

# Actual Grace

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# God's Offer

- God has given us an *offer of his love.*
  - 1 John 4: 9-12:

“In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.”

# God's Offer

- Jesus also says *He has chosen us.*
  - John 15: 15-17:

“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

# God's Offer

- God has given us an **offer of His love.**
  - **1 John 4: 9-12**
- Jesus also says **He has chosen us.**
  - **John 15: 15-17**
- God now awaits our response:
  - Deal or No Deal?
  - Respond or turn away?

# Evaluate Your Response to God

- **Ask yourself...**
  - What has been the pattern & trajectory of your life thus far? Where are you headed?
  - What is your Ideal?
  - What does your deepening understanding of “Grace” allow you to be?
- **What do I need to do now to deepen my relationship with God?**

# The Weakness of Man & the Omnipotence of God

- **Indifference to God:** lukewarmness.
- **Vices:** pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, sloth, envy.
- **Bad habits:** gossiping, compulsive shopping, indiscriminate entertainment choices (TV, movies, sports, card games, social media).
- **Addictions:** pornography, gambling, alcoholism, overeating, drugs, obsessive relationships.

# Virtues to Strive For...

- Humility
- Generosity
- Chastity
- Meekness
- Temperance
- Brotherly & Sisterly Love
- Diligence

# God's Help Is On the Way

- Romans 8:35,37-39:

**“What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

# How God Enables Us

- His Light and His Strength

— Romans: 8:28-30:

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.”

# Our Growth Depends on God

- Christ and I are an overwhelming majority!
  - John 15: 5-10:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.”

# Our Growth Depends on God

- John 15: 5-10 (continued)

“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.”

# Our Growth Depends on God

- John 6: 44:

**“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.”**

# When Does God Give His Light and Strength to Us?

- *Always!*

— Isaiah 42: 1, 6-7:

“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.”

# Is it ever too late for you to change?

- Ezekiel 33: 11, 13-16:

**“As I live, says the Lord God, I swear I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked man, but rather in the wicked man’s conversion, that he may live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! Why should you die, O house of Israel?”**

# Make your turn to the Lord permanent!

- Ezekiel 33: 11, 13-16:

“Though I say to the virtuous man that he shall surely live, if he then presumes on his virtue and does wrong, none of his virtuous deeds shall be remembered; because of the wrong he has done, he shall die. And though I say to the wicked man that he shall surely die, if he turns away from his sin and does what is right and just, giving back pledges, restoring stolen goods, living by the statutes that bring life, and doing no wrong, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”

# **Will God keep his promise?**

- **Yes!**

- 1 Timothy 2:1,4:

**“First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.”**

# **Other sources of God's guarantee to us...**

- Ephesians 2:8-10:

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”**

# **Common Excuses for Being and Remaining Distant from God**

- Your ideas?...

# How Does God Act in Our Life?

- Grace helps us discover God's truth and realize what it means in our lives.
- Grace makes us uncomfortable with sin.
- Grace permits us to discover new values.
  - Remember St. Paul's spiritual journey.

# What is Our Responsibility?

- Consequences are transcendental.
  - Individual
  - Socially
- Jesus asks: “What have you done to your brother?”

# **What are God's Guarantees of Effectiveness if We Choose for Him?**

- Matthew 7: 7-8 (page 1072)

**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”**

- **So, pray unceasingly for God's grace to understand, persevere, and grow in holiness.**

# Conclusion

- What is Cursillo?
  - Your opportunity for spiritual transformation & lifelong growth.
  - Countless people are praying for you right now and offering “palanca” as a lever to raise their prayers to God.

*De Colores!*