

# Ministry Of Grace

# Think It Not Strange

*Friday Fellowship, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

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## 1 Peter 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

<sup>13</sup> But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

# 1 Corinthians 4:1, 6-11

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

## 1 Corinthians 4:6-11

<sup>6</sup> And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

<sup>7</sup> For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

<sup>8</sup> Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

<sup>9</sup> For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.



<sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

<sup>11</sup> Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

# Three Things Happen In The Age Of Grace

# 1. The Lord Himself Comes Down

2. He Calls Out The  
Members Of The  
Last-day Bride  
Despite Of  
Themselves

3. He Frustrates Them  
To The Point That  
They Can Surrender  
To Him, So He Can  
Take Their Flesh

60-0515E — Adoption #1

36 Now, Canaan does not  
represent the age of the  
Millennium.

It only represents the age of  
the overcomer, the  
dispensation of overcoming,  
because in Canaan they killed  
and burned and took cities.

And there'll be no death in the  
Millennium.



# 65-0801M — The God Of This Evil Age

31 Now, notice closely now as we study the Word. The God Of This Evil Age, that we're now living.

May seem strange, a very  
strange thing, in this age of  
grace, when, “God is taking  
a people for His Name’s  
sake,” that is His Bride,

in this evil age that should  
be called the age of evil. The  
very age that “God is calling  
a people for His Name’s  
sake,” by grace, out, and is  
called an evil age.

Now, we'll prove by the Bible<sup>20</sup> that this is the age that He was speaking of. Very strange thing to think that, that in a evil age like this, that God then would be calling His Bride.

65-0801M — The God Of  
This Evil Age

35 What would God call a  
people out of this evil age  
for, His Name? The reason it  
is, is to try Her, His Bride.

It's to...When She is made  
manifest, been tried, been  
proven, proved to Satan.

Like it was at the beginning,  
so shall it be at the end.

37 We find now, this evil age is  
to prove, to Satan, She is not  
like Eve, that She is not that  
type of a woman. And She will  
be tried by His Word, the  
Bride, as Adam's bride was  
tried by the Word.

And Adam's bride believed every bit of the Word, all, but confused on one promise, that, "He's the same yesterday, today, and forever," today, see;



but failed on one promise,  
under the temptation of the  
enemy, face to face. And  
now, the people that's  
called for His Name, of  
course, is His Bride.

She is to come in contact  
again by the same thing;  
not by just denominational  
truth or something, but  
every Word!

Where Eve Lost,  
Christ Won

62-0701 — To Take On The  
Whole Armor Of God

87 When Jesus of Nazareth  
was here on earth He never  
used His power, yet He was  
God manifested in flesh,

He never used His power  
when Satan come against  
Him, He said, “It is written.”  
What did...? He had to do  
that, because Eve broke  
down on that.

And what Eve lost, Christ  
regained. Where Eve let  
down, Christ fortified again.  
“It is written, man shall not  
live by bread alone.

It is written, thou shalt not  
tempt the Lord thy God.” “It  
is written, it is written!”  
What is it? He stayed with  
the original Artillery.

52-1027 — Jesus Christ The  
Same Yesterday, Today, And  
Forever

22 How many believe that  
God was in Christ reconciling  
the world to Himself?



That all the great powers  
that the Father had was  
given...[Blank spot on  
tape—Ed.]...all the powers of  
the Father?

But when He met Satan,  
watch where He brought it  
to: for the weakest  
Christian here tonight. He  
never used any of His Divine  
gifts. When Satan come to  
Him and said,

“If Thou be the Son of God,  
command these stones to be  
made bread.”

Jesus said, “It is written,”

the Word of God. “It is  
written, Man shall not live by  
bread alone.”

Again He was tested. And  
Jesus said, “It is written.”  
The third time He was  
tested, and Jesus said, “It is  
written.” Is that right?

23 Right to the Word of  
God, showing that the  
weakest Christian can  
defeat Satan by, “It is  
written.”

If you believe the Word of  
God teaches it, believe it,  
accept it, hang on to it; God  
will bring it to pass. Don't  
you believe that? "It is  
written."

Jesus Learnt  
Obedience By The  
Things He Suffered

## Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.



<sup>6</sup> As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

<sup>7</sup> Who in the days of his flesh,  
when he had offered up  
prayers and supplications with  
strong crying and tears unto  
him that was able to save him  
from death, and was heard in  
that he feared;

<sup>8</sup> Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

<sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

<sup>10</sup> Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

CAB-09 — 9 - The Laodicean  
Church Age

Revelation 3:21, “To him  
that overcometh will I grant  
to sit with Me in My throne,

even as I also overcame, and  
am set down with My  
Father in His throne.”

Now what are we to  
overcome?

That is the normal question to ask here. But that is not the actual thought of this verse for it is not so much WHAT we are to overcome but HOW we are to overcome.



Now this is logical, for does it matter much **WHAT** we are to overcome as long as we know **HOW** we can overcome?

A quick look at those  
Scriptures which involve  
the Lord Jesus overcoming  
will bring out the truth of  
this proposition.

