Jesus comes and He says that Judas is not clean but the disciples are clean.

I want to explain this. When Jesus took the sin of the world upon Him, He even took the sins of Judas upon Him but the new law, the new system that came forth is cleanliness is measured in the heart, in what you believe. So if you believe in Jesus, if you believe in what He has done, God sees you, as pertaining to your heart, as completely clean!

I am sorry that this can be a bit technical but according to the baptism of John, He sees all people as clean because all your sins like adultery, lying, stealing, whatever sin there is, was upon Jesus and upon the cross and in His death. So, Jesus said that all those sins of the whole world are all taken away but there is now a new command. The command is to believe upon Him. If you obey that command, your heart is cleansed because you are now believing the right thing. So what makes your heart dirty is believing the wrong thing!

Holiness is not defined by actions. Holiness is defined by what you believe. So, Jesus comes and He says to His disciples, "Listen, you are already clean because of what I have done for you and because you believe upon Me but not all of you are clean." Then He referred to Judas which the who did not believe and he would deny the Lord and betray Him. In that we can see that God comes and He declares how He sees cleanliness. Cleanliness is to clean your belief, what you believe about yourself. If you believe that you are just an unrighteous person that is ready to be punished by God and God is going to put me through hard times to purify me, your belief is dirty. God wants to clean your belief by washing that belief by what He has done by sharing His belief with you which is, "I did take away your sin. I did give you righteousness as a free gift. I love you. You are valuable!" If you believe that you are not valuable, then your belief is dirty and He wants to clean your belief by you believing the right thing!

So, once we have believed upon the Lord, then our heart has been cleansed but now listen to what He says: "But your feet still need to be washed!" That means that when you live in this world, the dirt of this world comes to us. This is just signifying the beliefs of this world that gets put upon us where what you drive, where you stay, who your friends are. Those kind of things that want to infiltrate our belief system where we have continual cleansing of that where we hear all the time like on a Sunday service, like in the week when we share with each other, that we are righteous that we are not defined by what we wear, where we stay, and what we must do for God. Where we've heard again or a thought comes to us where we think again, "Well, you know, maybe if I give money to the poor then maybe God will start to bless me." You need to be cleansed from thoughts like that because God blesses you because He loves you! God has blessed you because that is who He is in His very being! That's why He blesses. You are valuable!

This is what He said there. He said, "I serve you by basically taking away all your sin by what I have done for you and now I tell you that if I have done this to you, go and do it to others." This is basically what I do here today. I serve you with what Christ has served me with. He's washed my feet. My walk in this life gets cleansed by Him cleansing me by sharing His love and His righteousness with me.

I don't have time to go to every verse in John 13-15 but we will just look at some of them briefly.

Look at what Jesus said here: **John 13:**

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he has come from God, and was going back to God;

4 He rose from supper, and laid aside his (outer) garments; and took a towel, and tied it around His waist.

5 Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash His disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

6 Then he came to Simon Peter: and Peter said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said to him, What I am doing, you do not understand now; but afterwards you will understand.

8 Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus said to him, If I don't wash you, you have no share in me.

9 Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Jesus said to him, the one who has bathed does not need to wash except for his feet but he is completely clean: and you are clean, but not every one of you, (He was talking about Judas.)

Jesus came and called His disciples. He took away their sins in the baptism and completely ended it in the cross and then He came and said, "Your belief is already clean! All that needs to happen is for Me to continually serve you, for Me to continually wash your feet." This is a great key in chapters 13, 14 and 15. The only way that we can really bear fruit is by having Jesus continually serving us with the message of how much He loves us, of how He cleanses us. You cannot bear fruit by the message of how you must wash your feet! The only way that you can have fruit and be a partaker of His quality of life is by the message of how He cleanses you!

Unfortunately we have in church and in our own mindset, we come to a place where we got to a place where we must cleanse us to present ourselves as clean before God by our effort. The Bible says, Jesus, knowingly goes to the Father, knowing the Father has given Him all things, having His identity fully established in who He is, went as a result and as the fruit of that, and cleansed people. And He has never run into an identity crises. That means that He still believes what He believes about Himself. That means the same fruit is still there in His life. He will continually declare you as clean and continually in your life take away any belief where you disqualify yourself, where you don't feel good enough, where you feel you are not holy enough because God knows that holiness is not the end goal but the point from where your life starts. So He needs to declare you holy before you can have a holy life. If you don't believe that you are holy, you can never live holy. If you don't believe that you are righteous, you can never live righteous.

