

"Grace & The Kingdom of God" (RT 0:03:27)

Dallas Willard, WCA Conference, 2012
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlycWlmx2JM>

What I would say is simply this...

You are thinking about transformation and discipleship in your position as a pastor and a leader. One of the things that can happen we can begin to feel burdened and responsible for not doing it sooner. Perhaps we have things in our past that have not worked out well. I think this is where we need to understand the meaning of grace for us.

The bottom line for each of us is I am a disciple. I am here now. To be a disciple means I receive grace. Perhaps one of the most concrete meanings of grace is "Now is the time to go on." "Mercies of God are new every morning" as the song says. I accept those. I don't beat myself up because I have not done things now I think I should be doing.

Just begin to implement in your own life the practice of living by grace as a disciple of Jesus. That means looking forward. Now I begin to put into practice some of the things I understand that are available to me and that He wants me to do.

I lay down the burden of success and trying to think about it in various ways that probably have come from sources in my past. I start thinking about success as the present Kingdom of God in my life now. That means relationally not just to Christ Himself but to those who are around me. How am I going to live together with them now? That's the place we pick up.

Once we get over to the idea that grace is just limited to forgiveness, and understand that grace is a power in our lives. Grace is God acting in our lives to accomplish what we can't accomplish on our own. Then we step forward watching for Him to act. Then grace reconstructs all of our lives. We can pick up and go from here with confidence in a reality that we experience day by day - that's the Kingdom of God.

With that, we can begin to change what we do. Among other things, lay down a lot of burdens we are carrying. For ministers and leaders, the burden of performance is so crushing. They are locked into this idea of performing often for their congregation or for whoever.

Just say,

"I don't perform.

I stand before God. He is an audience of One.

That's where I live."

Out of that you can not perform, you minister the Kingdom of God.

The presence of God in your life comes out to everyone around you.

Peace, rest, relaxation everywhere because of that.

