



LIVING THE GRAND LIFE  
COURSE WORKBOOK

Also used for  
*Retreat/Small Group Leader Guide*

LIVING THE GRAND LIFE

Retreat Leader Guide

# WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



### ***Dedication***

*To my wife, Linda, who lives out and encourages us to live out the Grand Life promised by God. She continually reminds us not to accept mediocrity but expect and move into God's will, where He delivers the Covenant—the very best elements of life that are unique to us. It is a joy to experience this Grand life with Linda—especially the excitement and anticipation of what the Lord will deliver in our individual circumstances and situations—especially when we face troubles and adversities. Our life is truly a grand adventure as we experience the Grand Life of God—who cannot do anything but deliver the Grand—because He is grand.*

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# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"



**"Why are we able to live the grand, spectacular life of God? Because He is grand and spectacular."**

Welcome to our course: *Living the Grand Life*. This is a course about living the spectacular life of God, which is very exciting for all believers. There's a thought that we are just supposed to accept our lot in life—a lot that tends to be troublesome and difficult with only mediocre solutions—and that we never really were intended to live a grand life with God. In this study, we are going to learn why that is not the case. We will do it by exploring what God speaks as well as the truth of who He is and how He can't do anything less.

### Let's first look at His truth from Psalm 145:

Great Is the Lord

<sup>[a]</sup> A Song of Praise. Of David.

**145** I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

- <sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,
- <sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your<sup>[b]</sup> mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
- [The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.][<sup>c</sup>]
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.
- <sup>16</sup> You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- <sup>17</sup> The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.
- <sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.
- <sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.
- <sup>20</sup> The Lord preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

He is grand. His greatness abounds. He is majestic. We could spend the entire course just going through each verse of Psalm 145, which say that life with God is spectacular and that God takes care of the spectacular. Yes, we are going to have trouble, and we are going to need assistance, but there are things that we need to understand about His wondrous works. The supernatural is going to be delivered to us. There is a simplicity to this. Why are we able to live the grand, spectacular life of God? Because He is grand and spectacular. It is his nature. We need to be transformed in our thinking that God is sitting in heaven unhappy with us because we're not performing correctly and that we deserve difficulty and oppression.

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**Let's first look at His greatness. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–12:**

David Prays in the Assembly

<sup>10</sup> Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**Then Deuteronomy 32:1–4:**

**32** "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,  
and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> May my teaching drop as the rain,  
my speech distill as the dew,  
like gentle rain upon the tender grass,  
and like showers upon the herb.

<sup>3</sup> For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;  
ascribe greatness to our God!

<sup>4</sup> "The Rock, his work is perfect,  
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,  
just and upright is he.

God is greatness. How would we define this? Limitless—He has unlimited wonder. He is the great provider. This wonder is not difficult to receive or experience. It is not offered only to the lucky ones—rather His purpose is that every one of His children experiences it.

Splendor and majesty literally mean the best of the best. It is the greatness of God. It is the great "I am." We are to ascribe glory to this and recognize that we, too, can receive it. We need to elevate our thinking to join Him in understanding the majestic and the grand life we are to receive.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Ephesians 1:15–23:

#### Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[a] toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The "greatness" is the glorious, the spectacular, the grand scale of who He is. He is preeminent. He's above what? Everything. He is above everything that He's created, including the circumstances of the creation, and the principalities and powers. Angels and demons. He's above all of it. Is there anything that can top His greatness? No. This is the same power that He used to resurrect Jesus. What kind of power is that? It is mighty. It is physical. It is spiritual. And it is emotional. It encompasses everything. His power is all inclusive. This is the reason it is described here. The very power that He used to resurrect Christ is also directed toward whom? Us. It is directed toward those who believe, which is the qualifier. What do we need to believe? The greatness. Do you believe that? We are to elevate our thoughts about who He really is and realize that this grandeur is directed toward each of us personally. Everybody can receive it. The only requirement is to believe that He is "greatness" and will deliver this greatness to us.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Psalm 21:1–7:

The King Rejoices in the Lord's Strength

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

**21** O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,  
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!

<sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire  
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

<sup>3</sup> For you meet him with rich blessings;  
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

<sup>4</sup> He asked life of you; you gave it to him,  
length of days forever and ever.

<sup>5</sup> His glory is great through your salvation;  
splendor and majesty you bestow on him.

<sup>6</sup> For you make him most blessed forever,<sup>[a]</sup>  
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the Lord,  
and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

### Then Psalm 29:1–4, 11:

Ascribe to the Lord Glory

A Psalm of David.

**29** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,<sup>[a]</sup>  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over many waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless<sup>[a]</sup> his people with peace!

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When you think of strength, what does that word imply? Power that can do what? Overcome anything. For example, in arm wrestling. Which competitor wins? The stronger one. Why? Because they have more force than their opponent. This is also the truth about God's strength. God has strength because He has more force than anything else. This is not just limited to theological concepts, but He has real force in all of life's circumstances. "I can make things happen. I will satisfy you. If you have a heart to follow, I will deliver it to you. Your path will be splendor."

In Psalm 29, He makes an interesting statement. In these verses, where does the strength come from? The strength comes from His voice. What He speaks initiates the force. It is how He created the world. This is called *ex nihilo*, which means out of nothing. God did not reform or repurpose things that were already in existence. Humans did not evolve out of the molecules of the sea. No, we and everything else were created purposefully. How? God spoke it into existence. He spoke the Earth into existence. He spoke us into existence. His strength comes from His voice. And His voice is to be used for what purpose? His glory. God's glory is to be shared by us because we're to be the recipient of it. The greatness, the strength comes from Him. We are not getting stronger, but this strength comes from experiencing His glory in real life by receiving what He speaks, accepting what He has to say. This is how to live in the grand right now.

### Read Daniel 5:10–12:

<sup>10</sup> The queen,<sup>[a]</sup> because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. <sup>11</sup> There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods.<sup>[b]</sup> In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, <sup>12</sup> because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Then 1 Chronicles 16:8–17, 25–29:

David's Song of Thanks

<sup>8</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

<sup>9</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!

<sup>10</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

<sup>11</sup> Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

<sup>12</sup> Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

<sup>13</sup> O offspring of Israel his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

<sup>14</sup> He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.

<sup>15</sup> Remember his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

<sup>16</sup> the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,

<sup>17</sup> which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

<sup>25</sup> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

<sup>27</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and joy are in his place.

<sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

<sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering and come before him!

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;<sup>[a]</sup>

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Daniel was part of the remnant that was carried back from Israel when God brought judgment on them. Why did He bring judgment on Israel? Because they turned away from Him and refused to seek Him. He repeatedly offered to have them repent, return to Him and halt the judgement, and bring back the abundant life. But they refused and said, "We're not repenting and are not going to seek You."

This is important for us to understand. These were His children. His greatness and His majesty were available to them, but they rejected it. Because of God's Holiness, this rejection was going to bring judgment. Daniel was also subject to the judgment since it was on a national scale, and was carried into captivity. But, God said to the remnant who was part of the judgment: "If you believe, I'll still provide the grand life to you."

