

BURDENED- PART 2

I want to return to the scripture we talked about last week because I feel like God isn't finished with it quite yet. It has been ruminating through my mind and spirit this past weekend I feel like there is more The Holy Spirit wants to say before we move on

Aren't you glad the Word of God is ALIVE?

Matthew 11:28-30 New International Version (NIV)

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- Burdened by Position
- Burdened by Responsibilities
- Burdened by Wants & Desires
- Burdened by What Has Been and What Could Be
- Burdened by Failure

1. His Yoke offers Companionship

We are not in it alone. We have one who walks alongside us and shares the burden

Psalm 55:22 New International Version (NIV)

22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

1 Peter 5:7 Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].

2. His Yoke offers Strength

3. His Yoke Offers a Framework

- a. Of Perspective
- b. Of Boundaries
- c. Of Direction (Guidance and Purpose)

TESTIMONIES

By the way did anyone take the time to do what I suggested at the end of the service last week and spend 5 minutes in the word and 5 minutes talking with God? What were the results?

THE RIGHT DESTINATION

There are three powerful directives that Jesus gives us in this passage. None of them are suggestions

- Come to me
- Take My Yoke
- Learn from Me

The first thing I want you to see about these directives is the focus of their attention - Jesus

We look to so many different people and things for answers. But Jesus says come to ME

We become yoked to those same people and things rather than tie ourselves in relationship with Jesus. We call it codependency

Or perhaps we independently refuse to be yoked with anyone except ourselves taking the weight of the whole world on our shoulders. We believe we can and should do it ourselves

And finally Jesus says Learn from me. Where do you get your answers?

Three times in one passage Jesus says that we will find what we need in Him. How important do you think this concept is if He repeated it three times?

THE APPROPRIATE DIRECTIVES

All three of these indicate that we have a choice to make. A participation in the obtaining of the rest that Jesus promises us.

- **COME....** The same word used when Jesus invited the disciples to follow Him and he would transform them (and I will make you fishers of men)

There is a unique partnership between ourselves and God in this transformation process. And while the burden of this work is on God and not ourselves (it is by grace you have been saved), it is we who must decide to come to Jesus that we make

receive the grace that He has to us. Like Paul, Jesus is always the one who pursues (but by the grace of God I am what I am), and yet in that grace He invites us to come, to follow.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 NIV

“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

Notice how intertwined this relationship is in Paul’s statements.... (I worked...yet not I but the grace of God that was with me)

In 2007, Kathy Griffin shocked the world with offensive comments while accepting an Emmy. Noting some people thank Jesus when they receive an award, she said, “He didn’t help me a bit.... This award is my God now.” Sadly, she doesn’t think God has anything to do with our successes in life. But the apostle Paul tells us the opposite in 1 Corinthians 15:10: the grace of God is the driving force behind our triumphs.

Paul had once vehemently persecuted Christians. His conversion to Christ (see Acts 9) produced a dramatic turnaround; now he was the hardest working and most fruitful apostle of all. How was this possible? How do you go from killing Christians to planting churches, raising up pastors, and turning whole cities to Jesus?

*Paul says, “I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is **with** me.” This is an extremely interesting verse in the Greek because of the itsy-bitsy preposition “with.” Paul could have said the grace of God was upon, in, around, or by him, but instead, he chose to say it was with him. Why?*

*The Greek word for “with” is syn. This preposition means to “keep company” and “have association” with something or someone. **It links two things together and makes them one. It suggests that two separate things or individuals have teamed up for the same cause and have begun working together.** Paul was painting a picture. He was saying that after his conversion, he teamed up with the grace of God! Grace had become Paul’s ministerial companion, personal assistant, and partner in the work of Christ. It’s safe to say that Paul, at times, felt like grace was a tangible person right beside him, assisting him on his journey. This certainly adds a new dimension to his ministry. Consider all that Paul endured: prison, beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, hunger, thirst—and more. (See 2 Corinthians 11:23–38.) But God’s grace was with him!*

You may feel like you don't even have the strength to COME, but God's grace will empower you to have the strength to come as you surrender your heart and look to him. Sometimes it is the burden that becomes the vessel of God's grace reaching out to us and bidding us come to him

- **TAKE...** To take upon oneself and carry, to receive, to accept (if a man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me)

Are we willing not only to look to Jesus for the answers we need, but to commit ourselves to an ongoing relationship with Him. Will we take the YOKE of relationship upon ourselves, and commit to staying connected to Him.

- **LEARN....** To Learn by use and practice.

As we take His YOKE upon ourselves and begin to walk with Him daily we must LEARN from Him. There will be days we pull against the YOKE and try to go our own ways. But the more we walk with him the more we come to understand His ways, His purposes, His directions. And in that there is great rest and relief from the burdens of this life.

Revelation 1:9-10 NIV

“I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,”

*John, describing his conditions as he writes to the seven major churches of Asia Minor, says he “**was on** the island called Patmos...I **was in** the Spirit.” In English, we miss the irony behind what John is saying, but in the Greek, the term for “was on” and “was in” is the same: *egenomen en*. It literally reads, “**was in** the island called Patmos...I **was in** the Spirit.”*

The double use of this statement draws a contrast between John's exile on a lonely island and his relationship with the Lord.

Patmos represents dark and dismal times when we don't feel the Lord's presence. It may be the most challenging moments, when everything is going wrong and you're wondering where God is. You've been faithful, but you're suffering. Perhaps you've lost your job or a friend betrayed you. Maybe something you've been praying for

hasn't come to pass. In times like these, we may feel like hope is lost and we must not be very spiritual. But remember, being spiritual doesn't mean everything goes right.

God's Word tells us that His presence is most felt in the middle of these challenges. There's no guarantee that you will "feel" it, but you can trust that when you go through "Patmos moments," the Spirit of God is present and bringing you through them, whether you realize it or not.

"In The Spirit" He was able to see things as God saw them (Yoked with God because of His Grace) despite the fact that