

The Position Of God's Grace

We Have To Get Out Of The Boat (Matt. 14:29)!

By B. D. Tate

This could be described as the position for God's power or the position for miracles. We have a daily choice before us, that is, do we live by natural means—by sight; or do we live by supernatural means—by faith in God's grace. Our choices every day keep us in a natural position (which isn't much different than the world), or it leads us into a supernatural position provided by His grace. Our choices can result in a mix. We need to see and cooperate with the Spirit in purer steps of faith. In a similar way mixing our natural life with very little supernatural faith limits and makes our walk in grace weak or ineffectual; just as mixing the law and grace makes Christ of little or no effect (Gal. 5:1-4).

To live to Christ, to have faith in His grace, and walk in the Spirit **we'll have to get out of being just natural!** To position ourselves in the supernatural we're going to have to take some risks. **When Peter walked on the water the first thing he did was get out of the boat (Matt. 14:29). Can you imagine what that looked like to the natural mind?** For Peter to follow Christ he had to let go of *sense knowledge* and stand in *revelation knowledge* of the Spirit. He had to hear Jesus and obey Him which in this case **was contrary to everything he'd ever known or trusted in.** If we decide to live a "safe" life and follow the natural course of things we'll most likely never see the supernatural power of God.

If we were in heaven right now do you think we would even be conscious of naturalism? Wouldn't it be that we'd be carried by the supernatural presence of God? We'd be living in His grace fully and that would mean abiding in the supernatural life of God. Mankind fell from God's grace into naturalism. When we became born again we were brought into the kingdom of Jesus—that's the kingdom of heaven. **We are supposed to be conscious of Jesus and that's supernatural!**

What Does This Position Look Like?

We might be surprised to find out what the supernatural position looks like to the *natural mind*. It isn't some glossy fantasy realm carried by the clouds and walking in a dream world experience. **Often it is a place that makes the natural mind nervous and edgy.** It is a place of stepping out of the normal routine and taking risks (We are not called to the possible; we are called to the impossible). The supernatural means stepping in places that the natural mind would call foolish, unsubstantiated, and even contrary to reason—like walking on water! This position might mean failure to us if God's power doesn't show up. If we play it "safe" we may miss God altogether and unfortunately many of us are. Peter actually got out of the boat! If God's grace doesn't sustain him he sinks!

Another Angle Of The Spiritual Life Is This:

Ga 5:17 **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;** and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

The position of grace might mean staying a course that seems unfruitful, unmanageable, and completely unknown. For a human being to walk with and in God there is a whole other mindset. What is wisdom to the world is foolishness to God; what is foolishness to God may seem quite rational to the world. **We can't continue to think, speak, and act carnally and expect spiritual results.** Trying to walk a carnal life and expect the supernatural is just messed up. Trying to live in the spiritual life occasionally will also confuse us and make it difficult to stay on target. We will experience opposition from within. Our flesh life will resist and be contrary to the Spirit life within us.

God may compel us to serve and press into things we don't understand. We may be working at something and apparently having no success. We may be striving with trials, struggles, and storms of life thinking we are not getting anywhere at all. **We may very well feel that our life and effort is of no value and want to quit.** For many who have had *great*

grace manifest in their life there have been many moments of discouragement, feelings of fruitlessness, and times of wanting to give in and walk away. Why is this often the case?

We stumble back and forth between our spiritual life and natural one. We may be on one channel and make decisions only to change the channel and wonder what we were thinking? It is important to stay grace supply minded but we often default back to demand thinking. This includes dealing with requirements upon us and the condemnation and guilt that come from living under the law. Quite frankly our selfishness in naturalism will fight against the spiritual life and walk we sincerely desire!

When we consider the story of Jesus walking on the water and Peter joining him, there are other interesting things going on. For example, Jesus had compelled them to get into the boat without Him. They didn't want to but because He insisted they did. Then what would normally take a two hour journey across this lake, was taking almost nine hours and they were only half way! They were following Jesus' instructions but to the natural mind they were getting nowhere! It wasn't until Jesus came onto the scene that things changed. The disciples were being faithful to keep at it in trying to cross the lake; however, it wasn't until Jesus got into the boat that they were translated to the other side.

This certainly challenges us to understand that without Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5). It also helps us to see that even though we may feel we are failing, getting nowhere, and want to give up, that victory is only a step away into and across the water with Jesus (supernatural answers).

