

WE MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN GRACE

By B. D. Tate

Introduction:

We must understand some **biblical definitions** to appreciate this truth that our hearts must be established in grace. **First, remember what grace is:** it is what God has already done in the atonement, in His promises, in His Word. Grace is God's plan from the foundation of the world that we would be created, have a spirit, and have life like He has it, be given dominion, choice, and best of all, the power and ability to know Him. It is God's idea that we would be made sons and daughters of the Most High. It was God's idea (grace) that we would be the Temple of the Holy Spirit and the divine nature would dwell in us in Christ. However, just because God by grace has done something doesn't mean it is automatic in our lives. There is a part that God has given to us in the freedom to respond (to His predestined will). **Faith from our part establishes grace in our heart.** We must respond and want it, God is not going to override our will and make His will done.

Second, remember that God has given us **our heart.** Our heart is that human place where mind, will, and emotions, combine with our personality and spirit to determine who we are and what we believe.

Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the **issues of life.**

Third, we must do it; it is up to our effort, desire, and applications. God can't do this for us; we are admonished to guard our heart and then to renew our minds:

Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may

prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The word **established** (bebaioo) means: to make firm, establish, confirm, and make sure. This means **we** are to **make sure our heart is firm** in **God's grace**.

Heb 13:9 "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. **For *it is good that the heart be established by grace...***"

Until we are established, certain, and convinced by God's grace in our heart ***we remain in doubt***. To be uncertain, unconvinced, in doubt means we are double minded and swaying back and forth like the waves of the sea (James 1:8). The warning is clear that we will receive nothing from the Lord in this condition.

It is God's will that we be established—certain.

Ro 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, **so that you may be established—**

It is God's will that we be certain, firm, convinced, KNOWING, therefore established in faith! Faith is not a vague overall hope but knows God's Word and therefore knows His will...faith knows; doubts don't...

Col 2:7 "**rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

We must be convinced of this simple and straightforward truth that **faith knows** God's word and will and doubts don't.

Establishing our Heart in Grace

If we can grasp the significance of understanding the definitions of grace, our heart, faith, and our part (in establishing anything), then we can begin to address those things that are preventing us from being established!

1) **Uncertainty is a major problem.** When we are not sure, firm, or convinced about the Word of God and His Will in any matter **we are NOT established in His grace.** As long as we are between opinions about God's will in any matter the Word of God as a seed **is NOT planted in our heart.** As long as we are uncertain we do not have *biblical faith* to respond to God's grace. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

If our understanding of hearing God's word is confused and uncertain, it has not been planted *but remains upon the surface of our heart like seed on hard ground.* Satan, like the birds in the *Parable of the Sower and the Seed* that Jesus taught (Mark 4), comes and steals the word away. This is done because we do not plant it in our heart for it to grow. The winds of doubt come and blow it away. The birds come and take it away by keeping us from defending it, protecting it, or embracing it. In fact we will give up our understanding of the truth being convinced that it is not true by other teachings.

What makes us uncertain? Why don't we just embrace the Word of God in its simple and straightforward meaning? There are many reasons: We have been brought up in a world that lies, deceives, and misleads us. We have our own sin nature that does not receive spiritual things (1 Cor.2:14). We've been taught differing things about God. Our experiences have not often

lined up with God's promises. Many sincere, knowledgeable, and God loving Christians have different opinions or interpretations of the Word of God to name a few.

God's Mysterious Will

What makes it even more difficult is the ***subtle but real*** belief that God is mysterious and works in ways we cannot see or understand. In other words, we are not always meant to know God's will. This belief is established in our hearts in the preposition that God's will ***is that sometimes we are not to know God's will.***

There are many verses that speak to this issue, "Is it God's will for us to know His will?"

Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

1Co 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, **who became for us wisdom from God**—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to **ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom** and spiritual understanding;

2Pe 3:18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Therefore uncertainty, or doubt, remains in any believer who is **not convinced it is God's will for us to know His will**. We will not even pursue our questions concerning what we might perceive is God's will because we will back away believing we're not supposed to know God's will!

We remain in uncertainty because we believe it is God's will for us not to know His Will. Any questions that we might ask are irrelevant because we aren't supposed to know. The heart remains in a constant state of uncertainty, established not in grace but doubt, darkness and ignorance. This is the place of **Vague Christianity** (See booklet by this name) that puts off the mysteries of God until we reach the other side—heaven. ***This is not where God wants us it is where Satan wants us.***

It is like ***pulling the wool over someone's eyes*** keeping them from seeing things they'd otherwise come to see and understand simply by getting them not to pursue it. The veil overshadows the mind and a glaze forms on the eyes because real inquiry has been short circuited. We are no longer asking the right questions because the answers we get do not satisfy. Because of our vague sense of faith we become placid and complacent, accepting all things from God because we aren't supposed to know—after all God is Sovereign. Yet James taught us to submit to God and resist the devil and he would flee from us (James 4:7). If we can't know God's will how are we supposed to discern enough to resist the devil? Also this verse becomes problematic as well:

2Co 10:5 “**casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into ***captivity to the obedience of Christ,***”

We can't cast down anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God if we don't have an intimate knowledge of God's will. We can't bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ UNLESS we know the thoughts of Christ Jesus!

