

Compunction and the Grace of God

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

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Sermon Summary: "Compunction and the Grace of God"

Greetings dear friends! We pray you are doing well in Christ Jesus. We pray that your faith in Him blossoms as the flowers of Spring that surround us in that time of year. We pray that you are enjoying the wonderful, glorious blessing of knowing our Lord and walking with Him and talking with Him daily in the garden that He has planted in your heart. Amen.

Here's another prayer given for believers by the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul two-thousand years ago:

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from 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 through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:14b-21 (NKJV)

Let us look at a special word – **compunction**. As defined in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, 1952 ed., "compunction" means "a pricking of heart; poignant grief or remorse proceeding from a consciousness of guilt; the sting of conscience." Synonyms of compunction include "contrition" and "repentance."

The Master has great interest in the needs of His children. In fact, sacred Scripture records that God has a special place in His heart for the childlike, the hurting, the poor and the weak.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction... James 1:27 KJV

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40 KJV

It is the self-righteous, arrogant, proud, false-piousness that we humans sometimes flaunt in God's face that He has a very big problem with!

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (NKJV)

"Compunction" is to human pride and self-righteousness as letting the air out of an air

mattress – the thing you took great comfort in is deflated and useless. Another good picture of compunction as it relates to us humbling ourselves to admit our deep need before God is sticking a straight pin into an inflated balloon. POP! PPPPOOOOFFFFF!

Let us look again at the Biblical prayer above.

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from 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 through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

This prayer is a wonderful expression of the "grace" that James says God gives to the humble! If you turn to God with your heart open to Him in sincere humility, with compunction, this prayer is for **you!**

This prayer is for all believers who will humble themselves before God, including people who are residents here at this facility. This prayer reaches out to God asking that He would grant us to walk with Him in victory, and maturity and sweet communion. This prayer is not about having perfect "book-learning" theology lined up in our minds: it's about knowing God personally. This prayer includes the elderly and the sick who may have trouble remembering things; whose eyesight might be a bit dim; whose hearing may be poor. No matter how old you are or how sick you may be, this prayer includes you, that your childlike faith in Christ would increase more and more! This prayer is about those who have gone through a few deep, deep valleys, have experienced some trying times, that we would come through these trials of life recognizing God's sustaining strength deep in our soul. This prayer calls out to God that He would grant each of us to recognize His presence as He abides with us in our heart by faith. This prayer reaches out to our "meek and lowly" Master that He reveal to us in our own life His love, His affection, His "easy yoke." This prayer asks that we taste His fullness, that we have a personal understanding of what it means to be "filled with the Holy Spirit," to experience His power working within us. Christ Himself calls us:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30 KJV

Yes, the prayer in Ephesians that we read a minute ago is for each of us. God has placed this prayer in His Holy Scripture to open the door for all of us to know the most wonderful, glorious reality of His presence in our lives. Two thousand years after Paul penned this prayer under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we can experience God's answer to Paul's prayer, right here at this care facility, today, in our own hearts.

You may have only heard about this "abundant life" in Christ, no matter, this prayer is for you. If you are hungry for more of God in your life, and you know there is more to this Jesus than

you have experienced in your life, this prayer is for you. If you are hanging on to John 3:16 for dear life with not much more than a string of hope and a thread of faith, this prayer is for you! The message in this prayer is for the curious, the doubtful, the hurting, the sick, the lonely, the depressed, the sad, those who "labor and are heavy laden," those who are trapped in fear, those who flounder in guilt and unforgiveness...yes, for everyone we pray this prayer, "We humble ourselves before you Lord Jesus and ask that You fill us, strengthen us, shine your everlasting love into our hearts today!"

Indeed, on Christ's behalf, to all in the sound of our voice we call, "COME TO HIM! HE WILL GIVE YOU REST! ONLY BELIEVE!" In our distress, in our struggles we CAN find peace that defies description...we CAN find joy unspeakable, and full of glory! **Paul prayed this prayer because it is what God wants for His children, even His children right here in this room!**

For the third time, let us read this prayer from Holy Scripture.

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from 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 through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Do you see? May we humble ourselves. May we call out to God from the depths of our own heart, "We **really** want to know you more and more!"

God Almighty has the will and the power to give us His grace. He is able to answer this prayer!

Closing Hymn

At the Cross

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Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional