**New Hope Global Sermon: Multiplied Grace**

**Introduction:**

It appears God wants to use all we are going through to help us all anchor more strongly in His grace. So, here’s the breaking news from Orlando. It starts in the context of Alzheimers.

Alzheimers is a roller coaster ride of confusion, loss, depression and occasional clarity for the client. It also is very wearing for the caregivers. The Lord knows this and the draining effect of this disease plus our context on me. He knows what each of us can manage as stressors mount up.

**The Bombshell**

Many of you know the joy we had through Bing and Emily’s friends of renting their house for a year in Wheaton. We have talked on zoom, had repeated email messages back and forth (they are serving in China right now), and I have packed in anticipation of a summer move for a year. The week we had at Easter in Wheaton was wonderfully restorative for me but also for Keith, so this provision made my heart very grateful. It renewed my energy and hope and gratitude that the Lord has heard my cries for a community, a church, friends, a support system locally and weather that did not make me sick!! And I know He heard.

But, just today (Friday), I received the unexpected word from the landlords of the house we were preparing to rent that they were canceling their contract. Their house is no long available to us. Keith had woken me up three times in the night last night, is having hallucinations and finally recognizing what is happening to him. At his age (89)he is also just simply worn out. The downward progression moves on. So the combination of his deterioration and my weariness hits doubly hard with the bombshell of the canceled contract today.

Many of you have other similarly dire circumstances you are dealing with. Just substitute your own acute crisis as you hear what God wants to do.

**Multiplied Grace**

None of us are facing our struggles alone. When I reached out today (Friday) with my SOS for urgent prayer for a new house to rent in Wheaton, I heard back immediately from so many of you. New Hope Global Fellowship is a prayer band around the world, beloved. So many of our dear international family expressed their commitment to pray:

* Jemima Williams in India (with us while she and David got their masters in
* Alex in Singapore
* Carmen in Niger, W. Africa,
* Carol in Minneapolis,
* Hanny in Kalamazoo, (from Indonesia)\_
* Tsegaab in Ethiopia
* Rayna in Atlanta
* Evan in Virginia, (from Indonesia)
* Dionisio in Wheaton (from Brazil)
* Susan in Orlando
* Bing in Wheaton (from China)

Alex and Bing are even searching on line for possibilities for me! What a testimony to the power of a church community. It bolsters my spirit.

But I also heard from the Lord. Within minutes of my reeling from the owners’ setback, God brought the song to my mind: He Giveth More Grace

 He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater.

 He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.

 To added affliction, he adddeth his mercy; to multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

Chorus: His love has no limit, His grace has no measure. His peace has no boundary known unto men. For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

 When we have exhausted our store of endurance. When our strength has failed ere the day is half done.

When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, the Father’s full giving has only begun.

 Chorus. (words: Annie Johnson Flint, music: Hubert Mitchell)

Every word of this song is totally true to the promises in God’s Word and totally life-giving to all who will receive it. In fact, the scripture attached to the song in the hymnal is 2 Cor. 9:8 – God is able to make all grace abound to you…

So, let’s put the problems and the promises together.

**The problems**: **has** :

The burdens grow greater God is able

The labors increase to make all grace

Added afflictions added mercy

Multiplied trials multiplied peace

Exhausted stores of endurance sufficient grace

Strength has failed God’s strength made perfect in our weakness

Reached the end of our hoarded resources His love has no limit

 His grace has no measure

 His power has no boundary known unto men

 For out of his infinite riches in Jesus He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

God’s grace is described as all grace – it is all-encompassing for our every need.

It abounds to us – so there is excess grace.

This is the lesson the Apostle Paul learned in his walk with the Lord. He pleaded with God to remove a “thorn int the flesh” that he felt was from Satan. It was a chronic affliction that was hurting him and his ministry. And he prayed for deliverance. But God’s answer was that he would learn to go through the afflictions with sufficient grace that covered all his weaknesses. As a result, he said: “I glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ can rest upon me.” (2 Cor. 9)

Are you at that point in coping with your struggles, beloved? I have to admit, I am not there 24/7. But when people pray for us, that releases fresh grace in our minds and hearts and we move, sometimes with bumps and starts, toward the ability to “delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:8-10 ).

So, let’s keep on praying, keep on trusting the Lord, keep on learning the full extent of the boundless grace God gives us again and again and again - freely, out of great compassion and goodness, to cover and supply all our weaknesses and needs.

These are words of faith, beloved, before our circumstances (and nations) turn as we cry out. But they call forth the best in us and the sustaining presence of the Lord and of family and friends He gives us to support us, admonish us, and carry us forward when needed! All gifts of the God of all grace that become the story of His glory. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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