Daniel was captured and taken to Babylon. He and his cohorts had to leave Israel, and thus lost all of their traditions, celebrations, worship, etc. Life for them completely changed. In the middle of that, God said, "I'll still give you the Covenant. I am still majesty. I am still excellence. I am still splendor. Even though you are no longer enjoying your former life, it doesn't prevent Me from delivering it to you." What was the only requirement of the remnant? To follow Him and He would deliver it—which He did.

In this story in the book of Daniel, after many years of experiencing God's provision of the grand life, the new king, Belshazzar had an unusual experience. In the middle of a great feast, he witnessed the fingers of a human hand as it appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of his palace. The mysterious handwriting on the wall greatly upset the king. When the queen entered the banquet hall, she told the king there was no need to be upset because right there in their kingdom, they had somebody who would know what the handwriting meant. She explained that this person had the nature of God within him—which she described as wisdom, splendor, majesty, excellence, and in this situation, the ability to solve difficult things.

Daniel, himself, said in Chapter 2 that he knew these abilities had nothing to do with him and that he was the recipient of God's nature living through him. The queen had observed the splendor and majesty of God—the same splendor and majesty that is fully available to all of us right now.

In 1 Chronicles 16:27, we understand that honor and majesty are before Him. Strength and gladness are in His place. God's nature is splendor and majesty, honor and glory—gladness, joy, strength, and might. All of the characteristics of God are where? Wherever He is—which is the Kingdom. If that's who He is, can He be anything else? Absolutely not. It is who He is—and those characteristics are in His place where He is at. He invites us to come be with Him so that we experience Him. And since He can't do anything less, we will experience the grand, spectacular life available to us.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

It is important to understand that for the queen to observe this grandeur in Daniel, he had to display and live out these characteristics. As we learned in Genesis 1:26, we humans are created in the image of God. God's purpose was always to have His creation reflect His nature—to be the physical representative of the invisible God. However, because of the fall of Adam and Eve, we all have a fallen nature that is not reflective of the image of God in all its grandeur. Because of this, God desires to restore that within us and have us experience it. Furthermore, if we are living this out, others will observe it and see the grand nature of God, too.

### Read Psalm 65:1–4, 11–13:

O God of Our Salvation

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.

**65** Praise is due to you,<sup>[a]</sup> O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed.

<sup>2</sup> O you who hear prayer,  
to you shall all flesh come.

<sup>3</sup> When iniquities prevail against me,  
you atone for our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
the holiness of your temple!

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

<sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Then Psalm 135:1–6:

Your Name, O Lord, Endures Forever

**135** Praise the Lord!

Praise the name of the Lord,

give praise, O servants of the Lord,

<sup>2</sup> who stand in the house of the Lord,

in the courts of the house of our God!

<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;

sing to his name, for it is pleasant!<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,

Israel as his own possession.

<sup>5</sup> For I know that the Lord is great,

and that our Lord is above all gods.

<sup>6</sup> Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,

in heaven and on earth,

in the seas and all deeps.

God's nature is goodness and pleasantness. It is valuable, important, great, spectacular, enjoyable, agreeable, rich, prosperous, happy, excellent, miraculous, delightful, lovely, and sweet. Our life will have a very beautiful emotional level—a pleasantness, a splendor—and it will be enjoyable.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Psalm 105:

Tell of All His Wondrous Works

**105** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

<sup>4</sup> Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

<sup>6</sup> O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

<sup>7</sup> He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.

<sup>8</sup> He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

<sup>9</sup> the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,

<sup>10</sup> which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

<sup>11</sup> saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

<sup>12</sup> When they were few in number,  
of little account, and sojourners in it,

<sup>13</sup> wandering from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another people,

<sup>14</sup> he allowed no one to oppress them;  
he rebuked kings on their account,

<sup>15</sup> saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,  
do my prophets no harm!"

<sup>16</sup> When he summoned a famine on the land  
and broke all supply<sup>[a]</sup> of bread,

<sup>17</sup> he had sent a man ahead of them,  
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

- <sup>18</sup> His feet were hurt with fetters;  
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
- <sup>19</sup> until what he had said came to pass,  
the word of the Lord tested him.
- <sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him;  
the ruler of the peoples set him free;
- <sup>21</sup> he made him lord of his house  
and ruler of all his possessions,
- <sup>22</sup> to bind<sup>[b]</sup> his princes at his pleasure  
and to teach his elders wisdom.
- <sup>23</sup> Then Israel came to Egypt;  
Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
- <sup>24</sup> And the Lord made his people very fruitful  
and made them stronger than their foes.
- <sup>25</sup> He turned their hearts to hate his people,  
to deal craftily with his servants.
- <sup>26</sup> He sent Moses, his servant,  
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
- <sup>27</sup> They performed his signs among them  
and miracles in the land of Ham.
- <sup>28</sup> He sent darkness, and made the land dark;  
they did not rebel<sup>[c]</sup> against his words.
- <sup>29</sup> He turned their waters into blood  
and caused their fish to die.
- <sup>30</sup> Their land swarmed with frogs,  
even in the chambers of their kings.
- <sup>31</sup> He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,  
and gnats throughout their country.
- <sup>32</sup> He gave them hail for rain,  
and fiery lightning bolts through their land.
- <sup>33</sup> He struck down their vines and fig trees,  
and shattered the trees of their country.
- <sup>34</sup> He spoke, and the locusts came,  
young locusts without number,
- <sup>35</sup> which devoured all the vegetation in their land  
and ate up the fruit of their ground.

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## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

<sup>36</sup> He struck down all the firstborn in their land,  
the firstfruits of all their strength.

<sup>37</sup> Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold,  
and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.

<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.

<sup>39</sup> He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.

<sup>40</sup> They asked, and he brought quail,  
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.

<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.

<sup>42</sup> For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.

<sup>43</sup> So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.

<sup>44</sup> And he gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,

<sup>45</sup> that they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws.

Praise the Lord!

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Then Psalm 25:4–7:

- <sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.
- <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.
- <sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.
- <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

The Hebrew words for *loving kindness* and *mercy* are the same—Covenant loyalty. God's nature is loyalty to the Covenant. (We have an entire course dedicated to the Covenant and we encourage you to work through that to understand the depth of the Covenant.) The essence of the Covenant is that God is going to bless you to make you a blessing. That is the nature of His relationship with you. That is who "I am." He continues to reiterate that we can count on that as He is completely loyal to that nature. He will deliver the Covenant. When? Now. He cannot do anything less because His nature is to be loyal to the Covenant. He promises that His nature of greatness, splendor, beauty, and goodness will be delivered to us. That will be the blessing. It is not limited to financial blessing. Rather, the entire nature of God is what will be delivered to you. That is the Covenant.

When or how often do we need this? We need this all the time. Why? Because we live in a world of trouble. The church tends to teach that we should pray to eliminate this world of trouble, so we never have to suffer the consequences of this trouble. The truth is that the world was handed over to Satan by Adam and Eve. Now, we live in this world of "kill, steal, and destroy"—which is occupied by self-centered people who are not following God. Without experiencing the nature of God, we will be affected as everyone else—living in trouble with no hope. Why is the Covenant so important? Because God will restore us to His nature of grandeur as we take back dominion and live the grand life He offers us, instead of one riddled with defeat.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Psalm 111:1–10:

Great Are the Lord's Works

**111** <sup>[a]</sup> Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!

Why is God ever mindful of the Covenant? Because it is His nature, and thus all of our life is to be experienced in the Covenant. We are to experience our life in the Covenant despite the trouble of the world that is common to all, including believers. So, as we experience trouble, our first thought is to be that God is going to deliver the Covenant to us. As it states in verse 9, He will command it. It is going to happen. Instead of suffering with worry and anxiety, go to God and say, "Father, what do You have to say about this? I know You will deliver the Covenant. You are going to command it, and I am going to overcome this."