Being Bound To Naturalism

One of the main problems we have as human beings is being bound to naturalism. We think natural, our solutions are natural, and our expectations tend to be overwhelmingly natural. This is a problem because it causes us to think that **naturalism is natural**. We don't expect miracles because we haven't lived by them or seen too many of them. We see the supernatural as out of the ordinary. We simply do not

expect supernatural things. **The born again life is supposed to be supernaturally natural! As one teacher put it: If our Christian life is not supernatural then it is superficial!**

The Natural Mindset Is Carnal Consider What Scripture Says About It:

Romans 8: 6 **For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.**

8 So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Our natural mind doesn't expect to have supernatural power sustaining us. We think that God is somehow "put out" by having to intervene on our behalf. We think that naturalism is what God wants for us; **however, as this verse teaches to be carnally minded is death!** God actually wants us *spiritually* minded. This would mean He wants us grace minded. This would mean He wants us God supply minded. He wants us living spiritually in a world that is natural. In other words, **He wants us living supernaturally in a world that is fallen into naturalism.** This is so true that those (Christians) who continue to be carnally minded, naturally bound, and walking by their senses, **cannot please God (vs. 8)!**

We Are In A New Kingdom

As Christians we've been born into a new kingdom with new rules of engagement (Col. 1:13); however most of us continue to be taught and live by the old ways. We are still dependent upon natural solutions instead of walking in His grace. It takes faith to walk in the new kingdom of God's love. **It requires that we highly esteem the Word of God above all other things**—this in itself is a miracle of God's doing.

Our natural mind demands to see answers before we obey. Our natural mind demands to see how things are going to turn out before we make

a move. If we are in a place that can't see, sense, hear, or feel the end results we worry, become fearful, and stressed.

God Wants Us Living By Faith In His Grace

This is to our advantage! This is a new position and a place that supersedes naturalism. My natural mind wants worldly advice, wisdom, and solutions. The adage is this: If I can't see it I'm not going to do it. If I can't see it; I won't believe it." Many of us are stuck in our natural thinking. **We don't know God well enough or His word well enough to overcome the bonds of carnal thinking. When we are in faith in God's Word and walking in His grace there is great peace and rest.**

The Meaning Of This Passage Is Striking:

Gal. 4: 1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, **does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,**
2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.
3 **Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.**
4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born {Or made } of a woman, born under the law,
5 **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

The Sheepfold Life!

I shared how it is that most Christians live their lives **in the sheepfold**. This is an Old Testament *type* given to us before Christ had been glorified (Psalm 23?). This was the situation for all of us before we could be born again. Under the law we were powerless to overcome the curse of the law. We were born under the law and natural; we were **subject to the elements of the world!** We were servants, slaves, and sheep.

Naturalisms Greatest Indicator: We Are Subject To Fear!

As a natural man when we hear of this or that condition, this or that sickness, or this or that plague do we fear? What is our first response when we hear of someone with stage four cancer? Do we crumble? Do we fear the worst? Do we shrink at the power of sickness and disease? The natural man has nothing to combat incurable diseases. The natural man has nothing to stand against colds, flu, and viruses. **The natural man simply accepts that we will be sick and some will die. We live in subjection to the elements of this world; we live in subjection to fear!**

If we are subject to these things as Christians then understand what this passage is saying about our position. It is saying that we, although born again and a child of God, **are no better than a slave**. We have rights, we have power, we have access to authority but we are living under the elements we were meant to rule over in His name. This is the truth and it is a travesty: we are masters over all in the new kingdom born into us; however, we are living as if it isn't so!

2Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Masters Over All?

Listen to E. W. Kenyon on this matter (In His Presence page 63):

Here is the Spirit's challenge: that you who read this take your rights in prayer! Begin to act like sons of god. You have all heaven back of you. You have the very angelic forces to do your bidding. God is your strength and ability. All things are possible to you because you are daring to act on the Word of God... Spiritual things are as real as material things. Spiritual forces are stronger than mental. Spiritual forces govern disease. Spiritual forces govern natural laws... The believer is his contact with material, spiritual and mental forces, is as Jesus was in His earth walk—**He is a master**. The believer is a new creation, created by God Himself. He has God's nature, Eternal life. Jesus is made unto him wisdom. God is His strength. The Holy Spirit is His ability. He has the lover nature of

God so that he does not and cannot act like common men. Love makes him like Jesus. He has the mind of Christ and the ability that Christ has in His earth walk. **This makes him a superman.**

The Old Testament mindset is that we are sheep and Jesus is the Good Shepherd. This was true because we could not be born again. The shepherd takes care of the sheep, leading, feeding, and bringing them to still waters. The shepherd defends the sheep against wolves. The shepherd protects and provides; the sheep just live like sheep (weak, defenseless, and powerless—*just natural*).

Jesus however, as the good shepherd laid down His life for the sheep! Why did he do that? He did that to make **new sheep out of the old** (new wine needs new wine skins). The old sheep could not be empowered or transformed into sons and daughters, **the new sheep are.**

We've been called joint heirs with Christ and made one with Him in glory (Rom. 8:17): Do sheep become joint heirs with the shepherd? Do sheep become one in spirit and glory with the shepherd? No. Under the new covenant we are no longer (just) sheep we've become **sons and daughters** of the same Spirit to be just as He is (1 John 4:17). We were transformed from sheep to shepherds by becoming one **with the Shepherd of Life.**

We Have A Choice Now

We can remain Old Testament minded by staying like sheep which are helpless, weak, need protection, provision, and can't stand up to the wolves; or we can become New Testament minded by accepting our new position of grace in Jesus' name. Sheep can't resist the devourer but sons and daughters do. Sheep are bound by the elements of this realm being under the law and the curse; but sons and daughters are under grace and above these things.