In Matthew 4, wherein Jesus  
is tempted of the devil, He  
overcame the personal  
temptations of Satan by the  
Word, and by the Word  
only.

In each of the three major trials that corresponded exactly to the temptation of the Garden of Eden, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye,

and the pride of life, Jesus  
overcame by the Word. Eve  
fell to the personal  
temptation of Satan by  
failing to use the Word.

Adam fell in direct  
disobedience to the Word.  
But Jesus overcame by the  
Word. And right now, let  
me say that this is the only  
way to be an overcomer,

also it is the only way that  
you can know if you are  
overcoming, because that  
Word CAN'T fail.

Now notice again how Jesus overcame the world systems of religion. When He was repeatedly badgered by the theologians of His day, He constantly applied the Word.



He spake only what the  
Father gave Him to speak.  
There was not a time when  
the world was not utterly  
confused by His wisdom for  
it was the wisdom of God.

In his own personal life,  
contending with Himself,  
He overcame by obedience  
to the Word of God. In  
Hebrews 5:7 it says,

“Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him That was able to save Him from death,

and was heard in that He  
feared; though He were a  
Son, yet learned He  
obedience by the things  
which He suffered;

and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.” What was He obedient to? The Word of God.

63-0825E — Perfect Faith

64 He had faith, with His power. How did He? He said, “I can do nothing in Myself.” Why? He relied upon what He was;

He relied in knowing that  
He was the Word. And He  
had faith in God, Who made  
Him the Word. He was God  
(the Word), and they was in  
Him,

and that give Him faith  
because He understood His  
position. He knowed what  
He was, because the  
Scripture had said He was  
this.



And here every Scripture  
tied in, to prove that He was  
exactly what the Scripture  
said He would be, and He  
knew what He was.

65 Therefore, He relied  
upon what God had made  
Him. And if He did that,  
then can't we rely upon  
what God made us as  
believers?

“These signs shall follow them that believe!” He had  
faith in what He was. And if  
you are a believer, you have  
faith in what you are: you  
are a believer!

God's Intention Is To  
Get Us To Empty Out,  
Get Rid Of Ourselves.  
This Battle Belongs To  
The Lord

62-0607 — Putting On The  
Whole Armor Of God

164 Oh, God makes Himself present in His army then. Do you believe that? Now, God said, “I sent them the Word,

Eve just walked right over  
the top of It, disbelieved It, I  
made It manifest, and they  
crucified It, I am just getting  
tired, I am coming Myself.”

So here He comes, God in  
you.

God above us, the Pillar of Fire; God with us in Jesus Christ; God in us, the Holy Spirit. What is it? The same Word, the same God. Amen.

165 No more trusting in  
anything else, God come  
Hissself. This is a Man-size  
job, so He just brought it all  
down, and come down  
Himself,



“They won’t have to do  
nothing about it, just let  
them surrender to Me and I  
will walk in them, talk in  
them, speak in them, work  
in them, thoroughly.”

Oh, my! That's it. "I will do the, do...I will do the work, just let them just humble themselves, let them just empty up, I will defeat My enemy out there through them."

That's it. You can't do it in  
yourself now, you're not a  
match for him, but if you'll  
just let God do it, get the  
Word in you, then it'll be, all  
be taken care of.

57-0915E — Hebrews,

Chapter Seven #1

30 Daniel said, “In that day  
they run to and fro,  
knowledge shall increase.”

And he said, “The wise shall know their God, in that day, and shall do great exploits in that day. But the wicked will not know the God of Heaven.”

They know Him in a form and in a ritual, like our first lesson said, but they don't know Him by the way of perfection.

He Wants To Get  
Somebody That Can  
So See It, That They  
Can Let The Word

63-0728 — Christ Is The  
Mystery Of God Revealed

375 And through that  
purpose He achieved a  
Church, that He, the fullness  
of God,



might bring to pass every  
promised Word of God in  
these last days; when He  
gets the preeminences,  
preeminence in the Church,  
the position, His place in  
the Church.

Jesus said, “He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he also; even more than this shall he do, for I go to My Father.”

See, that was His purpose.  
There was the manifestation.  
And now, today, He wants  
to get somebody that can  
so see it, that they can let  
the Word...

376 See, Jesus so seen it so,  
was so perfectly born for  
the day, until God  
expressed every move that  
He made. He was God's  
revelation; God, revealed.

377 Now He sanctified, with  
His Spirit and Blood, a  
Church, that He might  
make every promise in this  
last day be revealed.

Now, see, He could go back and pick up what these other fellows has left off here, in the last days, and by His Holy Spirit reveal all the mystery of the Seven Seals. See, He is expressing Himself.

That's His purpose. That's  
why He died. That's the  
second fold of His threefold  
manifestation. First, to  
express Hisself in Christ,  
then express Hisself  
through the Church.

And the same thing, Christ  
was the Word, and the  
Church becomes the Word  
when it lets the Word go  
through them.



63-0324M — Questions And  
Answers On The Seals

114 No. Nothing will be saved,  
only those whose names were  
put on the Lamb's Book of Life  
before the foundation of the  
world, Jew or Gentile.