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Psalm 43:3–5:

<sup>3</sup> Send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling!

<sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my exceeding joy,  
and I will praise you with the lyre,  
O God, my God.

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.

### Then, Isaiah 65:17–19:

New Heavens and a New Earth

<sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come into mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
and the cry of distress.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### **Then, Romans 14:17:**

<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Who is joy? God. It is Him. It's not something separate from Him. He is joy. Psalm 43:4 says to go to His altar and experience joy. The essence of the creation is supposed to be joy. You can live in joy because you can be with God in the Kingdom where there is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you are living in the Kingdom, you will be with Him who is joy, and thus, you will be experiencing joy—despite the difficult circumstances of life. Remember, we live in a world that is under the control of the enemy, but God's Kingdom is superior to this world. If we live in the Kingdom, in addition to experiencing His nature, we have the authority to overcome the world. Why? Because we will be with Him. He is grandeur, and He will deliver that to us and through us.

However, if you're not with Him in the Kingdom, you are not going to experience this. While it is always available, you are not able to experience it because you are in the world, separate from Him. He cannot give Himself to you when you are not with Him. The key is to live in joy despite the circumstances by living with Him in His Kingdom.

### **Read Jude 1:24–25:**

#### Doxology

<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time<sup>[a]</sup> and now and forever. Amen.

We are to live in His glory, majesty, dominion, and authority. When you are living in this, you are living in joy. We are always to pray that the God of joy will deliver that to you.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Revelation 1:3–6:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

#### Greeting to the Seven Churches

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### Read John 1:14–18:

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son<sup>[a]</sup> from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God,<sup>[c]</sup> who is at the Father's side,<sup>[d]</sup> he has made him known.

John, who was drawn up into heaven to see Revelation, said, "I see Christ, who is grace." The word grace is extreme favor, pleasure, delight, sweetness, Covenant, and goodness. All the nature of God is resident in Him. In the Gospel of John, John wrote that Jesus is the representative of grace. God is grace. Jesus is God. He came to Earth as a person to demonstrate grace. We have the Holy Spirit to demonstrate grace to and in us. We are to be the recipient and the conduit of grace because it is His nature, and we are to experience all the beautiful elements of God as we walk through life. He is resident within us and thus, we will live in extreme favor, extreme sweetness.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read 1 John 4:7–11, 16:

God Is Love

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

### Then, Ephesians 2:4–10:

<sup>4</sup> But<sup>[a]</sup> God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The word *love* is God's affection to have fellowship with us. Affection means emotion. God desires to experience a positive emotional affection for you, for us. That is who He is. As we experience His affection, this love then flows toward others. In turn, we will have an affection for them, but the affection will come from God. Unless we are with God, we will not have the ability to give this affection.

What the world calls love isn't really love, given that most of the world operates in pure physical attraction. This type of attraction often tends to turn into manipulation. The best way for us to express this love to others, especially our spouse and friends, is for both to stay in the Kingdom. In the Kingdom, you will receive the nature of God who is affection, and then you can give it away. From there, your ability to give it away to others increases.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Love is not acceptance. Does God accept when you walk away and go into the world without following Him? No, He does not. His love does what? It invites you back because you are in a place where He cannot give it to you. Do not follow the world's definition of love. We have to be careful, because this is what is happening all around us. Do not thus follow the world's view of love by accepting false claims, lies, and self-centeredness as good. This results in moving away from the love of God to a place where He can no longer deliver it to you. Rather, He wants to express His nature in our life, so we experience it and feel it. He wants you to feel His love, His pleasure with you. Why? Because you are His child. He loves you. He cares. He loves being with you. This is true love and it is wonderful.

### **Read 1 John 3:1–3:**

**3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

### **Then, John 17:17–19:**

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them<sup>[a]</sup> in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself,<sup>[b]</sup> that they also may be sanctified<sup>[c]</sup> in truth.

One of the aspects of God's nature is purity—or sanctification. What does that word mean?

It means to become more like Jesus. It is to be set apart from the world—to be holy and living out God's nature. We are to reflect the nature of God, the pure nature of God, and that requires us to be pure by being with Him. We can't do it any other way. We tend to think sanctification is to do the things of the Christian life correctly. Rather, God invites us to walk with Him—to fulfill truth and reflect the purity of God—which is God's nature in us.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read Psalm 62:5–7:

<sup>5</sup> For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from him.

<sup>6</sup> He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

<sup>7</sup> On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

### Then, Jeremiah 29:11:

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The word *hope* is important to us. Why do we need hope? It keeps us going toward the good. Hope is having confidence to keep going for whatever good God has for you. This is especially needed when you are not experiencing the good. Without the good, we tend to go to resignation and accept the “not good” as God’s will. This results in discouragement. God says, “When I give you hope, it is certain, and you can expect it.” What shall we expect? The Covenant, especially when things aren’t working well. God’s nature is hope that automatically carries us to anticipate that things are going to work out well—we will receive the Covenant and the good—which are God’s resolution of the grand. Remember though, this is tied to belief.

### Read Romans 15:13:

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

We pray and believe that the God of hope will give us what we need—hope and the good. We can be certain that He will give it—which keeps us going toward the good.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

### Read 2 Samuel 22:1–4:

David's Song of Deliverance

**22** And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

<sup>2</sup> He said,

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

<sup>3</sup> my<sup>[a]</sup> God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation,

my stronghold and my refuge,

my savior; you save me from violence.

<sup>4</sup> I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,

and I am saved from my enemies.

### Then, Psalm 46:1–3; 10–11:

God Is Our Fortress

To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth.<sup>[a]</sup> A Song.

**46** God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present<sup>[b]</sup> help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

**Then, Psalm 18:1–3; 16; 19; 28–36; 46–50:**

The Lord Is My Rock and My Fortress

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

**18** I love you, O Lord, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies.

<sup>16</sup> He sent from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of many waters.

<sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a broad place;  
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

<sup>28</sup> For it is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.

<sup>29</sup> For by you I can run against a troop,  
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

<sup>30</sup> This God—his way is perfect;<sup>[a]</sup>  
the word of the Lord proves true;  
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

<sup>31</sup> For who is God, but the Lord?  
And who is a rock, except our God?—

<sup>32</sup> the God who equipped me with strength  
and made my way blameless.

<sup>33</sup> He made my feet like the feet of a deer  
and set me secure on the heights.

<sup>34</sup> He trains my hands for war,  
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

<sup>35</sup> You have given me the shield of your salvation,  
and your right hand supported me,  
and your gentleness made me great.

<sup>36</sup> You gave a wide place for my steps under me,  
and my feet did not slip.

<sup>46</sup> The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock,  
and exalted be the God of my salvation—

<sup>47</sup> the God who gave me vengeance  
and subdued peoples under me,

<sup>48</sup> who rescued me from my enemies;  
yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;  
you delivered me from the man of violence.