Like the example of the lady that the church thought was poor. She could never be that giver unless she first believed that she was rich! She, beyond the shadow of a doubt, believed that she was rich to the point that when she received the money she was amazed. It was a revelation to her that others see her as poor. She never saw that. In the very same way, do you see in that example and what Jesus has done here a life born from a new belief?

Let's read on: In the end here, Jesus in the whole of chapters 13, 14 and 15, wanted to bring them to a place where He wanted to tell them, "Do you see the quality of life that is in Me? This is the Father. You are seeing the Father. You are not just seeing a man imitating the Father. You are seeing someone who believes in the Father, who loves the Father, whom the Father loves, in whom the Father lives to the point that they say to Jesus, "Show us the Father." Jesus said, "Haven't I been with you all the time. How can you ask Me, 'Show me the Father'? I have always been with you, Philip!" Do you see what Jesus is talking about here? Jesus is not trying to imitate the Father. He is having the Father live in Him and now He wants to tell Peter and His disciples, "I am going to go away and I will come again so that I can receive you to where I am." In one of the verses He says, "You have the Holy Spirit with you but He will be in you." So what He is saying is, "You are trying to live right but the plan that I have is to go to My Father to prepare a place for you so that you, when you receive Me as I come to you and you receive and believe upon Me that I will live in you that as a Father and Myself are one, and you see the Father in Me, you see the Father's quality of life in Me, that you will be one with Me and one with the Father!

So, the whole concept that Jesus has here concerning fruit and we are going to go to chapter 15 and it talks about fruit bearing, He says, "The whole concept here is the revelation and the belief in Christ where Christ brings forth God in you and not where you observe an outside commandment, use will power to try and do that commandment and qualify for eternal life. No! You already qualify!

You already qualify by the death of Jesus Christ! All of mankind qualifies! Now Jesus comes and He reveals Himself to people when we can believe that all our sins are taken away and when we can believe that there is no distance anymore between God and us because of Jesus. Then we receive Him and then He starts to give birth to who God is or the Father gives birth to Himself in us and we see the life of the Father in us. Now, some of you might say that I'm a New Ager when I say this but I'm just quoting Jesus. Jesus said, "In that day you will realize that the Father and I are one and you and Me, we are one! God didn't come to bring a different system in manifesting Himself from the system He manifested Himself in Jesus... full union wherein He was so amazed when they said, "Show us the Father", that Jesus said, "But you see Me!" You see there is a big difference between trying to obey some law the Father gives you and having the Father live His life in you to the point that you say, "If God feels something, where must He feel it except inside my feelings." I am not saying that we are God! I'm not saying you can be God. I'm just saying that God's kingdom functions on the principle that the only way that you can have God's life is if God lives His life in you by His power. That's true Christianity.

Let's read on. This is now Peter. Let us just look at the confusion in Peter's mind here in what I have just said.

John13:

36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, Where I am going, you cannot follow me now (He was going to the Father.); but you will follow me afterwards.

37 Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.

38 Jesus answered him, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly I say to thee, The rooster will not crow, till you have denied me three times.

So here Peter says, "Listen, Jesus. I by my sacrifice will be at the place where you are. I will sacrifice my life by my sacrificial system. I am even willing to die to be where You are." Jesus said, "This is the wrong way around. You shouldn't die to be where I am. I must die to take you where I am!" It's a big difference! Then He said, "Peter, by your effort to be where I am, you are going to deny Me. Your effort can never qualify you to be where I am. You'll deny Me three times even in this night."

Jesus answered him ***Truly I say to thee, The rooster will not crow, till you have denied me three times.***

John 14 Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. Now look what he says to Peter. He says, "Peter, you are going to deny me three times but don't let your heart be troubled. You have just tried your own effort here again but I want to clean your feet. In this walk, you believe certain things wrongly. In your walk you are believing that you need to die and sacrifice to have My quality of life but you cannot have it that way, Peter! Your heart is troubled. Your heart is believing wrong things here. Let Me bring peace to your heart. I will prepare a place for you and then I will take you where I am. That is how you will bear fruit. I will take you there!" How? Then He says, "You believe in God but the problem with you, Peter, is that you don't believe that I can take you to the place where God's quality of life is born in you by My doing. You cannot believe that! That's your problem, Peter." That's what He is saying... "but, I will do it!"