As long as we see ourselves as under the law, under the curse, and subject to the elements of this realm we are being carnally minded. **We'll remain fear bound.** This mindset does not please the Lord. We've

been translated into a new kingdom! In this new kingdom we are now empowered, entrusted, bestowed, gifted, and beloved as sons and daughters of the Most High God. **It is no idle thing to realize that our temple (body) is no longer empty but inhabits the divine nature! The Love of God in us is to cast out all fear!**

1Jo 4:18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Victory Over Sin

We should no longer be bound by sin and its practices (Rom. 6:4). We should no longer be addicted, stuck, and stumbling but accept the implanted word of God which is able to save, deliver, and set our souls free (James 1:21). **Many of us are still full of fear as if our relationship to Christ has no effect in this life.**

Our walk in His grace compels us by His presence, His revelation, and His glory to be transformed into His image by the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). The more we see Jesus the more we are walking in the power of grace and above sin nature. The more we see Jesus the more we are walking in the power of health and healing in His name. The more we acknowledge His grace and assert it into our life the more liberty we have in Him (Philemon 1:6). The more **we identify** with the truth and grace in Jesus in us the more we'll experience it.

We Must Experience The Liberty Of God's Spirit Over Our Carnal Mind!

We know and understand that we are not carnally minded anymore in our born again spirit. We know that the word of God commands us to walk spiritually minded. This means that we no longer live according to naturalism by being bound to it; but we live by faith in the Spirit. **We are no longer to be carnally dependent and sense knowledge driven. We are to live by the Word and the Spirit in God's peace for us (Col. 3:15).**

Knowing these things is one thing; experiencing this truth is another.

How do we get from one side of this situation to the other? We live to Jesus and accept in our heart the truth that we are sons and daughters and no longer just sheep. We've become like He is in this world (I John 4:17).

We see and believe; we know and believe. We understand and accept; we stand and assert the truth by the revelation of His power in us. **We are translated over by the miracle of our relationship to Him.** God takes us there. We cannot do it on our own. We may know the truth and see it as if it were through a glass barrier; **however, by our relationship to the Lord**, by asserting it, standing it, agreeing with it, and by surrendering our carnal mind, **we put on Christ by the work of the Spirit!**

When We See God's Word As Supreme, First, Foremost, And Almighty God Within Us, When It Becomes Our Life, Then And Only Then, Will We Be Set Free From Naturalism!

We need this revelation manifestation in our hearts that only comes by being established and certain of the Word's truth. God works in us to will and to do as His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). His good pleasure is for us to move from being carnally minded to spiritually minded. **We put on Christ; we put on the mind of Christ. We live by faith in His grace! We seek for God to make the Word of God Lord of our life!**

We can't make ourselves fulfill God's will in our life. We can only provide for the Word to work in us by knowing it, meditating upon it, and asserting it in our life. **It is the work of the Spirit to make it real to us. It is revelation knowledge of the Spirit that brings us into faith; and with faith, rest and peace.**

We are the subjects of a new kingdom but that kingdom won't happen automatically we must cooperate by understanding the truth, recognizing it, and putting away the wrong stuff (II Cor. 10:5). When we recognize and acknowledge the truth God has something to work within

us (Philemon 1:6). It is His workmanship lest anyone could boast. I may know the truth but that doesn't make it happen in me. I must trust the Spirit to bring it to pass. **I know the truth in order to recognize the Spirit's leading.** I have no praise, no works, and no effort of my own that I could possibly boast before the Lord or anyone else for that matter. Yet, at the same time I must seek and desire it with all my heart. I make the opportunity happen; God takes the opportunity and makes it real.

Victory Is The Spirit's Work—It Is A Work Of Grace!

I know the truth in order to recognize the Spirit's working. For example, if I know the truth that I am set free from all sin (including every addiction known to man), **then I'm in a position to stand in that truth and believe!** I can believe the truth but the Spirit makes it happen. I'm able to let the Spirit move in me, and move with the Spirit, because I understand the truth! The truth is I'm healed; but it takes revelation of the Spirit within me to move upon it. **That revelation comes by hearing, receiving revelation, and walking in the faith that it produced in me.**

Eph 2:10 **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

I am helpless on my own—without Jesus I can do nothing (John 15:5); **but the great good news is that I am not without Jesus!** I'm born again; I belong to Him. Whatever He is; is in me! I have His strength and His ability. I am not alone; I will not live to the carnal situation any more. By God's grace I am set free, healed, and delivered. I stand in the truth, I recognize the truth, I cooperate with the truth, I stay and assert the truth; and as I do I see miracles! **The miracle life in me begins to manifest!**

Conclusion: We Decide What Position We're In

The truth is God wants it more than we do! Jesus gave us His glory (John 17:22). We have the Father's will born into our lives (John 1:13). We

assert; but it is the Spirit's work. **This work of the Spirit is our daily bread!** It is the supernatural life we live to and it takes us out of our bonds to the natural man. The more we relate to our spiritual life the more we'll find ourselves in faith, in grace, **and in the position of God's power in signs, wonders, and miracles.** Amen.