<sup>49</sup> For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations,  
and sing to your name.

<sup>50</sup> Great salvation he brings to his king,  
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,  
to David and his offspring forever.

In the world, Jesus said you are going to have what? Trouble. This is because the world is under the domain of the enemy that “kills, steals, and destroys.” It is full of self-centered people who cause difficult circumstances.

There are people who oppose you. There are people who are stronger than you who are active in all aspects of your life. These people who are stronger have influence over things and make decisions without your input. They force things, make things happen, and reject things. You aren't able to simply ignore this because it impacts you. They ultimately become an enemy. In this world, you are going to have people opposing you. You're going to have difficulty. You're going to have circumstances where you're in deep trouble. But He says that His nature is to deliver you to the good—because He is the rock. He is the fortress. He is the refuge. He is the stronghold. This implies that you are going to experience His ability to deliver you to the refuge—to the fortress. You don't need to try to figure this out on your own or stay in the messy situation. Let Him deliver you from it. Stay with Him, and you will overcome it. His nature is to provide deliverance in a world of trouble.

# LESSON 1

## GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

If we put all that together with the Covenant, with the majesty, with the greatness, with the splendor, with the might, with the love, with the purity, with the joy, we will experience the good—which is God's grand life. He knows that life is hard, so the focus needs to be on His deliverance from the difficulties. Focus on the grandeur of God who is in the middle of all our issues. Expect nothing less. The simple reason being that God can't be anything less. Recognize that this grand life is available because He is grand, and His grandeur is available now. Fellowship with Him is available now to experience in the middle of this troubled world.



# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US



**“God places His nature upon you, upon all of us. He says He will deliver it to you, and you will receive these same characteristics—majesty, splendor, and greatness.”**

**T**hroughout Lesson 1, we set the premise of the beauty of the grand life: God is grand! We went through His characteristics of might, strength, greatness, love, joy, purity, grace, and hope. All of these describe the nature of God. He cannot be anything less. Because of this, He wants us to experience this beautiful life. It is His promise to deliver the grand life to each of us.

### **Read Psalm 45:1–8:**

Your Throne, O God, Is Forever

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil<sup>[a]</sup> of the Sons of Korah; a love song.

**45** My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;

I address my verses to the king;

my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

<sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of the sons of men;

grace is poured upon your lips;

therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,

in your splendor and majesty!

<sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride out victoriously

for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;

let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!

<sup>5</sup> Your arrows are sharp

in the heart of the king's enemies;

the peoples fall under you.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

<sup>7</sup> you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

<sup>8</sup> your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad...

# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

**Then, Psalm 21:1–7:**

The King Rejoices in the Lord's Strength

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

**21** O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,  
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!

<sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire  
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

<sup>3</sup> For you meet him with rich blessings;  
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

<sup>4</sup> He asked life of you; you gave it to him,  
length of days forever and ever.

<sup>5</sup> His glory is great through your salvation;  
splendor and majesty you bestow on him.

<sup>6</sup> For you make him most blessed forever;[a]  
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the Lord,  
and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

God places His nature upon you, upon all of us. He says He will deliver it to you, and you will receive these same characteristics—majesty, splendor, and greatness. David, who wrote the words of these Psalms, knew this. When he sinned, he requested one thing from God: for God not to take the Holy Spirit from him. Why did David request this? Because he knew that the nature of God was to be experienced by receiving the Holy Spirit. This is so meaningful because the Holy Spirit resides in us. These characteristics are not to be enjoyed periodically but to be experienced and lived out all the time. The nature of God is already there. His splendor, majesty, greatness, and strength are all there. God placed it all within us to be experienced.

# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

### Read Deuteronomy 7:6–9:

<sup>6</sup>“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...

We are God's chosen. We are His special treasure. We are valuable and important. And because we are His children, God places His nature in each of us so that we can experience Him. This was the original intention of being created in His image. We are a physical representative of the invisible God, living in the Covenant: “I will bless you to be a blessing.” Our real-life circumstances are to reflect the glory of God—which is His nature in us. It is His grandeur and beauty in each of us, His special treasure, carrying the grand life—His nature—into a life that is reflective of this truth.

### Read Deuteronomy 6:10–13; 24–25:

<sup>10</sup>“And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, <sup>11</sup> and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, <sup>12</sup> then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup> It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

<sup>24</sup> And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. <sup>25</sup> And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.’

# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

### Then, Deuteronomy 28:12:

<sup>12</sup>The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

### Then, Psalm 25:12–15:

<sup>12</sup>Who is the man who fears the Lord?  
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.  
<sup>13</sup>His soul shall abide in well-being,  
and his offspring shall inherit the land.  
<sup>14</sup>The friendship[a] of the Lord is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.  
<sup>15</sup>My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Throughout all our lives, what is He delivering? Goodness. The word goodness means valuable, excellent, spectacular, the very best, the supernatural. In all these situations, God is going to give over to you the “good.” What this means is that His nature, which is now in us, is going to translate into our circumstances. We will experience the good. He says that if you follow Him, He is going to show you the way to go—the goodness. Does that imply that our life is absent of trouble? No. We need to be careful not to attribute goodness to never experiencing difficulty.

A trouble-free life would obviously be the preference. In fact, it is not uncommon to pray for protection from anything bad that might happen or to complain about something that God “let” happen. The truth is that we live in a world of trouble. Unfortunately, we are not exempt from that. When Adam and Eve handed over the authority of the world to the enemy—an enemy whose objective is to “kill, steal, and destroy”—trouble entered the world. Jesus said in John 16:33, “In the world, you are going to have trouble.” He did not exempt us from that. However, in this world of trouble, what can He deliver? Good. We can count on this because His nature is good. He gives it to us, and with it, we will prosper. There is only one condition. That single condition is our choice to receive it.

# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

### Read Deuteronomy 30:11–20:

#### The Choice of Life and Death

<sup>11</sup> “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God<sup>[a]</sup> that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,<sup>[b]</sup> then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

God says the truth of what He is revealing to us is not that difficult to receive. You don't need to hear it from anyone else. He tells us everything we need to know, and it is quite simple. He says that He set before us life and death, blessing and curses. We can have the good that is His nature—which He is willing to hand over—to live the life which is His life.

This is both God Himself and experiencing God within our circumstances, which become good. If we do not choose this, the opposite is not pretty. It's difficult, awful and all because of the choice we made. It is by invitation, not by guarantee. God is talking to His children and giving an invitation. The choice to receive it is ours. God wants us to choose Him, to choose life. He explains what that choice means. It means we will be with Him and that we can cling to Him.

# LESSON 2

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

When we stop hearing His voice, it means we have already made the choice not to be with Him. No longer hearing His voice is an indicator. Pay attention to the silence. God says that His heart is always to give us the good. When does He want to give it to us? Now. In fact, right now. This is the gospel. Nothing is too difficult for Him to give us the good—and He will do it right now if we let Him. His heart is always to invite us to the good, in hopes that we choose to receive it.

