

Today, I am going to back up and act like I am telling you something for the first time.

I am honestly asking for a hearing regarding what God is doing in this dispensation of grace.

Salient Point #1 - God has 2 great programs:

The Israel Program – by which He will repossess the earth

The Mystery Program – by which He will repossess the heavens

God interrupted His program with Israel to usher the mystery, which was kept secret from the foundation of world.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Salient Point #2 - What God is doing in this DoG is vastly different from what He was doing in His program with Israel.

Israel

Law

Observe days

Don't eat pork/catfish

Don't wear certain fabrics

Get physical blessings by obedience

Get physical curses-disobedience

System of sacrifices repeated

Dealt with as children

Receive N.Cov. benefits at kingdom

Vocation on earth

Adopted in the kingdom

Restricted decision-making

Apostles – the “12”

Gospel of the kingdom

Prophetic program at work

Eat of the tree of life

Body of Christ

Grace

No observance of days

Eat anything you like

Wear whatever you like

Automatically get spiritual blessings

God does not impute sin to men

A once-for-all salvation

Dealt with as adults

Receive N. Cov. Benefits at salvation

Vocation in heavenly places

Adopted at salvation

Liberty in decision-making

Apostle – Paul

gospel of the grace of God

Prophetic program suspended

Glorified body

I could go on with the differences but you get the idea.

All of the above things, for both program are in the Bible.

Observing these differences in the word of God is called by Paul, rightly dividing the word.

Therefore:

- How deals with us today is different from how he dealt with Israel
- God's purpose for us today is different from Israel's purpose
- What God is doing today is different from what He was doing with Israel
- The doctrine for us today is different from Israel's doctrine
- We cannot get our marching orders from Israel's scriptures
- They cannot get their marching orders from our scriptures
- The body of Christ is not Israel's replacement (2 distinct entities)

Salient Point #3 – It is not enough to be biblical, one must be dispensational.

How then are we to know truth?

- Form a think tank of very smart people?
- Trial and error?
- Just find it in the Bible?
- Do what feels right?
- Vote on it and the majority is always right?
- Everyone do that which is right in his own eyes?

Does God care about truth?

Is there anyone actively opposed to us finding the truth?

Who is opposed to us find the truth? Why?

Is there a counterfeit system in place?

Would you expect it to look and feel like the truth?

Why? For the purpose of deception.

Where, or to whom could you go to tell the difference?

Is there anyone who would always know the truth from the error? God.

How has God chosen to tell men what is true and what is not?

Answer: in His word.

Where in His word would you find truth concerning this DoG?

Answer: Romans – Philemon

Would it surprise you to learn that God may think about things differently than men naturally think about them?

Salient Point #4 – The only way to be sure about what is true and what is not is to find it in the part of the word of God that is specifically to you and about you.

Is it possible for men to teach in opposition to the doctrine given to you?

Would you expect to encounter such opposition?

Is it possible to be deceived about what is true and what is not?

Salient Point # 5 - Satan has the power to counterfeit the power of God to such an extent that without the proper doctrine, a man would never tell the difference on his own.

Examples in the Dispensation of grace:

1. The Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

² Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

³ Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

There was a man in the assembly at Corinth, who claimed to be exercising the spiritual gift of tongues by the power of the Holy Ghost and what he was actually doing was calling Jesus accursed – something the Holy Ghost would never do.

The Corinthians, who were given the supernatural gifts of the Spirit, believed this man was operating by the Spirit and they were completely unaware that he was functioning in the counterfeit.

Examples in Israel's program:

1. Workers of Iniquity

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied in thy name?** and **in thy name have cast out devils?** and **in thy name done many wonderful works?** ²³ And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

Even the men who were prophesying in the name of the Lord, casting out devils in the name of the Lord and performed miracles in the name of the Lord did not know that they were “workers of iniquity.”

The Lord “never knew them.” It wasn't that He knew them and they “backslid” or some such.

2. False Prophets

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew **great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and **shall deceive many.**

Examples in the day of the Lord's wrath:

1. The False Prophet

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth **great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And **deceiveth them** that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Just to reiterate, the counterfeiting systems of the Adversary are so well designed that without the proper doctrine, a man would not be able to tell the difference.

Salient Point #6 – Neither the wisdom of men or the experience of men are reliable criteria to determine what is truth and what is error.

