***Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges**

**Chapter 5 – “Does God Have a Right?”**

Study Questions

1. How would you answer someone who says that the landowner’s actions in the parable of Matthew 20 are unfair? Then answer the same question based on the comparisons of the landowner to God and the workers to God’s people.
2. Why do we tend to think that we deserve fairness from God? If God were to be truly fair, what do we all deserve and why?
3. Read the account of Jesus healing the Roman centurion’s servant from Luke 7:1-10.
4. What makes this centurion so special to the Jewish community (v. 5)?
5. How does the centurion view himself and his “worthiness” in the presence of Christ (vv. 6-8)?
6. How is this view of personal worthiness different from what the Pharisees held to (vv. 4-5)?
7. What is Jesus’ response and what does it tell you about *how* the centurion is willing and able to view himself as he does in vv. 6-8?
8. Why can we never obligate God to give us (make Him owe us) a reward or blessing? (p. 62)
9. What does Romans 11:35-36 teach us about what we have given to God and what God owes us?
10. Read the following quote from p. 64: “Therefore, a high sense of entitlement and expectations, though seemingly directed toward some person or institution, is actually directed toward God and His providential dealings in our lives. If we do not receive what we think we have a right to expect, it is ultimately God who has withheld.”
    1. Why is it our sense of entitlement ultimately directed toward God?
    2. How do we know that anything God withholds from us is for our greatest good (cf. Rom 8:28-29; 2 Cor 4:17)?
11. Why is living on the basis of our performance (our merit) before God so spiritually harmful? In other words, positively, why is living on the basis of God’s grace so spiritually helpful? (p. 66)
12. What is the problem with relying on our spiritual disciplines (e.g., Bible reading and prayer), obedience, and sacrifices as we bring our prayer requests to God? What should we rely on as we bring our requests to Him? (p. 72)

Application Questions

1. Read Romans 9:20. What is Paul’s answer to the question of it not being fair that God doesn’t give everyone the same blessings equally?
2. Is there something or some area in your life that you believe is unfair? Why do you think this way about this area?
3. Read this quote from John Newton: “All shall work together for good: everything is needful that He sends; nothing can be needful that He withholds.” Then read Romans 8:32.

Meditate on the love of God in Christ *for you*. Reflect on it so deeply as you consider a present trial or suffering and as you consider something in your life that you wish you could change at the snap of a finger. Let Christ’s love calm your heart and bring you a humble and trusting outlook on that thing you want changed. Let His sovereign and gracious love drive you to surrender that thing to Him in faith. And let His love fill you with contentment and joy in living for Him no matter the cost.