It is the very same way with us today. We must hear so much about God's unconditional love that we can believe in Jesus. Belief means to have a mind at rest at the integrity of someone else. So when we come to a place where there is so much of God's goodness placed before us in understanding how the Gospel system works, our heart and our minds will go to rest at His integrity and we will say, "Father, I allow You to love me. I'm not going to be irresponsible by listening to a message that is counterproductive that is going to produce all kinds of death in me.

When we talk about this Good News, I found in my life, the most irresponsible thing that I can ever do is to sit under a word or put myself in a place where a message is preached that troubles my heart. Because if I am in that place what will happen is that I will not experience God's quality of life in this life. So what will I experience? I will experience death. I will not be a good husband. I will be a bad father. I'll think bad of myself all the time. I'll be sin conscious. I'll live in fear. I will always have this guilt rise up in my heart! Who wants such a life! That's not what God intended for Adam and Eve. That's not what God intended when He said, "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness." He envisioned tranquility. He envisioned absolute peace for every human being and He makes it His responsibility to bring it forth in you and yet He has given you a free will and given you an opportunity to have a relationship with Him.

So when He comes with a message of unconditional love, when He comes with a message of, "You are righteous! I have taken away your sin. I'm giving you a seat in the Godhead. You are My beloved." My beloved is mine and I am His is mine and His banner over me is love... agape love. When He comes with that, we embrace it and we allow Him to love us!

This may sound very radical but I have found in my life, especially when I just got into the Grace message, it was a good thing for me to just stop reading too much Bible because your mindset is so much in the Old System. It's better to hear a message that is Good News and rather, in the week, spend some time thinking on the good that you've heard. Do that for some months until your heart gets established in how much God loves you. Then you go to the Bible, which is the absolute, book given by God and you spend time reading the Bible but now you have on the glasses of, "I'm loved by God" and you will start to see His love and your heart will be open for that love and then that book will bless you. The best thing that you can ever do is to allow God to love you!

Listen to what He said to Peter, "Peter, you are going to deny Me, but don't let your heart be troubled.

John 14:

1 Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms: if it were not so, I would have told you that I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and take you to myself; that where I am, you may be also.

So, this is Jesus' whole plan: God made it HIS responsibility to take man to the level of God's quality of life. It's God's responsibility! Our responsibility is to say, "God, I'm available for that! Alleluia!

In my car yesterday, we were listening to some verses in the Bible and something just dawned on me in the reading of this verse that I am going to read to you now. It is that you can have a great zeal for God but not love Jesus... a very great zeal for God but not love Jesus. The Bible says in Romans that the Jews had a great zeal for God but they killed Jesus!

So, you can be very zealous for a holy life and living right and doing everything right and yet you can detest Jesus because Jesus says, "Your zeal for living right and doing right by commandment of the law does not impress Me! What impresses Me is when you allow Me to bring forth that life in you!"

I've said it many times, if I take a Rolex to a jeweler and they copy the Rolex and they make a perfect copy. They use real gold, real diamonds, real titanium. They make it exactly like the real Rolex to the point that the owner of the Rolex company cannot tell the difference... the one remains a fake. It doesn't matter how good you copy God's life if you do it from your will power and even if you get it right, the one is born from you and the other one is born from God. God never had in mind for you to copy His life! He always had in mind for Him to live in you that you, like Jesus, can say, "If you've seen me, you have seen the Father."... by Him living in you! I tell you that is impossible for humans! It is as impossible as what it would be for a farmer to say to a piece of land, "Produce some nice crops here and then I will give you fertilizer." It's impossible! The whole kingdom revolves around God sharing His life with us and living in us.

John 14:

21 Whosoever has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: Now that can condemn you but let me explain it. What is His command? His command is to believe in Him! That's His command. His commandments were put from chapter 8, all the things He commanded. And what He was commanding basically was "Listen! I'm going to do this. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do this! Then if you can believe this, you will benefit."