Example from Acts:

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom **they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.** 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

The Danger of Determining Doctrine from Experience:

Let me give you an example. There is an online company called the California Astrology Association. They sell things like good luck charms, spells (both good and evil), wanga and voodoo dolls, astrology readings, etc.

These are all things connected with the occult, yet there are plenty of people that maintain that God is using these items for their benefit. Where did they get this understanding? From the doctrine in the Bible that pertains to them? No, they their belief is vested in an experience. It makes no difference to these people that the Bible condemns these types of things in any dispensation.

I want to show a few of their "testimonials" which prove (to their thinking) that all of these things actually work.

I could produce much more, but again, I think the point is made that an experience is an unreliable measure of truth and error.

Salient Point #7 – The POE pushes the Israel program and its scriptures on the body of Christ while the wisdom of men creates a system that does not exist anywhere in the Bible.

Israel's program sees blessings and curses as a result of performance.

Everytime Israel obeyed, they:

- Won every battle
- Avoided droughts and plagues of locusts
- Were plenteous in goods, crops and livestock
- Free from the diseases of the Gentiles

No exceptions.

If they obeyed, God never "sent a drought" just because "it wasn't his will to give them rain this time."

If they obeyed, God never had them lose a battle just because, "it wasn't his will for them to win this time."

The same was true when they disobeyed.

Every judgment listed in Leviticus 26 came to pass right on the money. God did not omit a single one of them because "it wasn't His will" this time.

Salient Point #8 – God's blessing or cursings on Israel were never a product of "God's will" which changed from one event to the next; but both could be counted with full assurance and certainty, as they were part of the contract.

Salient Point #9 – In the dispensation of grace, God is not dealing with anyone by a performance contract under any covenant or contract, but God is dealing with the entire world under grace.

The very nature of grace is not exclusive and not by exception.

What I mean is, if some thing is given to you by grace, it is given to you not based on merit, but as free gift regardless of merit.

If God is dealing with the world under grace, then every man is able to avail of that grace. In other words, grace does not do for one, while excluding another.

Grace is not capricious. It does not do it for this time, but decides not to do it for you the next time.

The nature of grace is that anything God is offering by grace is offered equally to all, offered as free gift, without exception of time.

Therefore, in this dispensation of grace, if God is truly doing something by grace, then it will be freely given to everyone who asks, every time they ask. Anything else would nullify it being grace!

Therefore, if you ask for something and you get it one time, but you do not get it the next, then one of the following facts must be true:

1. You really are not under grace but you must earn what you are asking for by your merit or performance to some standard of measure
2. What you previously received was not part of what God is dispensing by His grace – else you would have gotten it again

There is no program in your Bible where God capriciously violates either the law or grace to do or not do on a whim. That is an invented system of men to justify false doctrine, belief and practice.

That leads me to the final two issues: the first of which is prayer.

Many of you have heard me say some things about prayer that you disagree with or do not fully understand.

Prayer is one of those issues that is dealt with very differently in the DoG than in Israel's program.

The POE works to get you praying out of sync with what God is doing in this DoG.

Let me clear: I am not your tutor and governor. You may pray any way you like. I am not here to correct you in your prayer life. But, I am disposed as the teacher of this class to show you what the portion of the word of God that is specifically to you and about you says about prayer.

The easiest way for me to do this is to show you Paul's prayers, his request for prayers, his record of the prayers of others and his exhortations concerning prayer.

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that **without ceasing** I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing **instant in prayer**;

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 **Cease not to give thanks for you**, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding

greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Colossians 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**,⁴ Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints,⁵ For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;⁶ Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:⁷ As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;⁸ Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, **do not cease to pray for you**, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;¹² **Giving thanks** unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 4:2 **Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;³ Withal **praying also for us**, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:⁴ **That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak**.

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that **without ceasing** I have remembrance of thee **in my prayers night and day**;⁴ Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God, **making mention of thee always** in my prayers,⁵ Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;⁶ That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and **prayers night and day**.

1 Thessalonians 3:10 Night and day **praying exceedingly** that we might see your face, and might **perfect that which is lacking in your faith**?¹¹ Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. ¹² And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: ¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be **strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;** 17 **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;** that ye, being **rooted and grounded in love,** 18 May be able **to comprehend** with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 **And to know the love of Christ,** which passeth knowledge, that **ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,** 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: **that therein I may speak boldly,** as I ought to speak.

