



LIVING THE GRAND LIFE
Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



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Retreat/ Group Companion

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

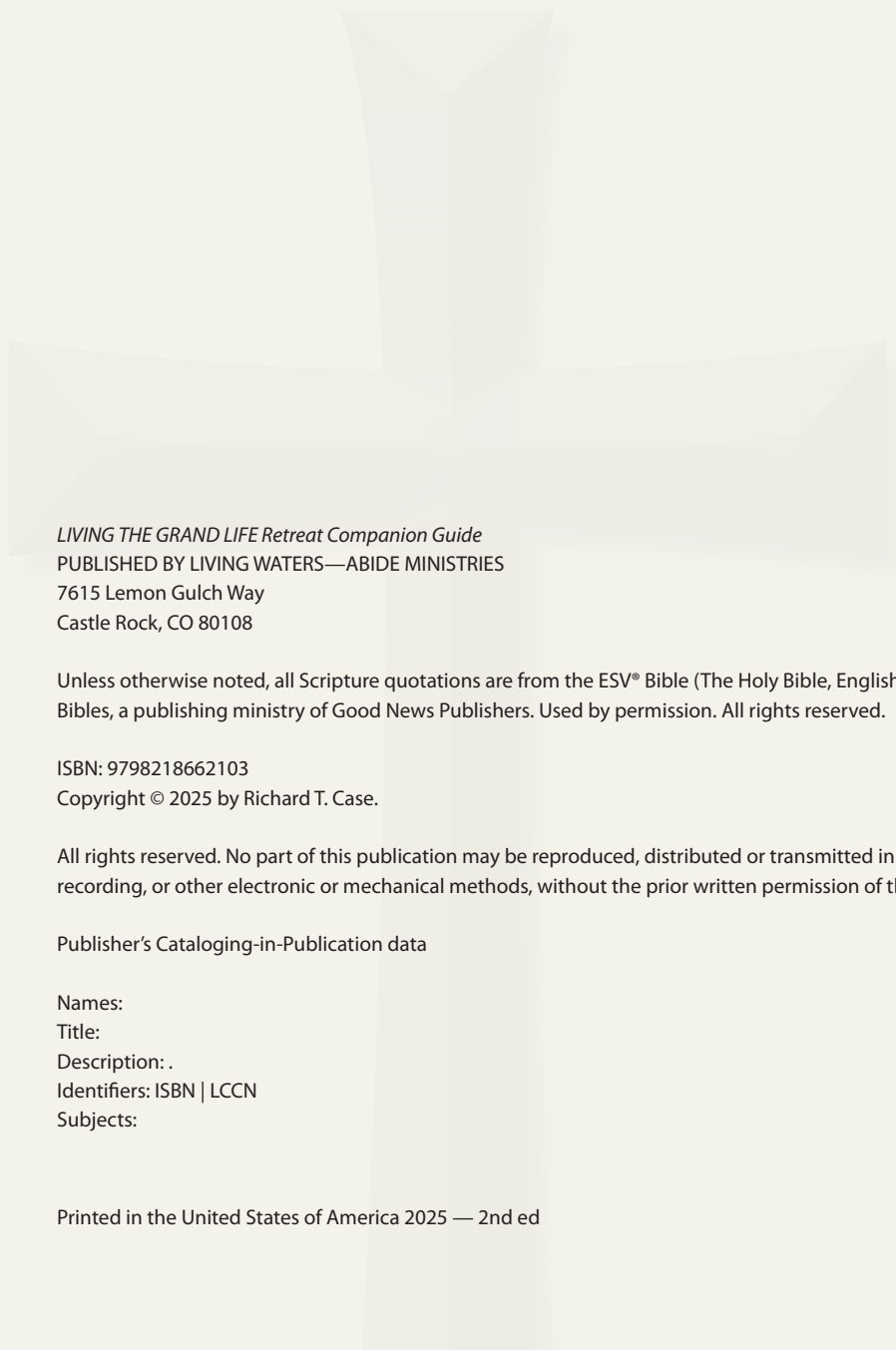
To my wife, Linda, who lives out and encourages us to live out the Grand Life promised by God. She continually reminds us not to accept mediocrity but expect and move into God's will, where He delivers the Covenant—the very best elements of life that are unique to us. It is a joy to experience this Grand 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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We wish to thank all of the leaders of our Ministry: **Abide Ministries**. It is quite amazing to see all these leaders also live out the grand life. They have learned the wonder of this, and thus bear witness to the truth of God's grand life for all His children. They do understand that they are not exempt from trouble and adversity (because we all live in a world of trouble and adversity), but that God resolves every issue in a grand way – and are why the ministry is multiplying as other people observe their lives moving in the "Grand" and thus desire to learn this as well. They freely give away what we ourselves experience. We are all privileged.

