

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

In Christ

David Kuykendall Ministries

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Obey the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ." Experience the abundant life through living by grace. Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

THESE COMMANDS

Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

GRACE AT WORK IN MINISTRY

Scott Coleman

Scott Coleman is "Director of Church Planting" for Dallas Baptist Association. He began to experience the life of grace several years before coming into this position. It is by grace that he leads the Association in the ministry of Church Planting.

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Prithi called my office out of the blue. "We have been getting together for a while. And now we want to become a church," he said of his Bhutanese Christian friends. "But we don't know how."

It's my privilege to work with a group of churches that helps start new churches throughout our area. So Prithi's call was a real joy. Calls like these have become even more meaningful as we see them for what they are—very concrete answers to prayers that Jesus Himself has asked us to pray!

In Luke 10 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." If we are seeing a "harvest" of new Jesus-followers that is smaller than we might hope, the problem is not with the people who don't know Jesus. Indeed, at another time, Jesus says, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35).

No, the problem is with a lack of workers—they are "few." As we pray to see a multiplying movement of God that would welcome increasingly more and more people into God's great Kingdom, we are faced with a worker shortage. A common sense solution to this would seem to involve a strategy of publicity about the issue followed by recruiting of church planters from seminaries who would then spend years in training to start all the different kinds of churches that we need. That might be the solution...if we were limited to our own best thoughts. But I've come to completely distrust my own best thoughts.

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It's in "church work" issues like this that I've found grace-living to be surprisingly counter intuitive. We are in the middle of doing something that we know God wants; that is, seeing many people come to know Him and be encouraged in new churches. But just because the desired outcome is noble, does not mean there is not a wrong, even sinful, way of achieving it. Accomplishment, even spiritual accomplishment, appeals to our flesh, our "old man."

As Romans 6:11 encourages us, we must daily choose to remind ourselves that we are dead to that sinful, pride-motivated thinking and alive to God. Free to let God live through us "as those who have been brought from death to life" (v 13).

Jesus lived a life of following the Father instead of planning and acting. (John 5:30, "I can do nothing on my own initiative.") So here, Jesus clearly tells us what to do rather than rely on our own initiative. We are to "ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Luke 10:2b). God's grace once again provides the very thing needed. What God provides is always perfectly suited to meet the need and perfect in its timing.

For at least a couple of years, my coworkers and I

Continued on back page

have been praying almost daily that God will send us people who are uniquely suited to reach all the different kinds of people that live in our very urban, very diverse area. We can, in fact, name at least 167 languages that are spoken in the homes in our one county. There's no way for us to teach American missionaries all these different languages, have them find them, and finally become active in evangelizing these usually hidden people groups.

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So instead, God sends workers. He sends many from the harvest field itself, like Prithi, back into the harvest field. These indigenous leaders are already perfectly prepared by God; no language to learn, no cultural barriers to overcome, no relationships to build from scratch. These workers that God sends are completely ready and certainly the most effective.

We also pray that God, the Harvest Master, will give us the ability to recognize these workers that He is calling out. We pray that the Spirit will guide us so that we are not led astray by our own preconceived stereotypes of who the best leaders might be and who "doesn't measure up."

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Just in the past few weeks we've seen God send potential planters to hipsters in a trendy urban neighborhood, to second generation Hispanics near downtown, to intellectual students at two universities, to rural suburbanites with lots of kids, to well-educated Africans, and to several groups of Spanish-speakers and African Americans across our area.

I must say that this very practical application of grace-living was first introduced to me by Colorado church planter Kenny Moore. Kenny's thoughts on church planting

were honed by God during his time on a church staff with David Kuykendall in inner-city Dallas. He and a friend, John White, began praying this "Luke 10:2b prayer" for workers and felt God calling them to share it with others. They rightly began calling it a "virus" for it soon was spreading. A quick Google search of "Luke 10:2b" now yields results showing God's using the prayers of His people for workers in places around the world. Stories from Europe, Canada, Rwanda, Colorado, Eastern Pennsylvania, Florida, and California all appear just on my first page of search results! Now John and other sought-after conference speakers from around the world like Tony and Felicity Dale, Neal Cole, Alan Hirsch, and Wolfgang Simson reference the Luke 10:2b prayer—most not even knowing that part of its origins came from Kenny's exposure to the same grace teachings as Living By Grace Ministries.

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The Sunday morning after the phone call from Prithi, my wife Kristi, my friend and coworker Lazaro Chapa and I found ourselves worshipping (as best we could in the Nepali language!) with between 75 and 85 Bhutanese. It was a bit challenging to count the crowd in the one-bedroom apartment! The temperature was 104 outside and very close to it inside. But that didn't wilt the spirits of the group as they sang praises for an hour and heard from Scrip-

tures for another half an hour.

This church of many new believers is learning that they, too, can rely on God's grace—"everything God is rushing towards them to meet their every need." Prithi began praying one evening with a group of fifteen Bhutanese asking God to send someone to help guide them. Actually while the Bhutanese were in that prayer meeting, an American layman from a church willing to help called just to check in with Prithi whom he had met through a ministry a year or so earlier!

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Our eternities are certainly changed by God's awesome grace. But increasingly it is the way that His Spirit moves in even our work lives when we make them available to him that is exciting me.

"We don't have to rely on the world's guesses and opinions. We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from God, who taught us person-to-person through Jesus, and we're passing it on to you in the same firsthand, personal way... Spiritually alive, we have access to everything God's Spirit is doing!" (1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 15, The Message)

Book orders, newsletter contributions, or tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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