# "<u>The Grace, the Work & the Altar</u> <u>Pastor Matt Friend</u> <u>God's Kingdom Leaders' Summit April 2024</u>

## [1. The Grace]

Gen. 6:8 *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord*. The word "**GRACE**" in Hebrew means; *kindness & favor…beauty, pleasant & precious*.

- This definition is **<u>2 fold</u>**.
  - The 1st being the one we give the most attention; the <u>kindness & favor</u> of God, <u>that He extends to us</u>.
  - The **2nd** being <u>beauty, pleasant & precious;</u> these are the qualities, that <u>God</u>...**in His grace, sees in us**.

Mt. 3:17, Mark 1:11 "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- **Before** the **"Work"**...**before** the **"Altar**"...The Father loves, & is pleased with, His Son.

We all have something in common with Noah...for we, have found grace, in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah's name means; rest; quiet, rested & resting place; settle down, to dwell, remain.

 It is <u>the grace of God</u> that rests, settles down, dwells & remains, <u>upon</u> <u>Noah</u>.

We need to stop trying to find grace & favor in in other places.

- culture...government...business owners
- the finances of the wealthy...or the power of the influential

God **may choose to use some**, **all** or **none of these**...

but He will not be limited by any of them.

In the *midst of* wickedness, **there is a work** for the **righteous**. Even *in great* wickedness, there is a **much greater grace**.

### [2. The Work]

Gen. 6:13-14(KJV) <u>And God said unto Noah</u>, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **Make thee an ark** of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

 The grace, <u>that Noah found</u> ...it led to <u>100 years</u>, of <u>hard labor</u>...of "<u>Work</u>". "If you pray for the **mountain to be moved**...& in the morning you wake up...& there's a **shovel** in front of you...**get to work**."

#### Grace <u>is Divine help</u>.

- I don't need "Divine help" to accomplish things that are in my ability.
- I need "<u>Divine help</u>" to accomplish things that can only be done <u>in His</u> <u>ability</u>.

Gen. 6:22, 7:5 And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.

There is a work that <u>only God can do</u> & it is our <u>honor</u>, to give our <u>lives</u>, to that work.

### [3. The Altar]

Gen. 8:20 <u>Noah built an altar</u> to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

For in like manner as Noah, at the altar we find **relationship** & **covenant**.

"The altar is the place where the <u>humility of man</u> meets the <u>Divinity of</u> <u>God</u>."

1Pet. 5:5, James 4:6...For God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

"The altar gives God fresh accessibility <u>to our heart</u> & there we gain access to His."

Gen. 8:21-22 And **the Lord smelled a soothing aroma**. **Then the Lord said** <u>**in His heart**</u>, "<u>I will never again</u> curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; <u>nor will I again</u> destroy every living thing as I have done. "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Noah **prioritized** Worship.

Noah's actions said this; Before I build <u>my house</u>. I will lay <u>this foundation</u>; **If Not for the Grace of God**.

"The ark was built for creation...the altar was built for the Creator."

Noah was **commanded** to **build the ark** ...he was never **instructed** to **build the altar**.

#### Building the ark showed Noah's obedience to God.

Building the altar showed his gratitude & desire for relationship with God.

"The altar reveals the heart ... of man, of woman & of God."

It all starts with Grace. Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

God gives us His <u>Grace</u>, equips us for the <u>Work</u> ...but we <u>MUST</u> build an <u>Altar</u>.

As God's Kingdom Leaders, we must not give in to the temptation to do the **work of God** apart from the **Power** found in the **presence of God**.

Noah lived 10 generations from Adam, & 10 generations before Abraham.

# Kingdom Leaders carry on the Legacy of Grace to which they have been entrusted with.

Altars are **generational**.

Walk *in* Grace, *for* Purpose, *with* God.

## The Grace, the Work, & the Altar.