He gave all of his commandments, which are actually His teachings, about how He sees the kingdom and how He will produce and how He will bring forth. He says, "The one who can believe this is the one who loves Me."

I found, even in church, there are many who love going to church. They love doing things. They love giving their finances. They love doing many things but when we preach this message that I am preaching, of effortless righteousness in Christ and Christ in you Gospel, they don't want it! That means they don't love Jesus! They don't like the message of Jesus because the message of Jesus is the message of how Jesus obeyed on your behalf, how Jesus took away your sin, how Jesus rose up on behalf of you, how Jesus represents mankind, how Jesus gave righteousness as a free gift, how Jesus is the One, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who will justify you, how Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit will change your mortal body into immortality, how Jesus will come back and how Jesus will do everything! There is no room for boasting in yourself! There is only room for receiving! Glory to God!

So, if you don't love that, it means, and this is what it says, "You don't love Jesus!" You can love the Bible but you don't like the message of Jesus that is revealed! This is what He said: **21 He that keeps my commandments....** (what He came to bring, the New Covenant that He came to bring), **he who loves that, loves me: and he who loves me will be loved by my Father.** This means the Father loves it when you love the fact that you can get it for free! If you read on it says, "They love this so much that They will come and make their abode inside that person!" God says: I am willing to share My life with you for free. I come without your choice, I take away your sin. Without your choice I end the law system and end everything that Adam has done and put you on a new platform which I have designed from the beginning where I believe in you and you believe in Me. And I give this for free! I will bring forth My life in you." Then you say, "I believe it!" and then God loves that so much that He says, "This being who can believe in Me, it is so wonderful to see his openness for Me, that I don't want to live in any other place but in him." Then the Bible says that the Father and the Son will both come and make their abode inside you! Then if He is inside the house, He loves it and then you see how He loves it!

When we got the house we live in now, everything didn't look the way it looks now. We've changed some things in the garden. We rented the house next door. We took away the fence in between. We've done a lot of changes. Why? Because we moved in. How much effort did the house put in to change? Nothing! In the very same way this is what He says: When our hearts are persuaded of His goodness and His love, then He will make His abode in us and He will live there and that is how you bear fruit.

Then it goes to John chapter 15 to explain it even further:

1 *I am the vine, and my Father is the vine dresser.*

2 *Every branch in me that bear not fruit he takes away (In the Greek, take away means to lift up) : and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

I remember years ago I still remember this TV preacher had a beautiful tree and a big pair of scissors. He said, "God is going to prune you!" And he got into that tree with those scissors. Listen, even a person who knows nothing about pruning, knows that that preacher had it wrong because that tree will never be the same! You don't prune like that!

I saw another guy that loved his bonsai tree that he had for 40 -50 years, and he comes with the little scissors and you can see the love and the passion that is inside him pruning a little leaf here, a little leaf there. Compared to this preacher with the big scissors ruining the tree! That's what is happening in church! We've ruined the church through a message of how God wants to kill you! It's sad! It's really sad.

That word, prune, there means to clean. It's the very same Greek word as the one further on. Let's read it again.

:2 *Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away: and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, that it may bear forth more fruit.*

:3 *You are now clean (pruned) because of the word that I have spoken to you.*

Every branch in my that does bear fruit, that believes in Jesus, He will tell them more about how He loves him and cares for him and corrects every wrong belief where you have ever disqualified yourself, so that it can bear more fruit. "You are now pruned by Me correcting your belief!" What He corrected in the belief of the apostles was that they believed that He was the Messiah that would come to the earth and be the Messiah of only the Jews so that they can rule over all other nations and basically have other nations as their slaves. He corrected them and said, "Listen, you think that I am going to live here forever. I have news for you: I am going to die! And then I am going to come back!"

He comes and says, "I've pruned your belief. You believe that it was only about you serving Me but let Me tell you how to bear fruit: I serve you and if you can believe this and continue to believe this then I can abide in you." Let's continue on. This is what He says here

3 *Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine; neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

5 *I am the vine and you are the branches: Whosoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit: for apart from me you can do nothing.*

He comes and says, "I've pruned your belief. You believe that it was only about you serving Me but let Me tell you how to bear fruit: I serve you and if you can believe this and continue to believe this then I can abide in you." Let's continue on. This is what He says here

3 Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine; neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine and you are the branches: Whosoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit: for apart from me you can do nothing.