These leaders are:

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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."

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

Great Is the Lord

^[a] A Song of Praise. Of David.

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

² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,

¹² to make known to the children of man your^[b] mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ 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.]^[c]

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The Lord preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Why are we able to live the grand, spectacular life of God?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

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

David Prays in the Assembly

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

² 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.

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

⁴ "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?

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GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Read Ephesians 1:15–23:

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[a] toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ 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?

Is there anything that can top His greatness?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

What kind of power is that?

The very power that He used to resurrect Christ is also directed toward whom?

What do we need to believe?

Do you believe that?

LESSON 1

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!

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ 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,^[a]
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.^[b]

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

⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless^[a] his people with peace!

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

When you think of strength, what does that word imply?

Power that can do what?

For example, in arm wrestling. Which competitor wins?

Why?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

We and everything else were created purposefully. How?

His voice is to be used for what purpose?

Read Daniel 5:10–12:

¹⁰ The queen,^[a] 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. ¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods.^[b] 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, ¹² 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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Then 1 Chronicles 16:8–17, 25–29:

David's Song of Thanks

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

⁹ Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

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

¹¹ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

¹³ O offspring of Israel his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

¹⁴ He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

¹⁵ Remember his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

¹⁶ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁷ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

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

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

²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy are in his place.

²⁸ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

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

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;^[a]

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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?

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,^[a] O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.

² O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.

³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.

⁴ 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!

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ 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,

² who stand in the house of the Lord,

in the courts of the house of our God!

³ Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;

sing to his name, for it is pleasant!^[a]

⁴ For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,

Israel as his own possession.

⁵ For I know that the Lord is great,

and that our Lord is above all gods.

⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,

in heaven and on earth,

in the seas and all deeps.

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!

² Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

³ Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

⁵ Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶ O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

⁷ He is the Lord our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."
¹² When they were few in number,
of little account, and sojourners in it,
¹³ wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another people,
¹⁴ he allowed no one to oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their account,
¹⁵ saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,
do my prophets no harm!"
¹⁶ When he summoned a famine on the land
and broke all supply^[a] of bread,
¹⁷ he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
¹⁸ His feet were hurt with fetters;
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
¹⁹ until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the Lord tested him.
²⁰ The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free;
²¹ he made him lord of his house
and ruler of all his possessions,
²² to bind^[b] his princes at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.
²³ Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
²⁴ And the Lord made his people very fruitful
and made them stronger than their foes.
²⁵ He turned their hearts to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.
²⁶ He sent Moses, his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

²⁷ They performed his signs among them
and miracles in the land of Ham.

²⁸ He sent darkness, and made the land dark;
they did not rebel^[c] against his words.

²⁹ He turned their waters into blood
and caused their fish to die.

³⁰ Their land swarmed with frogs,
even in the chambers of their kings.

³¹ He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
and gnats throughout their country.

³² He gave them hail for rain,
and fiery lightning bolts through their land.

³³ He struck down their vines and fig trees,
and shattered the trees of their country.

³⁴ He spoke, and the locusts came,
young locusts without number,

³⁵ which devoured all the vegetation in their land
and ate up the fruit of their ground.

³⁶ He struck down all the firstborn in their land,
the firstfruits of all their strength.

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

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

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

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

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

⁴² For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.

⁴³ So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

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

⁴⁵ 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:

- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ 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. When or how often do we need this?

Why?

Why is the Covenant so important?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Read Psalm 111:1–10:

Great Are the Lord's Works

111 ^[a] Praise the Lord!

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

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

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

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

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

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

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

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

¹⁰ 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?

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Read Psalm 43:3–5:

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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

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

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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:

¹⁷ 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?

If we live in the Kingdom, in addition to experiencing His nature, we have the authority to overcome the world. Why?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Read Jude 1:24–25:

Doxology

²⁴ 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, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time^[a] and now and forever. Amen.

Read Revelation 1:3–6:

³ 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

⁴ 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, ⁵ 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 ⁶ 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:

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (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.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.^[b] ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God,^[c] who is at the Father's side,^[d] he has made him known.

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Read 1 John 4:7–11, 16:

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁶ 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:

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

Does God accept when you walk away and go into the world without following Him?

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

His love does what?

He wants you to feel His love, His pleasure with you. Why?

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. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears^[a] we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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Then, John 17:17–19:

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

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

Read Psalm 62:5–7:

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Then, Jeremiah 29:11:

¹¹ 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.

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

Why do we need hope?

God says, "When I give you hope, it is certain, and you can expect it." What shall we expect?