The scripture plainly teaches us that we have the Mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16)!

Un-plant The Weed of Vagueness in knowing God's will!

If we can successfully un-plant this wild weed of the evil ones that God wants us in darkness about His Will, then we can begin the process of establishing our hearts in grace! I can't stress it enough that we must see that God's will is for us TO KNOW HIS WILL! Everything of grace depends upon our heart understanding and growing in the knowledge of His Will. **Without knowing God's will there is nothing for our faith to stand on!**

Faith stands on God's Word which is His Will and the knowledge of His grace.

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,**

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be

partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

For our heart to be established in grace we **MUST** have knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord because ***grace and peace are multiplied to us through this knowledge!***

If we are convinced it is God's will for us to know His Will then we can move on to address the many issues and questions that arise ***from*** knowing God's will.

Addressing Issues & Questions!

Once we are convinced we are supposed to know God's will in any matter then we must ***guard this truth***. When we guard it then doubt can't blow it away and false arguments however religious they may sound cannot steal this away. We know it is God's will for us to be in the know, understanding, enlightened, receiving revelation knowledge to the truth, then when questions arise or issues present themselves we will **NEVER** go back and consider that the answer is: ***God must not want me to know***. When we take what we do know and give it up because of the things we don't know yet, we are **UN-PLANTING the truth**. We are reversing the process of grace having been established in our heart. When we think it might be God's will for me to know His will or it might not be, we are tossed back and forth like the waves—that is the definition of doubt.

Once established in the truth that God wants us in His will, knowing His will, there will invariably be issues or questions that come. **We must address these issues from the word of God; we**

must answer these questions thoroughly because any question not fully answered will just come back. We must do this from the foundation having our heart established in the fact that God wants us knowing—in faith.

We may not be able to answer every issue or question yet but don't let go of the things we do know! In time, in meditation, staying on the right track, staying faithful to what we do know, provides the atmosphere, the tension, and the position of righteousness **that leads to revelation. Sometimes what we understand about a matter is confused and/or categorized in our thinking. In other words it lacks consistency. When we hold onto truth despite what we don't yet understand that provides the place where God's Spirit begins to correct, admonish, instruct, and reveal our misunderstanding or lack of knowledge and wisdom.**

Heb. 10: 35 **Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.**

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 "For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 **Now the just shall live by faith;** But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Heb. 11: 1 **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

Hold onto to the truth for it has great reward. Enduring through misunderstanding, confusion, even teaching that is

contrary, brings about a precious faith that receives the promise manifested in our life!

Establishing Grace in our heart in Healing!

In the area of healing for example, we must be established in the foundational truth that God wants us to know His will. We must understand, like with salvation, healing was atoned for in the cross—it's already done. Once we know it is God's will that all are healed then we can move onto the issues and/or questions about healing. **We have established our hearts in grace that it is God's will in healing.** Now we can begin to address those issues that come against healing such as: doubt, unbelief, hardness of heart, ignorance, lack of knowledge, who can heal, how does healing happen, why aren't all healed, what is the difference between healing and a miracle?

Conclusion:

This is a general truth that the answers to the issues and questions that come *because of knowing God's will*, will not come to us if we are *not established in grace knowing God's will*. Issues and questions regarding healing for example will not be found, revealed or understood **until the heart is established in God's grace about healing being for everyone.** **We simply won't pursue further revelations** because we've stopped and removed the tension that would keep us in a position to receive answers. When we are **not established** in grace there is nothing to build on and increase in revelation knowledge of God's will.

This is also **the truth** that we are established (planted) when we are certain of God's will in any matter. **We have**

enough faith (Mustard Seed) when we are convinced in God's will concerning any promise!

God's Will is for us to be established, certain, convinced of His Word in our hearts. **When we know then faith has functioned to respond to God's grace in that area.** Through faith in the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ grace and peace are multiplied unto us. After the foundation is laid (established in grace) we can build upon **it with** bricks building a wall as each issue and question are answered.

Consider these booklets which are the product of addressing issues and questions about healing that came **ONCE we were established in God's grace that He healed all.** Each booklet represents another brick built upon the foundation of grace established in our heart:

Healing is a Major Aspect of the Gospel
Looking for Immediate Results?
Jesus' Attitude Towards Sickness & Disease
What Did Jesus Emphasize?
You Have the Faith of Christ
Hardened Hearts (AW & II)
Training (to be like Jesus)
Works For Others But Not For Me!
Receiving Isn't A Mystery
We Have Received: We Need to Acknowledge it
We Ask But Don't Receive—Set Backs
Indicators & Location
Casting Down Arguments
Fiery Darts—Getting After the Weeds
Why Signs?