### **Read John 10:10:**

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

### **Then, Psalm 37:11:**

<sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land  
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Christ has come to give you what? Life. When you see this in scripture, understand that this is defined as the full spectrum of the Grand Life. It is the nature of God. When He says, "I came to give to you life," it means, "I've come to give you the all the characteristics of My nature. It is fantastic. It is amazing. It is super-abundant. I'm going to restore to you the way it was supposed to be with Adam and Eve. The characteristics of your experience of this life will be grand—exceedingly, abundantly, spectacularly beyond anything you can imagine. In other words, it's going to be good—not kind of good, not a little bit good, not mediocre. No, it is exceedingly abundant. He says it is an abundance of shalom. It is favor. It is spectacular. It is miraculous. It is all the elements of life. The abundance of shalom is to be experienced by all His children.

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### Read Ephesians 3:20–21:

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God is able and desires to give us above and beyond what we can think or imagine. We tend to get this backwards though. Should we just think bigger and God will give us more? No. As we walk through life, what will we encounter? Difficulties, issues, adversity, sticky things, decisions to make. When we operate in the natural, we try to figure out resolutions. But what God can do far surpasses and is abundantly above any solution we can come up with. He is going to deliver to us the good. His definition of good is going to be way bigger than our definition of good, because our way of thinking is far too narrow. God says that He will provide resolution that is above and beyond anything we can imagine. His answer is far greater than our own natural solution.

The purpose of explaining this is not to encourage us to try to think on a much broader scale, or to want bigger things. The focus is not intended for us to focus on what we can do in our limited capacity. The focus should be to rely completely on God for all resolution. God is not a genie who is there to grant all our wishes. He knows what is best for us, and He knows what is good for us, and He will walk us into that.

There are a number of great examples in Scripture of God doing exactly that. In the story about Saul and Ananias, Saul gets converted. He is told to go into the city of Damascus and wait for a guy to come and lay hands on him. God then goes to Ananias while he is in the Word and said, "Ananias." Ananias answered and the Lord told him that He wanted him to go lay hands on Saul. How did Ananias respond? "What? Do you understand who you are talking about? That doesn't make sense. I don't want to do that." In no way did he see that being a good idea.

But God can do immeasurably more than we could ask or think and explained to Ananias that Saul was a chosen instrument who would carry His name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. This was far more than Ananias could comprehend and had never even considered this possibility. God used Ananias as part of the plan to launch Saul into becoming the greatest person to ever express the truth.

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Why was Saul—who later was renamed Paul—able to express truth more than anybody else? Because he could receive it. It wasn't his great skill or talent. It was his ability to receive it combined with having a heart to learn. An interesting fact about Saul was that after he was converted and presented to the disciples, he went home to Tarsus. He didn't start his preaching or teaching as most think. For three years, he spent the time alone and learned truth from Jesus through the Holy Spirit. As a Pharisee, he knew the Old Testament backwards and forwards. For three years, he literally went verse by verse by verse and communed with God to understand what it meant now that Christ had come. His writings in the New Testament are full of Old Testament truth because he understood the application of it since all of it is the Word of God. All of that time was spent receiving the revelation of all of this from the Holy Spirit.

God knew that Ananias didn't think laying hands on Saul was a good thing. But it turned out to be something far more grand and immeasurably more than Ananias could ever think or imagine. God's plan doesn't need to make sense to us, but we need to understand that His plan is spectacularly fantastic.

### **Read Ezekiel 36:33–36:**

<sup>33</sup> "Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt.

<sup>34</sup> And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. <sup>35</sup> And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' <sup>36</sup> Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

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**Then, Psalm 40:1–3:**

My Help and My Deliverer

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

**40** I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord.

In these passages, he describes the difficulty of his circumstances. These are not unlike the difficulties we face—when things have been ruined or situations are a mess. In essence we find ourselves figuratively stuck in the mud. We cannot figure out why or how we ended up where we are, but as we try harder to get out of the mess, we actually end up sinking deeper into the mud and getting stuck even farther. We can't get out of the cycle, and no matter how hard we try, we can't figure a way out. We try and try and try, but sink deeper and deeper and deeper and things continue to get harder and harder and harder.

God knows we have great distress, that we oftentimes find ourselves in a mess, that we get stuck in the mud. What does He promise? He promises to rebuild the entire ruin. He promises to return it to being grand—back to the Garden of Eden. In other words, He will return it to the spectacular, to the best. It will be better than what we had before. He will give us the very best from the ruin, even when—especially when—we are stuck in the mud. Three things will happen as He brings us to resolution:

1. He will put us on the rock as He frees us from being stuck.
2. He will give us hope that our issues will be resolved.
3. We will walk on solid ground into His solution.

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As all of this comes to fruition, there will be a song in our hearts as we rejoice in the freedom He provided. Hallelujah! He will get us unstuck and rebuild and restore our lives in the most spectacular way. He will give us the very best because that is who He is. He can't do anything less.

### **Read Zechariah 8:11–15:**

<sup>11</sup> But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup> For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. <sup>13</sup> And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

<sup>14</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, <sup>15</sup> so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.

The seed will be prosperous. The seed is the Word of God. What He speaks is going to achieve its result, which is powerful. We will receive fruit. Our life will increase. He will change our circumstances and everything about it will be spectacular.

He will give us the dew of heaven, which is the Holy Spirit. He will anoint us with the power and the life, and will allow us to possess it—to take ownership. We will experience it in reality. It is not hypothetical, and it is not just spiritual. It will be real and we will possess it because His nature is to restore to us the things that are lost, which were caused by us walking away from God. That choice caused even more trouble. But God keeps the invitation to return to Him open. How about now? Are you ready to come on back now? When you return to the remnant—those who hear His voice and follow Him—despite the destruction, He will give you the best. When will He give it to you? In that very moment. Right now. He will give it to you right now. In choosing between life and death, you chose death when you walked away from God. But when you accept the invitation back into the remnant, He will restore to you what has been ruined and lost.

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### Read Psalm 21:1–9:

The King Rejoices in the Lord's Strength

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

**21** O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,  
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!

<sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire  
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

<sup>3</sup> For you meet him with rich blessings;  
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

<sup>4</sup> He asked life of you; you gave it to him,  
length of days forever and ever.

<sup>5</sup> His glory is great through your salvation;  
splendor and majesty you bestow on him.

<sup>6</sup> For you make him most blessed forever,<sup>[a]</sup>  
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the Lord,  
and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

<sup>8</sup> Your hand will find out all your enemies;  
your right hand will find out those who hate you.

<sup>9</sup> You will make them as a blazing oven  
when you appear.

The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath,  
and fire will consume them.

We are to call out when we are in trouble. In these verses, they are in trouble. They have an enemy, and things aren't working that well. But when they called out, how did God respond? God said He would deliver them. He would restore them. There was no need to worry because He would bring them the best despite the trouble they were in. That is His promise, and you can trust it entirely. Do not trust in yourself or your capabilities, rather, trust in the Lord for He is the One who can make things happen for the good. He can do it. Even though many tend to accept the trouble or adversity, God says that we don't need to accept this. The key is to stop trying to figure things out on your own. Let Him figure it out. He will not only deliver the resolution, but He will deliver it in a grand fashion.

