



## Releasing Grace Through Actions Of Faith

(November 10, 2015)

**In order to better understand grace, we should ask what hinders the grace of God from being released in our lives.**

Next to sin, the greatest enemy to grace is pride, for God resists the proud but ***gives grace the humble. 1 Peter 5:5***

***Therefore clothe yourselves with humility.*** How do we do that? We do it through repentance with prayer and fasting, which means putting God and his Word (agenda), before our own words and agendas. This is what the Lord tells Israel and the body of Christ in connection with the high holiday Yom Kippur, although this might not be known to most Christian believers.

In my own experience of faith in the Word, I have found that fasting with prayer is something that will release an avalanche of the grace of God. Through it God will lead us to judge and correct our lives (hitpallel), and that in turn will open us up to the blessings that God already has provided for us, based on his Word.

God spoke in the past about pending judgments against nations or peoples. He spoke through his servants the prophets. When the people received the "Word of the Lord" and repented from their evil ways, God also repented from the pending judgments.

Here are two examples from the Word of God.

### ***The first example is found in the life of the prophet Jonah and Nineveh.***

**Adonai spoke to Jonah to prophesy to the Ninevites about impending judgment, just like He is speaking to cities and nations today about judgment.**

***And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.***

***Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.***

How did the city respond to the word of the Lord?

***So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?***

Nineveh Repented with humility in prayer and fasting.

What did the Lord do?

***And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. Jonah 3:1-10***

**Humility released the grace of God through actions of faith, based on the prophetic word of the Lord.**

**God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them, and He did it not.**

This also works for individual needs such as forgiveness, deliverance, and healing.

### ***The other great example from the Word of God is Naaman and Elijah.***

Naaman was a mighty man that came to Elijah to get healed, but he almost lost his healing because of his pride and anger. However, when he humbled himself and followed the instructions of the Lord, his humility released the grace of God for the healing of his body that was covered with leprosy.

**The scriptures says that Elisha did not personally attend to Naaman, neither did he what Naaman was expecting him to do. This brought the spirit of Pride into manifestation in the life of Naaman.**

So, Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha.

Elisha did not go to meet him but sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."

***But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'... .."Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean '?" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean. 2 Kings 5:11-13***

The grace of God for healing was released when Naaman humbled himself and dipped himself in the river Jordan seven times, according to the very specific prophetic word of the Lord. **The Lord is still calling us to humble ourselves today, so that His grace can be released and freely flow through our lives.**

**For by grace are we saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is a gift from God. Not of work, lest any man should take the glory. Ephesians 2:8**

-Roger Wågsjö