Eight Essential Elements of the Biblical Christian Gospel Series

Element 8: Maturing In Jesus Christ by Growing in Grace

Element 8A1: Grace in Perspective

113th Lesson in the 8 Essential Elements of the Biblical Christian Gospel Series
Sunday Bible Study Prepared by Gregory A. Weis – Presented Sunday September 3, 2017

I. Eight Essential Elements: List of the Eight Elements & Overview (*Commenced 5/17/2015*)

0. Intro: Proclamation / Pre-Evangelism / Disciples / Pole Fishing / Diagnostic Tools / 7 Missing Elements
1. God: Essential Biblical Attributes: (Non-Communicable & Communicable)
2. Man: Essential Biblical Attributes: (3 Issues / Culpability / Empowerment)
3. The 10 Commandments: (Exodus 20:1-17) & (Deuteronomy 5:1-21)
4. Historical Narrative of Israel & Warning(s) of Eternal Cosmic Judgment: Gospel Presentations in Acts
5. Jesus Christ Only Mediator: Intro to Christology: Solution / Ministry / Atonement / Reign (*30 Messages*)
6. Receiving Jesus: (John 1:12-13) Responding: Components & Exchanges of Soteriology (*24 Messages*)
7. The First 5 Steps Into the Kingdom of Christ: The Biblical Pattern of Conversion (Exodus 25:8-9, 40)
8. **Maturing in Jesus Christ by Growing in Grace:** 3 Vital Growth Ingredients / Necessity of Discipleship

II. Recently Element 7: Pattern of 5 First Steps into Kingdom: Focus on Steps 3, 4 & 5 (3 Parallel Series')
Element 7 – Step 3: Running Conterminously w/ Baptized in the Holy Spirit Series (2017 Version)

i. Receiving Jesus Christ Our Lord & Savior: (a) New Birth & (b) Conversion: Repentance & Faith
(GCF Podcast: Eight Essential Elements of the Biblical Christian: Element 6A to 6W (24 Weeks)
ii. Water Baptism: "Messages on Baptism" / John Weis – "The Everlasting Covenant & Baptism"
iii. Baptized in the Holy Spirit: Currently Recording "Baptized in the Holy Spirit Series" (2017)
iv. Deliverance & Healing(s): Upcoming "Demons & Deliverance Series" / More on Element 7
v. Entering & Maintaining a NT Biblical Lifestyle: (a) Vertical Disciplines & (b) Horizontal Community

III. Today: Element 8: Maturing in Jesus Christ by Growing in Grace – Element 8A1: Grace in Perspective
Note: This may require more than one message, so therefore may include: Element 8A2 & Element 8A3

A. **Grace Defined & Re-Evaluated:**
B. **Grace is Relational & Dynamic:** Experiential Relationship w/ Jesus Christ is Source of All Growth in Grace
C. **Grace Plus Theologies:** 5 Approaches to Ongoing Growth in Grace
D. **Grace Opposed & Thwarted:** Recognizing Postures intermingled w/ Performance Approaches
E. **Grace Delivered: The Delivery System of Grace -** Three Inextricably Intertwined **Means of Grace**

IV. Resources on Grace: http://gcfdayton.org/podcasts

A. **Galatians Series** by John Weis Podcast: Sermon of the Week (posted from July 11 to August 14, 2017)
B. **The Five *Solas* Series** by John Weis Podcast: Sermon of the Week (posted August 25, 2013)
C. **Grace Upon Grace Series** by gw Podcast: Sun. Bible Study (posted from Feb. 21, 2013 to Jan. 26, 2014)
D. Book: *By Grace Alone: How the Grace of God Amazes Me* by Sinclair B. Ferguson
E. Book: *Grace Alone: Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught and Why it Still Matters* by Carl R. Trueman
F. Ancient Church Father's Writings: Athanasius, Augustine & John Chrysostom, Etc. (Greg, Jason, John or Andy)
G. Reformer's: Luther, Calvin, Know, Etc.
H. Puritan's Writings: John Owen, John Bunyon, Richard Baxter, Jonathon Edwards (See John Weis)

V. Grace Defined and Re-Evaluated

A. *Grace As Unmerited Favor*: (See Deuteronomy 7:7-8 & Ephesians 2:4-9 Above) (See Ephesians 4:7)

1. Popular Definition Currently
2. True Partial Definition - However, Extremely Incomplete

(Ephesians 1:3-8a) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, [4] just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the

world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love [5] He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, [6] to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. [7] In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace [8] which He lavished on us. (See Deut. 7:1-11 & Exodus 19:1-6)

(John 15:16) You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

(Rom. 3:24) being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:15, 17)

B. *Grace As Divine Empowerment*: Enabled, Equipped & Transformed by His Glory to Do His Will

(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

(Acts 4:33) And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

(Romans 1:4b-5) Jesus Christ our Lord, [5] through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, (See Romans 5:2)

(1 Corinthians 15:10) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

(Hebrews 4:16) Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(1 Peter 5:5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (James 2:4)

C. *See Grace Upon Grace Series for More on the Definition of Grace*

VI. Grace is Relational & Dynamic: Living, Active, Growing (or Thwarted, Diverted, Replaced or Dying – See …)

(John 1:16-17) [16] For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. [17] For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ("realized" is experiential)

(Luke 2:40) The Child continued to grow & become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

1. Growing In Grace – Two Types of Knowledge (*Ginōskō;* G*nōsis*; *Epignōsis*)
   a. *Ginōskō* (experiential, relational, intimate and spiritual manner.)

(2 Peter 1:2) May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

   b. G*nōsis,* on the other hand, means a comprehensive, intelligent or intellectual knowledge

(2 Peter 3:18) But grow in the grace and knowledge (G*nōsis)* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:14-21) [19] and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. [20] Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, [21] … **(2 Corinthians 9:8)** (Compare Ephesians 2:8-10; 3:2, 7-8)

2. Grace Thwarted, Diverted, Replaced or Dying?: (Explain: Perseverance of Saints vs. Eternal Security)

(Hebrews 12:15-16a) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; [16] that *there be* no immoral or godless person …

(Galatians 5:4) [4] You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

VII. Next Message(s):

A. Element 8A2: More On Grace in Perspective

B. Grace Delivered (aka Delivery Systems of Grace) **/ Element 8B1: The Word of His Grace**