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### Read Jeremiah 31:31–34:

#### The New Covenant

<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

### Then, John 17:3:

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Let’s put these together. Eternal life is the life of God. The usual Evangelical definition of eternal life is basically a ticket to heaven—you get to be with Him after you die. But He says that eternal life starts now. When you receive Him, you will be with Him, and life, which is eternal, will be fantastic because you will know and experience the Father and the Son. Experiencing means intimacy, union, togetherness with Him through living out His nature. It is having the full experience of the life of the Son and the life of the Father. He has placed within us the Holy Spirit who will cause us to do what? To experience Him. This will be done by receiving and living out the truth—the power of His nature. It will be lived out as it is received.

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There are no instructions needed, and no one needs to tell us what to do or how to do it. This is because we have Holy Spirit residing inside of us, and He knows the truth. He knows each of us and our unique paths. We are to follow God as the Holy Spirit leads and not rely on our own answers or the answers offered by others. We do, however, need people around us who will walk with us, and come alongside us to confirm what the Spirit is saying. It is that simple. What is God saying to you? Where is He taking you? Are you following His will? Others can help you confirm that. Their role is to support you as you connect to the One who is already within you. It is not to tell you what to do, because He will tell you what to do—which is to walk down the path where He can deliver the Covenant.

### **Read Philippians 1:9–12:**

<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### The Advance of the Gospel

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel...

We pray that we are to know the will of God. Remember, the word *know* means deep experience. And through discernment we can prove what is excellent. The “excellent” is God’s best of all these grand things that He wants to deliver. He says that if you walk with Him and you ask for discernment, He will let you know that you are walking along the path—which is the most excellent, the very best. We are to pray to prove out His will, receive His will and keep believing it will be superb, excellent, grand, and spectacular. This is what God wants to deliver all the time. He wants to give you experiences that elevate your understanding so that you can see and recognize His will.

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### Read Colossians 2:1–3:

**2** For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,<sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

God wants us to have full assurance, certainty, and absolute clarity that all of this is going to be given to each of us. The fullness of Him is in us and includes His wisdom and knowledge. What is the wisdom for? It is for all of our situations. In order for us to do His will, which is best and none better, we must have the wisdom to walk with Him in the right place, at the right time, with the right people. This is so that He can deliver to us the grand; and we will prove it out. In doing this, we elevate our expectation—not as a selfish thing, rather, as a privilege of it.

We are not to pursue this in a self-centered way. Wanting our own way takes us away from His grand life because He cannot give it to us. In seeking Him, however, He will deliver the grand, and when it all syncs up, we will know it. How will we know this? Because God is grand and cannot do anything less. His desire is to transfer all of that to us, so that we will know it by experiencing it. When does He want to bestow this upon us? Now—in the middle of our trouble, in the middle of things that aren't where they need to be yet. The more we experience that, the more we will expect it the next time, and the next time.

Does this mean that we will no longer experience trouble? Unfortunately, it does not. Sometimes things get even harder and more difficult. But with that, we can ask God what He has to say about the situation. We know who God is, and we know that He will deliver resolution. We need to walk with Him to prove it out. We will experience the excellent. We will stay with Him through all of the difficulties and oppressiveness because even though we live in a world of trouble, the life He gives us will be a grand.

# LESSON 3

## OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE



**“Everything we need for the grand, He delivers to us. The benefit is Him—the grand nature that is Him. The benefit is Him. We are to bless Him by recognizing that.”**

**W**e have covered material that helps us understand that God is grand and wants to deliver to us the grand and spectacular. His nature is all the characteristics of grand: greatness, might, love, joy, grace, purity, and strength. He said that because His nature is grand, when you live with Him and walk with Him, you will, by definition, experience the grand. In Lesson 2, His heart is to deliver that to us so that we experience this in reality. He wants us to know it—to experience it, to have it happen—in our soul and in our circumstances. In Lesson 3, we are going to get into exactly how we receive this and what the characteristics of our life are, to put ourselves in a position to live this out.

### **Read Psalm 146:1–2; 5–7:**

Put Not Your Trust in Princes

**146** Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

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**Then, Psalm 103:1–5:**

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Of David.

**103** Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

We are to bless the Lord and not forget what? All His benefits. What are the benefits?

- Forgiveness of all iniquity
- Healing
- Redeeming our life from the pit
- Being crowned with lovingkindness
- Being renewed—soaring like eagles

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Everything we need for the grand, He delivers to us. The benefit is Him—the grand nature that is Him. The benefit is Him. We are to bless Him by recognizing that. It is not a mechanical thing, but a true reflection of our heart. It is gratitude that we get the privilege in the world of trouble to live the grand life because He is grand. We are to offer that back to Him, out of our soul, out of a deep level of thanksgiving, and blessing Him back. He describes this as praise. The word praise used here is to shine forth light. It is to be able to give worth back to the One who is to be praised—God—because He is the author of life and the source of the grand life.

It is not uncommon for people say they can't praise Him until they receive something from Him. But God says we should praise Him all the time. Why? Because praise is what ushers in His goodness to us. When we are willing and know that regardless of how difficult the circumstances are that we may be in—even when we can't see any possible resolution, God will bring the grand as we walk down the path with Him. We are to enter His courts with praise, having confidence in this. It's available to everybody. He wants us to set our eyes on Him—to turn toward Him; to enter His presence; to come close to Him and align with Him. The scriptures say, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." That is our job. When we praise Him, we align with His greatness, which is where God can begin to reveal His greatness to us. Alignment—even though we may not fully understand that in our soul, we choose to start practicing that with an expectation and a belief to discover if this is all true. He says to take the first step of praise by choosing to walk with Him. In doing that, our praise is elevated to keep experiencing the grand. As we experience it, we praise Him more, and the praise gets easier and easier and easier. The most difficult step to take is the first one when we have not experienced the grand much, if at all. Take the step and learn what it means to walk with Him. He wants to deliver the grand life, and it all starts with praise—the declaration that light will be shined upon the One who is worthy.

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### Read Psalm 27:1–4:

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

Of David.

**27** The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold<sup>[a]</sup> of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet<sup>[b]</sup> I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire<sup>[c]</sup> in his temple.

### Then, Deuteronomy 30:19–20:

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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Whenever you're reading the Old Testament, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is always referring to the reason he says this: I gave them the covenant and they understand it. And you're the recipient of that same covenant. That's why He keeps repeating that. You're the recipient of the covenant because I gave it to them and it extends to you.

### **Read Matthew 8:33–34:**

<sup>33</sup> The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. <sup>34</sup> And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Praise is a declaration, a declaration that says, "I am willing." In these verses, God says to seek what? His Kingdom. Seek Him, the King of the Kingdom. Cling to Him. Call out to Him—even as we are encountering trouble.

To simplify, where is He? He is in the Kingdom. He is the King, and all of this is delivered in the Kingdom. Why? Because that is where He is. He can't do it any other way because He is the King and He is the Kingdom. When we stay with Him in the Kingdom, we carry it with us because it is within each of us now. As we walk, we extend the Kingdom because it becomes us and is superior to the kingdom of the world. So, if we are to experience the grand life, where do we need to be? In the Kingdom. With the King. If we are, we will experience the grand life. If we choose not to, we can't experience it. All we have to do is choose to stay with Him. Whether we struggle to obey, have unforgiveness in our heart, battle fear and anxiety, or even if we are fighting an addiction, His answer is always to come be with Him in the Kingdom.

Are you ready to walk with Him? This walk together is not a quick meet and greet. It is a commitment to stay with Him and walk together with Him so He can guide you into the fulfillment of the grand life, which will be internal. He will deliver you from patterns, issues, addictions, things that cause you trouble, your nature. He will change circumstances.

