

Live for Others!

Work with Abounding Grace

Text: Luke 6:27 *“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. ³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.*

Introduction: Our vision for 2022 is **“Work with Abounding Grace!”** In our “New Beginnings Launch” we saw that there are three foundational truths by which Grace Abounds in our lives:

1. Righteousness: Romans 5:21 *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might **grace reign through righteousness** unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Hebrews 1:8 *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: **a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.***

2. Faith: Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² **By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

3. Action: Ephesians 2:5 *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷ That **in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works.** ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

Most of the Isaiah 58 fast reveals that God’s **Abounding Grace** manifests through our actions toward others.

We have two commandments from Jesus upon which all of the law and the prophets concur.

Matthew 22:35 *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, ³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ **Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸ **This is the first and great commandment.** ³⁹ **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

Isaiah 58:3 NKJV *Why have we fasted, they say, and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice? In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. ⁴ Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, **And an acceptable day to the LORD?***

⁶ *Is this not the fast that I have chosen:*

1. *To loose the bonds of wickedness,*
2. *To undo the heavy burdens,*
3. *To let the oppressed go free,*

4. *And that you break every yoke?*
 5. ⁷ *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry*
 6. *And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;*
 7. *When you see the naked, that you cover him,*
 8. *And not hide yourself from your own flesh (family)?*
- ⁸ *Then your light shall break forth like the morning,*
 - *Your healing shall spring forth speedily,*
 - *And your righteousness shall go before you;*
 - *The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.*
 - ⁹ *Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;*
 - *You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'*
 9. *"If you take away the yoke from your midst,*
 10. *The pointing of the finger, and*
 11. *speaking wickedness,*
 12. ¹⁰ *If you extend your soul to the hungry*
 13. *And satisfy the afflicted soul,*
 - *Then your light shall dawn in the darkness,*
 - *And your darkness shall be as the noonday.*
 - ¹¹ *The LORD will guide you continually,*
 - *And satisfy your soul in drought,*
 - *And strengthen your bones;*
 - *You shall be like a watered garden,*
 - *And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*
 - ¹² *Those from among you Shall build the old waste places;*
 - *You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;*
 - *And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,*
The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.
 14. ¹³ *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, (Make every day holy to the Lord!)*
 15. *From doing your pleasure on My holy day,*
 16. *And call the Sabbath a delight,*
 17. *The holy day of the LORD honorable,*
 18. *And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,*
 19. *Nor finding your own pleasure,*
 20. *Nor speaking your own words,*
 - ¹⁴ *Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;*
 - *And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,*
 - *And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.*
The mouth of the LORD has spoken.

In this fast, we are called to empower others to experience God through our works!

Matthew 5:14 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Hebrews 3:12 *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

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Proverbs 27:17 *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

1 John 1:2 *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Romans 12:5 *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

Live to give! God will get everything to you if He can get it through you!

John 7:37 *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.** ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

Worship God: First-fruits, tithes, offerings and sacrifices –

Proverbs 3:9 *Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*