Series: That You May Know God's Love

The Transforming Love of God - How it Works -**(part 4)**

Introduction:

Over the past few weeks we have given our attention of the concept of knowing, at a deeper level, God's love for us. We have studied together and have learned that God's love is a pursuing love, a compelling love and a transforming love.

We have learned that God's love transforms us in 4 primary ways.

First, God transforms who we are when we are born again.

Second, God transforms what we believe about everything.

Third, God then transforms how we live.

Fourth, God transforms what we pursue.

We know that this is not a one-time process.

Ephesians 2:10b
describes this ongoing process
with the words
"we are His workmanship".

The ultimate purpose of this work of transformation is to make us more and more like Jesus in every way and to lead us to the pursuit of God's Kingdom and Righteousness above everything else.

This transformation is a work from the inside out.
This transformation is a work of God alone but it does require our cooperation, and/or our willingness.

In our study we have focused on <u>two important words</u>.

The words are grace and faith.

Our experience of transformation by God's love is a result of God's grace combined with our faith.

We have studied Philippians 2:13 and learned that

Grace is the *desire* to do God's will ("to will").

Grace is also the *power* to do God's will ('to work").

Grace is given in these two stages.
We must exercise faith once grace gives us the desire to do God's will.

Biblical faith is a trust which leads one to obedient action.

Our choice of obedient faith will activate the mighty power of God within us enabling us to accomplish God's will

In our desire to look at this concept of transforming love more closely we have been considering how this process of transformation works in *four keys areas* of God's will for us.

- God's will concerning our salvation
- God's will concerning our character development
- God's will concerning our serving in His Kingdom
- God's will concerning our overcoming sin

Thus far we have studied how the process of grace and faith accomplishes God's will in the first 3 areas... Today we will look together at how this process enables us to experience God's will in overcoming sin

As we reflect today on Palm Sunday we are reminded of the day Jesus was celebrated as he entered Jerusalem. We also remember how quickly the same crowd turned upon Him in less than a week and began to shout crucify Him.

This Friday will be celebrated as "Good Friday"
by many around the world.
On that Friday so many years ago Jesus willingly gave His life on the cross of Calvary.

He allowed His body to be beaten, pierced, and broken for each one of us. He allowed His precious blood to be poured out for us. The sacrifice of His body brought the good for us of redemption for our sin nature. The pouring out of His blood unto death brought the good for us of the forgiveness and victory over sin.

Our hope today is to see how God's grace enables us by faith to live in victory over sin. We will begin with several Scriptures which speak to God's will concerning our following Jesus in a lifestyle of overcoming sin. We will then look at how God's grace enables us to overcome sin in practical ways.

When we trust in Jesus alone seeking His forgiveness, believing Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that Jesus has risen from the dead we experience salvation. Our sins are forgiven and Jesus has helped us to overcome the penalty of sin. He took the penalty of death and separation from God for us. When we trust in Jesus His sacrifice is applied to our lives.

This is only the beginning of our experience of overcoming sin. Jesus now leads us by grace and faith to walk in His love and power and overcome the power of sin. One day Jesus will return and remove us from the very presence of sin. Until that day we must walk by grace and faith overcoming the power of sin and seeking first Jesus Kingdom and Righteousness.

1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5-10

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1 John 1:5-10

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:5-10

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:5-10

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

To truly walk in fellowship with God requires that we admit our struggle with sin and confess our sin to receive His forgiveness and cleansing.

1 John 2: 1-6

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1 John 2: 1-6

2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

1 John 2: 1-6

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2: 1-6

4 The one who says,
"I have come to know Him,"
and does not keep His commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 John 2: 1-6

5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

1 John 2: 1-6

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

God's will is that we do not sin. If we do sin Jesus is our advocate. He paid for all sin satisfying God's justice. When we are truly born again our desire is to keep His commandments and to walk as Jesus walked (free from sin).

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15-17

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1 John 2:15-17

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

God's will is that we love Him rather than loving the world. Sin tempts us through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. The one who believes (does the will of God) abides forever.

1 John 5:1-5

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

1 John 5:1-5

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

1 John 5:1-5

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

1 John 5:1-5

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:1-5

⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

We know with confidence that we belong to God because we love God, love God's people, and love to keep God's commandments. When we love God walking in His ways is not a burden to us. By faith we are able to overcome sin (the world).

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

It is God's will that we grow in sanctification which means walking in greater purity and less sin. Paul uses the example of sexual purity in this passage. Our calling to salvation is not a call to take advantage of forgiveness and to keep living in sin. It is a call to be changed by Jesus and to begin to overcome the power of sin.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13 we are given practical instruction concerning the process of grace and faith in overcoming temptation and enabling us to win the victory over sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

When we are facing the temptation to sin Grace will work in us to urge us towards choosing righteousness.

We must trust God and move towards righteousness.

He will then empower us to overcome the temptation.

How does God urge us towards righteousness? Examples:

- He reminds us that we are not alone in the struggle with sin
- He reminds us that being tempted is normal
- He convicts us to remind us that we have a choice
- He provides a way of escape which we must look for in faith

How does God urge us towards righteousness? Examples:

- He promises that no temptation will be more than can be conquered. To believe that we cannot help but to sin is to believe a lie. God can free you and deliver you.
- He provides His Word which helps us choose not to sin when we put it into our hearts

How does God urge us towards righteousness? Examples:

- He provides other disciples to encourage us and to provide accountability
- He provides wisdom to lead us to flee temptation. We are urged to starve the flesh.
- He reminds us that we belong to Him and have been made righteous in His eyes. Our love for Him and our understanding of all He has done for us urges us to choose to trust His ways.

All of these examples are in fact works of God's grace giving us the desire to do God's will. If we use these tools of God's grace in faith we can move towards greater freedom from sin. When we do choose to give into temptation and choose to sin we can confess it and experience forgiveness and cleansing.

The key truths we must consider are:

- God's will is that we overcome sin
- God therefore will give grace to enable us to overcome sin

The key truths we must consider are:

- We must not give up or give in to sin.

Quote from George Mueller: "We must never expect to sin, excuse sin, or excite sin.

- The way of righteousness is best for us. To follow Jesus we must not only seek first His Kingdom we must also seek His righteousness in our lives and world.

We begin our relationship with God by grace through faith in Jesus. We continue to walk with God in the same grace and faith process to accomplish the will of God.

Application:

Do you have evidence in your life that you have been born again?

(Love for God)
(Love for God's will)
(Love for God's people)
(Conviction of sin)

Application:

God's grace can help you overcome a struggle with sin.

Will you trust in Him and apply His grace to become more like Jesus?

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