This is why we teach abiding. Christ says, "Abide in Me. I am the vine. The Father is the vine dresser. If you abide in Me, you will have fruit." He goes on to say that you will bear fruit—much fruit—which will be used two ways:

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1. The fruit of the Spirit—the natural changes into God’s nature of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and all the greatness and all of the power and the might of God.

This will happen because it will start being you, and you will reflect that.

2. In John 15:7–8, He says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, . . . you will bear much fruit.

When you choose to stay with Him, He will change circumstances and you will start to experience the grand. Abide with Him. Stay with Him. Cling to Him. Seek Him and draw near.

### Read Proverbs 8:12–21:

- <sup>12</sup> “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,  
and I find knowledge and discretion.
- <sup>13</sup> The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.  
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil  
and perverted speech I hate.
- <sup>14</sup> I have counsel and sound wisdom;  
I have insight; I have strength.
- <sup>15</sup> By me kings reign,  
and rulers decree what is just;
- <sup>16</sup> by me princes rule,  
and nobles, all who govern justly.<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>17</sup> I love those who love me,  
and those who seek me diligently find me.
- <sup>18</sup> Riches and honor are with me,  
enduring wealth and righteousness.
- <sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,  
and my yield than choice silver.
- <sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of righteousness,  
in the paths of justice,
- <sup>21</sup> granting an inheritance to those who love me,  
and filling their treasuries.

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### Then, Psalm 34:8–14:

- <sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
- <sup>9</sup> Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,  
for those who fear him have no lack!
- <sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- <sup>11</sup> Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> What man is there who desires life  
and loves many days, that he may see good?
- <sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- <sup>14</sup> Turn away from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.

God's heart is to deliver to you the grand, the spectacular. As a way of moving forward to receive the grand, God says to draw the line in terms of the things that are happening to you. He says to hate and avoid evil. The meanings of the Hebrew words are important to better understand what hate and avoid evil truly mean. Of course we hate Satan, who is evil, but there is more being said here. We are to hate and avoid things that irritate, frustrate, and annoy us—things that cause us to be stuck in the mud. How often do these things happen? All the time. This is not us seeking God to remove the "evil," but to begin a process with God to move from the awful to the grand. Start by hating it. Avoiding it. We don't need to put up with it. Yes, it is there, but even though we can't solve it, we don't need to put up with it. This is not our lot in life, and we don't need to struggle through the discouragement and resignation. Instead, we are to acknowledge that it is happening, then let God move us to a different place.

We also are to hate arrogance—arrogance in ourself. How do we have pride and arrogance? By deciding we can solve matters on our own and not inquiring of Him. As we work toward a solution on our own, our results are just mediocre. While we may have made the situation less irritating, it is far from the grand place God would have provided. God says we need to hate pride and arrogance—do not accept it, but also do not try to solve it on your own. What should we do instead?

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Seek wisdom—His wisdom. Pursue shalom. Seek the good—the grand. Ask Him what He has to say about the situation. Seek God with an expectation that He will deliver shalom, good, the spectacular, the grand. It is not seeking freedom from the mess. There is a difference. Grand elevates everything—even the trouble and turmoil—up to a wonderful life. Seeking Him changes how we see things. No longer will we accept the average. Instead, we actively pursue wisdom—God’s answers—until we see it.

### Read Psalm 25:4–6:

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

### Then, Zechariah 8:16–17:

<sup>16</sup> These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; <sup>17</sup> do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

God will guide us into what? Truth. The truth about what? Our situations. Our issues. Our troubles. This is not about correct theology or intellectually understanding principles. It is about God leading us, guiding us on the path of pursuing the best—which is His path. We need to know the truth of our situations, and we need to receive the truth. From there, we need to process the truth step by step by step. He reinforces that He is going to deliver the Covenant, or “tender mercy” to each of us. We can trust the Covenant. Begin by speaking the truth. What truth are we to share? Our truth—so we can then be led by God into His answer.

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### **Read Ephesians 4:15–16:**

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### **Then, Ephesians 4:25–27:**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil.

God starts with our truth and moves us to His truth. It is important to do this in fellowship. It is not to be done alone. Share it with your spouse. Share it with your inner circle. Share it with the trusted people around you. As you process with others, seeking God's confirmation—He will speak to you and confirm the truth. Continue to pursue the truth and speak the truth. What do you understand about the truth? God will guide you there. Once He reveals the truth you seek, God will also reveal the next step along His path to deliver the grand.

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### Read Psalm 16:5–11:

- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- <sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>8</sup> I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being<sup>[b]</sup> rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.
- <sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.<sup>[c]</sup>
- <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### Then, Psalm 33:18–22:

- <sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> that he may deliver their soul from death  
and keep them alive in famine.
- <sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> For our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.
- <sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

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As we pursue truth, God will guide us into His favor and His grand. This is something we can expect. His path will be spectacular, and there will be pleasures forevermore. This is the place of faith to which He calls each of us. This is the reason we can say to others that we guarantee God will provide resolution for their issues, and it will be grand. We don't know how, and we don't know when, but we do know that because of God's nature and His promises, He will resolve this with a grand solution. Again, does that mean we will not have trouble? No. In the world, we will have all kinds of trouble all the time, but God will deliver us.

### **Read John 10:3–5; 27–30:**

<sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me,<sup>[a]</sup> is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”

### **Then, James 1:5–8:**

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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### Then, Psalm 143:8–12:

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,  
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.

<sup>9</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!  
I have fled to you for refuge.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me  
on level ground!

<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

<sup>12</sup> And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,  
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,  
for I am your servant.

God says that His sheep hear His voice. The word *hear* means to begin to understand what He is leading us into. It is having discernment and perception, knowing you are on the right path. If you lack wisdom, what do you do? Ask Him. He will give it to you by speaking to you and showing you the truth of things. We are to pray that He would open our ears to hear His voice so we will know the way we are supposed to go, and we can be taught how to do His will. It is a process of hearing and receiving. What did you hear? Do you understand it? What are you supposed to do with this? How are you supposed to understand the step you are supposed to take? Do you have insight about what really is going on, and how do you move forward with an understanding of that?

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The answer is to hear, receive, process, and move along His path. We are to process with each other—our spouse, our inner circle. It is trying to understand how to walk into God’s grandeur, but having a heart to do that together. Again, what are you hearing from God? Do you understand what you are hearing from God? Are you receiving what you are hearing from God? Do you believe what you are hearing from God? Do you know which step to take next? All of this takes time. It is okay if the answer is no. Keep walking and working together until you hear, receive, believe, and move forward.

### **Read Deuteronomy 28:1–2:**

Blessings for Obedience

**28** “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.<sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

### **Then, Joshua 5:13–15:**

The Commander of the Lord’s Army

<sup>13</sup> When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”<sup>14</sup> And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped<sup>[a]</sup> and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”<sup>15</sup> And the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Deuteronomy says, if you hear God and follow what He says, the blessings will do what? Come from behind and overtake you. Our focus should always be on what? Hearing and obeying. What step does God want you to take? Even if it doesn’t make sense, we need to be willing to follow Him because He asking us to do it. Each step with Him is a step toward the fantastic.