I mean, how clear do you want it? Jesus said, "Listen, concerning fruit bearing, apart from Me you can do nothing." What we have always taught was that Jesus saves you and now it is our responsibility to bear the fruit and by the measure of the fruit, we maintain our salvation. That is wrong! He said, "Apart from Me, you can do nothing!" So this is what we should do: How did we abide in Him? We abide in what He did. How do you abide in it? You believe in it! The Father says, "I want to abide in you but the only way that I can abide in you is if you abide in what I do for you.

Abide is where we get the word, abode or dwelling place or house. Make your house, the place you live under the message of how much He loves you then He can live in you and bring forth fruit in you! Don't go there once a month... live there!

Talking about spiritual warfare, the bible says, "*Having done all to stand, stand therefore.*" We want to advance. No, no. Let God build His kingdom. We're not building God's kingdom! He HAS established His kingdom and now we are declaring the established kingdom! The Bible says, "Go and preach the kingdom of God!" It never says, "Go and build the kingdom of God." That's the wrong way around! He HAS built His kingdom. He built His kingdom through His obedience, death and resurrection and outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That is how He has already built His kingdom and now we declare the New kingdom. So whosoever wants can make use of the new kingdom! Glory to God! We enter into what HE has done. Then when we enter into that kingdom we find the rules and the power of that kingdom bring forth the dynamics of that kingdom in us. With that message in mind, at the end of the day, all you can say is, "Glory to God and none to me!" The only glory that I have is what He gave me for free... which is His glory! Alleluia! Isn't that good, good, news! Thank You, Lord! Allow God to prune your own belief.

I wanted to show you a video called, The Skit Guys, but I couldn't use it because it wasn't great enough. We must make our own crazy grace videos. But anyway, it's like a two minute video where a guy comes and says, "God, form me and make me the way You want."

It's about a guy who stands there with a chisel and a hammer. The other guy stands there and he prays to God saying, "God, now clean me." And the fellow comes and cleans him now with pounding and chiseling. He says, "Ouch, you're hurting me!" He continues chiseling, "I see a little bit of lust there and a little bit of stinginess and a little bit of this..." My goodness! No, the way it works is like this: You stand there and then He comes with a "chisel" and He chisels out the wrong thing that you believe about yourself. "I see that you believe that you are not worthy. You are worthy! You believe that you are not loved. I tell you, "I have always loved you and will always love you!" He "chisels that out." "You think that you need to tithe to be blessed. Let Me chisel that out! I bless you because I love you!"

Everything that I have done and shared this morning is a chiseling away. It's called in Bible terms, the washing of the feet, or pruning. Glory to God!

Father, I want to thank You for this awesome Gospel! I know that this is Your word because I'm blessed when I hear it and it brings clarity of mind! Glory to God! It brings amazement for Who You are! Amazement for my friends in front of me here where we see Your abode in front of us where You want to live in us! I thank You, Lord, that You live in us through loving us and then we abide in that love and believe in that love. Thank You so much for that!

I thank You, Father, that by Your Holy Spirit, during this week and the rest of our lives that we are reminded of this Good News over and over and over! I thank You, Lord, that our hearts are established in Your Good News! I thank You that daily You want to cleanse us from any wrong belief we have. You took up as Your responsibility to bear fruit in us by bringing Jesus and we take up our responsibility by allowing You to serve us with this message and what You have done. In Jesus' name....

ACCEPT THE FREE GIFT OF JESUS

If you have never received Jesus as your Lord, all you can do today is say, "Lord, I receive You. I am not the lord of my own life trying to please You. I thank You, Lord, that You become the Lord of my life. I accept Jesus as my Lord. I accept the fact that He saves me that He brings forth fruit in me and He cleanses me."

All you can do, right there where you are, is say, "From today I accept the Lordship of Christ and I allow Him to serve me."

The day that you do that, you will find a new birth. You will be born from this truth, born again, and not born from will power but you will be born from God.

If you want to do that right now, you can just say, "Jesus, I accept You as my Lord. I'm not going to be my own lord, anymore. Amen and amen."