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that **your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;** ¹⁰ That **ye may approve things that are excellent;** that ye may **be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;** ¹¹ Being **filled with the fruits of righteousness,** which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, **that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who **comforteth us in all our tribulation,** that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2 Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Corinthians 13:7 Now I pray to God **that ye do no evil;** not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; 10 **Making request,** if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God **to come unto you.** 11 For I long to see you, **that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;** 12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. 13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that **oftentimes I purposed to come unto you,** (but was let hitherto,) **that I might have some fruit among you also,** even as among other Gentiles.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that **they might be saved.**

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.** 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who **will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have **remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;** ⁴ Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; ⁷ For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear;** but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. ⁸ **Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me** his prisoner: but **be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel** according to the power of God; ⁹ Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 **For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed:** for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 13 **Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me,** in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. 15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 **And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.** 3 Thou therefore **endure hardness,** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. 7 Consider what I say; and **the Lord give thee understanding** in all things.

In this passage, Paul is not praying but he does say the Lord “give thee understanding in all things.” This being something that God is doing, it is certainly within the realm of prayer to expect this from God.

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, 6 That **the communication of thy faith may become effectual** by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Can you imagine how it might transform us if local assemblies began to pray the things listed here? As we begin to move away from the temporal and focus on the spiritual work being done within us through in the midst of outward circumstances, we begin to think like Christ thinks.

What encouragement and power is available to the body of Christ through this kind of prayer. Our love for each other and for the Lord would abound more and more in love and all judgment, which means, we would begin to operate in the manner the Lord prescribed for local assemblies in the dispensation of grace.

1. perfect that which is lacking in your faith
2. that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding
3. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord
4. fruitful in every good work
5. increasing in the knowledge of God
6. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness
7. may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him
8. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened
9. ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
10. (that ye may know) the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
11. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe
12. to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man
13. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith
14. be rooted and grounded in love
15. to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height
16. to know the love of Christ
17. that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.
18. that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel
19. that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
20. that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment
21. That ye may approve things that are excellent
22. that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ
23. Be filled with the fruits of righteousness,
24. that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ
25. That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.
26. that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
27. God...comforteth us in all our tribulation
28. to make all grace abound toward you
29. that ye do no evil
30. that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty
31. they might be saved
32. That the communication of thy faith may become effectual

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather **giving of thanks**.

Philippians 1:3 **I thank my God** upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the

first day until now; 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful**. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We **give thanks to God always** for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank **we God without ceasing**, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 3:9 For what **thanks can we render to God** again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; ¹⁰ Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 **In every thing give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to **thank God always for you**, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to **give thanks alway to God for you**, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I **thank Christ Jesus our Lord**, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Romans 1:8 First, **I thank my God** through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Romans 6:17 But **God be thanked**, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only **I give thanks**, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:4 **I thank my God always** on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

1 Corinthians 15:57 But **thanks be to God**, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now **thanks be unto God**, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

2 Corinthians 8:16 But **thanks be to God**, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

2 Corinthians 9:15 **Thanks be unto God** for his unspeakable gift.

This is not just a list of all the times the word shows up, but you can see how often Paul offers thanks to God.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath **blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ:

Herein is the weight of the Scripture.

- Did you see Paul praying for physical things or spiritual things?
- Did you see Paul thanking God for physical things or spiritual things?
- Why do you think almost every prayer request is about the physical?
- Where did Paul tell you to expect God to heal you in the DoG?
- Where did Paul tell you to expect God to send you money?
- Where did Paul tell you God would give you a job?
- Where did Paul tell you that God will get you out of jam?
- Where did Paul tell you that God will save you from attacks?
- Where did Paul tell you God would save you from accidents?
- Where did Paul tell you God would send angels to keep your car on the road?
- Where did Paul tell you that God will help you find your keys?

Can you say that your prayer life follows Paul's example? By what doctrine do you conduct your prayer life?

We have one more issue to look at, which we will do in our next session.

The chapter goes on to enumerate those spiritual blessings:

- He chose us in Him to be holy and without blame
- He predestinated us unto the adoption
- He made us accepted in the beloved
- He gave us forgiveness of sins, redemption through His blood
- He abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence
- He made known the mystery of His will which He purposed in us
- He has given us an inheritance
- He had made us to the praise of His glory
- He has sealed us with the Spirit of promise

God Said NO!

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness..

God said, No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.