

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER TALLAHASSEE – HILLTOP CHURCH
A NEW SEASON TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE

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I. THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF GOD'S MERCY

- A. Mercy triumphs over judgment—spiritually, emotionally, relationally, economically, physically, etc. In this verse, judgment speaks of unhelpful criticism, accusation, uncovering faults, whispering, etc.

¹³**Mercy triumphs over judgment. (Jas. 2:13)**

- B. “The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever” is the chorus that is recorded most in Scripture (1 Chr. 16:34, 41; 2 Chr. 5:13; 7:3, 6; 20:21; Ezra 3:11; Jer. 33:11; cf. Ps. 118:1-4, 29; 136:1-26).

³**They praised the Lord, saying: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever.” (2 Chr. 7:3)**

- C. In the generation the Lord returns, offense, bitterness, betrayal, and anger will abound (Mt. 24:10).

¹⁰**“Then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.” (Mt. 24:10)**

²¹**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12:21)**

- D. The Almighty God revealed His glory as being gracious to broken people (Ex. 33:18-19; 34:6-7).

¹⁸**And he [Moses] said, “Please, show me Your glory.”** ¹⁹**Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.” (Ex. 33:18-19)**

⁶**And the Lord passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness...” (Ex. 34:6)**

- E. When Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he also saw how unclean his speech was (Isa. 6:1-6). The atmosphere around the throne of God is filled with gracious attitudes, perspectives, and words.

¹**I saw the Lord sitting on a throne...³ And one [seraphim] ...said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”...⁵ So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King...”** ⁶**Then one of the seraphim...⁷ touched my mouth with it [coal], and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away.” (Isa. 6:1-7)**

- F. The Lord is good—His nature is to redeem people, relationships, and circumstances. He does it in His own time and way. He calls us to align our thinking and words in agreement with His.

¹⁷**How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! (Ps. 139:17)**

⁷**He will have mercy on him [the wicked man] ...⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts.” (Isa. 55:7-8)**

- G. As we see more of God’s personality, beauty, and goodness, our heart is liberated and transformed.

¹⁸**But we all...beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory...by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:18)**

II. ABOVE ALL THINGS EXPRESS LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY

- A. Love and mercy cover a multitude of sins, or faults, in others—we intentionally look to see good in others. Kindness triumphs by giving opportunity for relationships to recover after a difficult season.

⁸*Above all things have fervent love...for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” (1 Pet. 4:8)*

- B. Be intentional about speaking in a spirit opposite to frustration, anger, fear, and offense.

⁴⁴*Bless those who curse you...and pray for those who spitefully use you.” (Mt. 5:44)*

³⁵*“For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. ³⁷Judge not [criticize], and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned...³⁸For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Lk. 6:35-38)*

- C. The Holy Spirit is teaching God's people to pray with a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude for God's leadership—to see what He sees and to say what He says.

⁶*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God...will guard your hearts and minds. (Phil. 4:6-7)*

¹⁷*Pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God...for you. (1 Thes. 5:17-18)*

- D. The Lord gave instruction and assurance to Zerubbabel concerning how to release His presence and power to overcome obstacles in order to complete his ministry assignment with the Spirit's help.

⁶*“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts. ⁷‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’” (Zech. 4:6-7)*

- E. Grace flows from Jesus' lips, which include words of kindness, wisdom, and power.

²*You are fairer [more beautiful] than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips. (Ps. 45:2)*

²²*So all...marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth...³²And they were astonished at His teaching [wisdom]...³⁶Then they were all amazed...saying, “What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits.” (Lk. 4:22, 32, 36)*

- F. Paul exhorted us to make sure that our speech is full of grace, as though seasoned with salt.

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt. (Col. 4:6)

- G. As a virtuous woman has “the law of kindness” on her lips (Prov. 31:26), so also the end-time Bride will be ready to speak with kindness by learning to speak grace in the midst of the storm (Rev. 19:7).

²⁶*She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. (Prov. 31:26)*