

Break Free...

*A Thought for the Week From Patrick Kemper at
No Strongholds Ministries*

Week 9

God is Prejudiced

2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

He is, you know. I don't know if I can think of a more perfect example of prejudice. Does it shock you to hear me say that?

It's true.

The presence of God is such pure light, no shadows can exist – darkness cannot exist in any form in His presence. God's light exposes everything for exactly what it is, and yet, we are told that for those who are His children, His light is our refuge, our shield, a hiding place. How can that be?

Mou charis arkeo soi. (My grace is sufficient for you)

He judges sin without wavering - not so we can be condemned, but to separate us from it. Our Father has premeditated hatred for the sin that binds us and premeditated love for us, the sinners. No other judge exists with such extreme, advertised prejudice! For those in an authentic relationship with Jesus, we are considered innocent even though proven otherwise - we are given total exoneration when we confess and submit! How can God be considered a fair God if He acts that way?

... gar Mou dynamis teleioo en asthenia... (for My power is perfected in weakness)

How can God have any credibility if He is willing to operate from such a seemingly imbalanced perspective? *Mou charis (My grace)*.

God's grace – His unmerited, unearned favor – says we cannot be too dirty or too sinful where His perfect, compassionate light cannot invade, expose... and separate us so that we can be made whole again. His ability, His power to do what only He can do, is activated by humility. His power is perfected when we are weak - weak and vulnerable in our hearts and humbly dependent in reverence for His greatness. Only then can God's

intentional prejudice become true justice for those who are guilty but never had a vote in their existence.

Sin is sin, great or small. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners (chew on that until it sinks in). We do what is in our nature to do. If we are guilty of breaking any part of God's laws, we are guilty of breaking all of it. Just the way we cannot be too pregnant, too alive or too dead (you either are, or you aren't), there is no condition "too sinful" from which God cannot redeem us with His grace, His *charis* (His *unmerited* and *unearned* favor).

It works just for that reason – it cannot be earned.

The gift is freely given to those who need it most... and deserve it least. Jesus said that *whoever* would come to Him, He would never turn them away:

John 6:37 (NIV)

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Application

The only power the enemy has over you (as a believer, as a child of God) is your choice to self-destruct through deception (self-inflicted pain). They want you to believe that when you have sinned, you must limp off into the darkness and stay there. They want you to be afraid of the very light that will rescue you! This is what Jesus had to say:

John 3:20-21 (NIV)

{20} Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. {21} But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Read verse 20 again.

Those who hate the light will not come into it. They do evil and hate the light. You should love the light - God's light (the prejudicial light that seeks to separate you from the evil you choose to do) - offered to you as a shield and a refuge. If the enemy can keep you in the darkness (by deception), they keep you out of the very light that frees you.

Coming into the light that exposes the transgression, activates the mercy and brings glory to the One who offers it. Only those who refuse to honor the King refuse to come into the light... because of what walking into the light accomplishes.

When you find yourself feeling (and always remember that feelings can be liars) trapped by your mistakes and left dirty by your choices, **RUN TO THE LIGHT!!!!**

Get into the prejudicial light that exists to separate you from the sin that weighs you down and keeps you from freedom - freedom from being effective for God's kingdom... and from *Mou charis* (My grace).

Homework for the Week...

1.) Is the enemy holding you hostage and making you feel powerless through deception? Are you sulking in the dark over some choice(s) you have made? Have they convinced you the light is the last place you need to be? Pick up your mistakes and walk into the light so you can be relieved of them! Write down what is weighing you down, and ask God to wash you clean in His light. Identify the things keeping you from God's freedom and offer them to be exposed... so they can be eliminated. Who can you contact to help you? What needs work and what methods will you use to begin accomplishing this? Be specific.

2.) Mid-week check. List the opportunities you have had and how you responded (this is your obedience indicator). If you are still posting a doughnut, more than likely you weren't all that truthful when you asked God for chances to respond and improve. Check your heart; be authentic. Ask God to show you the way through what is blocking you from submitting in obedience.

3.) How are you doing compared to the way you started the week? If you still need improvement, refuse to move on to the next session. Stay here, submit, and choose to be obedient no matter what it takes. Explain how you have improved, or make a commitment to continue working. When you are operating in obedience in this area of your life... turn the page and move to the next session.