Read Romans 15:13:

¹³ 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.

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.

² He said,

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

³ my^[a] 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.

⁴ 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.^[a] A Song.

46 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[b] help in trouble.

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

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

¹¹ 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.

² 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

³² the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.

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

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

LESSON 1

GOD'S CHARACTERISTICS OF "GRAND"

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

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

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

⁴⁷ the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me,

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

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

⁵⁰ 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?



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.”

Read Psalm 45:1–8:

Your Throne, O God, Is Forever

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil^[a] 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.

² You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.

³ Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your splendor and majesty!

⁴ In your majesty ride out victoriously
for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!

⁵ Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.

⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
⁷ you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

⁸ 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!

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ 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?

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Read Deuteronomy 7:6–9:

⁶“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. ⁷ 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, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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...

Read Deuteronomy 6:10–13; 24–25:

¹⁰“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, ¹¹ 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, ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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.’

Then, Deuteronomy 28:12:

¹² 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.

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Then, Psalm 25:12–15:

- ¹² Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
- ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The friendship[a] of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- ¹⁵ 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?

Does that imply that our life is absent of trouble?

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?

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Read Deuteronomy 30:11–20:

The Choice of Life and Death

¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² 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?’ ¹³ 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?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God^[a] 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,^[b] 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. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ 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 that His heart is always to give us the good. When does He want to give it to us?

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Read John 10:10:

¹⁰ 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:

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Christ has come to give you what?

Read Ephesians 3:20–21:

²⁰ 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, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Should we just think bigger and God will give us more?

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

As we walk through life, what will we encounter?

Read Ezekiel 36:33–36:

³³“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.

³⁴And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. ³⁵And 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.’ ³⁶Then 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.

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.

² 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.

³ 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.

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

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?

Read Zechariah 8:11–15:

¹¹ But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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."

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ 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?

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Read Jeremiah 31:31–34:

The New Covenant

³¹ "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, ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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:

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

LESSON 2

GOD'S PROMISES TO DELIVER THE GRAND LIFE TO US

Read Philippians 1:9–12:

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

The Advance of the Gospel

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

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, ² 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, ³ 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?



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.”

Read Psalm 146:1–2; 5–7:

Put Not Your Trust in Princes

146 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,

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

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

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!

² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

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

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

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

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

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?

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^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

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

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

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

⁴ 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^[c] in his temple.

Then, Deuteronomy 30:19–20:

¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ 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.”

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Read Matthew 8:33–34:

³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ 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?

To simplify, where is He?

Why?

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

So, if we are to experience the grand life, where do we need to be?

Read Proverbs 8:12–21:

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

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Then, Psalm 34:8–14:

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

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?

We also are to hate arrogance—arrogance in ourself. How do we have pride and arrogance?

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

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?

Read Psalm 25:4–6:

- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Then, Zechariah 8:16–17:

¹⁶ 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; ¹⁷ do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

God will guide us into what?

The truth about what?

What truth are we to share?

Read Ephesians 4:15–16:

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Then, Ephesians 4:25–27:

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

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?

Read Psalm 16:5–11:

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.^[a]

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being^[b] rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.^[c]

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Then, Psalm 33:18–22:

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

Read John 10:3–5; 27–30:

- ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me,^[a] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Then, James 1:5–8:

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ 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. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Then, Psalm 143:8–12:

⁸ 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.
⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
I have fled to you for refuge.^[a]
¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!
¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
¹² 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.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

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?

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.² 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

¹³ 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?”¹⁴ 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^[a] and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”¹⁵ 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.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Deuteronomy says, if you hear God and follow what He says, the blessings will do what?

Our focus should always be on what?

What step does God want you to take?

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

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.

⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ 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, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹ “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...

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.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Read Jeremiah 17:5–8:

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ 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.”

Then, Romans 12:1–2:

A Living Sacrifice

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] 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.^[d]

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

If you trust in yourself, where will you wind up?

Read Hebrews 10:35–39:

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

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

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

He tells us not to disregard the privilege He gives us. What is this privilege?

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Read Genesis 12:1–3:

The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said^[a] to Abram, “Go from your country^[b] and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² 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. ³ 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.”^[c]

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?

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

Read Isaiah 42:5–13:

⁵ 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:
⁶ “I am the Lord; I have called you^[a] 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,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
⁹ 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

¹⁰ 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.
¹¹ Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the top of the mountains.
¹² Let them give glory to the Lord,
and declare his praise in the coastlands.
¹³ 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.

LESSON 3

OUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THIS GRAND LIFE

God says He is going to bless us to make us a blessing. In doing this, what do we become?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14–17:

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ 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.