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As we move forward in the processing, we must ask this key question: Are you following the set of instructions that He has given you? What are you hearing, and what instruction has God given you for the next step? You don't need to know the whole path—which is usually the preference—but just the next step. It is ok to struggle with taking that step, as long as you continue the process to hear, receive, head toward belief, and move forward. Continue to walk with God who will give you the ability to take the step that He has established for the path of His delivering to you the grand.

In the verses above, Jesus shows up and reveals to Joshua that the commander of the army is God and that Joshua is standing on holy ground. Joshua asks Jesus if He is for him or against him. How did He reply? He emphatically said, "No," and Joshua recognized that he had asked the wrong question. The question is not: Are you for me or against me, or are you for my plan or not? Rather, the question is: What have You got to say to Your servant? It is a request for you to be able to hear what He has to say. It is asking for the ability to take His next step. We are not to present our own plans and ask for Him to bless them. If we are going to walk into the grand, we must listen to what has God to say.

### Read Deuteronomy 8:1; 6–11:

Remember the Lord Your God

**8** "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers.

<sup>6</sup> So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup> For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today...

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In these verses, what does God want you to go in to do? He wants you to possess the promise, the grand resolution that He is delivering to you. What does the word possess mean? To take control of; take ownership of, occupy it, experience what is being given to you—to possess it. Because it is yours, go after it. This is God showing you what it is. It is the fantastic. It is over-the-top spectacular! Go possess it.

In order for them to possess the land He offered, what did they have to do? They had to go there and displace an enemy. This wasn't going to be easy. But the people did not wait for God to simply take care of it, they followed His steps to possess the land and ultimately experience His grand answer. We have to follow God step by step by step. He will provide all the instructions we need so that we can take possession.

### **Read Jeremiah 17:5–8:**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,<sup>[a]</sup>  
whose heart turns away from the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> He is like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

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### Then, Romans 12:1–2:

A Living Sacrifice

**12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[c]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.<sup>[d]</sup>

If you trust in yourself, where will you wind up? In a parched, dry, awful place—the desert.

You will be in misery. This describes a lot of Christians who are not willing to pursue what it means to live with God. This describes those who accept this awful place as normal. But God says that trusting in yourself is not normal. Instead, trust in Him, and you will be like a tree who will flourish even in the middle of a drought. You will be able to withstand and produce fruit even when the wind comes. You will be good and will experience the grandeur of God. Your circumstances will become grand. Do not conform to the world, but be transformed by walking with Him. In doing this, you will be able to prove that what God is providing is excellent and grand. Stay with it until you see it, and then follow His path to possess it.

### Read Hebrews 10:35–39:

<sup>35</sup> Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup>For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For,

“Yet a little while,  
and the coming one will come and will not delay;  
<sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith,  
and if he shrinks back,  
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

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He tells us not to disregard the privilege He gives us. What is this privilege? To be with Him. All we have to do is choose Him. It is all free. It is all open. We just need to have a heart to pursue Him and His path for us. When we pursue His will and His path, we will then receive the promise. God says He will deliver the grand. He promises that it will be His will and it will be specific to each of us. He will give the instruction needed to take a step along the path that will put us in the place to receive His promise of the grand. After taking that step, we will receive the promise.

If we refuse to take the step, we thwart the whole thing. His promise is potential but not guaranteed. He tells us not to throw away the privilege we have. He will give us the power to take the step. Even if we are struggling, stay with Him. He will give us the power to be obedient to the step. And then, after you take this step, we will receive the promise. Our part is simply to take the step. That is all we can do. His part is to deliver what He promises. It is having the faith in Him to take the step because we trust him. We believe it is going to happen, even though it may not make any sense to us. He delivers. We need to put our trust in Him and follow Him step by step to receive the grand—the spectacular. And then, one more important thing:

### Read Genesis 12:1–3:

The Call of Abram

**12** Now the Lord said<sup>[a]</sup> to Abram, “Go from your country<sup>[b]</sup> and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”<sup>[c]</sup>

We will live in the Covenant. God is going to bless each of us so that we, in turn, will be a blessing. It is a flow through. The blessing is to live and receive the grand. In our personal lives, as we move forward along the path of our life, God’s purpose is to demonstrate this so we will demonstrate that to somebody else. God wants to expand His Kingdom and provide the grand life to all with a heart to receive. One of the sad things that most Christians will experience when they die is that God will reveal everything that was available to them in this life, but was never received, never experienced. Why didn’t we receive or experience this?

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Because we did not have a heart to walk with Him. We accepted mediocrity. We never experienced the grand. He couldn't give it to us because we weren't with Him. He will show us what was promised but never received—which is called the judgment of the believer. God's purpose is for us to receive this and then give it away. It is to invite others who will see your grand life to learn to also live this way. It is not a life absent of trouble, but one that seeks God's resolution to the trouble we will experience.

### Read Isaiah 42:5–13:

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> "I am the Lord; I have called you<sup>[a]</sup> in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.  
<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them."

Sing to the Lord a New Song

<sup>10</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise from the end of the earth,  
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,  
the coastlands and their inhabitants.  
<sup>11</sup> Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,

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the villages that Kedar inhabits;  
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,  
let them shout from the top of the mountains.

<sup>12</sup> Let them give glory to the Lord,  
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

<sup>13</sup> The Lord goes out like a mighty man,  
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;  
he cries out, he shouts aloud,  
he shows himself mighty against his foes.

God says He is going to bless us to make us a blessing. In doing this, what do we become? The Covenant. We are the Covenant because He is in each of us. His nature is in us, and we experience the grand. We reflect the grand. We experience it now, but also become the Covenant to the next person to bring them out of the darkness they are in. We show them that there is a grand life available to them, also. They have been fumbling around in the dark thinking that it is normal. We are to teach them that it is not normal and that the grand is to be expected. We are to help them understand why you are experiencing the grand, and then we are to give it away. Show them that they don't have to settle for the mediocre. Be the example they need to pursue God so they, too, can experience the grand. God residing in us makes us the Covenant where He blesses us so that we can also be a blessing.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 2:14–17:**

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

<sup>15</sup> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? <sup>17</sup> For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

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Do you understand that Christ is triumphant every time, in everything? He can resolve any issue, and the result will be grand. It will be an aroma—a sweet, beautiful, fantastic scent. While this is true, it elicits two responses. The first being it brings about the desire to seek God and follow his step-by-step instructions that lead to the grand life. The second response, unfortunately, is to turn away from God and live in a world of mediocrity where the grand life is not available.

God encourages us to stay with Him to keep experiencing the grand where we become a sweet aroma and can be a blessing to all of those around us who have a heart to follow the One who can deliver the grand life. If we do this, the body of the Christ will explode as people understand that this is truly possible for them, too.

As we finish this course, we want you to realize that the grand life is available to us because God is grand Himself. He has placed Himself within us to receive this grand life in our transformation of our soul and in our circumstances. He promises that. Our role is to walk with Him and trust Him as we experience it and are obedient to the steps He gives us. He guides us along the path into the grand, where we will then possess it. When we do that, He asks us to share our experience with other people who then can come out of darkness and start to experience the grand. So, do not accept mediocrity, do not be discouraged, do not go to resignation, but rather gather people around you to learn together to walk into the grand.