See? That's all. The Book  
holds that mystery, and the  
Book is only unfolding it  
now;

not each one's name, but  
what the mystery of the  
Book is, while it's calling  
those names. You finally  
understand that now? See?

115 The Book doesn't say,  
“Now, Lee Vayle is to be  
saved in time of this church  
age, or—or Orman Neville,”  
or—or whoever.

No, it don't say that. It just shows the mystery, unfolds the mystery of what the thing is. But we, ourselves, by faith, believe It. That's what I said the other night.

65-1125 — The Invisible Union Of  
The Bride Of Christ

241 Why? It was put in there  
by predestination. You were  
foreordained to a son of  
God. You were in God before  
the foundation of the world.

You're only manifested in  
this day for His honor and  
glory. How can you do it  
without honoring His Word,  
and stand with every Word  
of God?

Yes, sir. Which, you are a part of that Word, by predestination. Because, look, the God is the Word. You believe it?



[Congregation says,  
“Amen.”—Ed.] Well, then,  
if...He always was the Word.  
“In the beginning was the  
Word.” And if the Word was  
God, then you were in God.

The Word, the part that  
you're to play, was in God  
before the foundation of  
the world. He seen you. He  
knew you. He predestinated  
you to it.

64-0719M — The Feast Of The  
Trumpets

113 And how will the  
Messiah...the people that's  
believing Him know it unless  
they're constantly in the Word,  
to know what He is!

Daniel said, “The wise shall know; but the foolish, the unwise, wouldn’t know.

They shall know their God.”

Now, now, how He shall  
appear in the last days, is to  
bring the people back to the  
Word,

so that the Bride will know  
Her Husband, know Her  
Mate, the revealed Word.  
That's why this has to  
happen.

Our Victory Is In  
Getting Ourselves  
Whipped Out

65-0221E — Who Is This  
Melchisedec?

105 Notice, after the battle was over, Melchisedec served His victorious child communion; think of that, part of Himself!



Now we want to see here. In type here is, in view, the communion. After the battle, He gave of Himself, because the communion is part of Christ.

And after the struggle is  
over, after you've done got  
yourself whipped out, then  
is when you partake of  
Christ, become part of this  
Being. You get it?

61-1119 — Perfect Strength

By Perfect Weakness

340 Oh, God's strategy is to  
take empty human vessels  
and shake the world with  
them.

(Now, just a little bit and we'll go.) Like at Pentecost, at Pentecost, what did He do? It taken them ten days to get all emptied up.

But they was all standing there with their vessels turned up, and God took Himself and filled them up. That's all! They shook the world; poured Himself into them.

341 That's the need of  
today. That's what we need  
today, is the empty vessels,  
yes, sir, so God can fill them  
up.

And you cannot take them...I  
got to bypass a lot here. God  
cannot use them as long as  
they're already filled up.

If you're full of theological training, God can't use you.  
God has got to have empty vessels so He can fill them.



61-1119 — Perfect Strength

By Perfect Weakness

357 Get empty, friends. Get

weak! Deny your own

ability!

And you out in radio...not  
radio, but out in...that hear  
these tapes, wherever they  
come, empty yourselves  
out. Pour yourselves out  
upon God's altar as a  
sacrifice.

Let the Angel come with a  
coal of Fire, fill that vessel  
with the power of Almighty  
God. Get...Then He'll make  
you strong, He'll give you  
grace to stand.

## 63-0717 — A Prisoner

183 Oh, God sometimes  
takes His people out like  
that, and shaves a few of  
their own wills off,

shows them that they can't do just what they wanted to do. You know what I mean. They're not—they're not in liberty to do what they want to do.

Before they could come into  
full power and be a love-slave  
to Christ, they have to be  
shaved off and then  
presented. Sometimes He  
takes them to the desert, to  
do that, to shave them off.

And then bring them out,  
the anointed one, to fulfill  
the purpose that He's  
ordained them to be. See  
what I mean?

Brethren, we're at the end  
time.

184 Remember, all other times, what He's done. He's always had to take a man and make him a prisoner to Him, forsake his own.



He had to forsake  
everything that he knowed,  
forget all of his trainings,  
and everything, in order to  
know the will of God, and to  
follow God.

## 63-0717 — A Prisoner

187 Listen. We're at the end time. And I would say this with reverence and respect, as the last couple minutes is floating by.

Look. What God, to my  
opinion, will do and must  
do, and will do in this last  
day, is to find a tool for the  
harvest.

He's got to find a tool, to  
thrash the floor. Any farmer,  
when he goes to his harvest,  
he has to have a tool to do it  
with;

certainly, he's got to have a sharp sickle or something, some instrument, to thrash out the grain. And the harvest is ripe.

188 God, take us in Your  
hand. Make us  
bond-servants of Your love.

Use us for tool, to bring the realization to this sinful, cursed earth that we're living in today, that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

189 For myself, God, let me  
be a prisoner. If all my  
brethren turn me down, if all  
my friends turn me down,



I want to be a prisoner of  
Jesus Christ and His Word,  
that I might be harnessed  
to His Word, by the Holy  
Spirit,

to see the Holy Spirit make  
the Word of God be  
confirmed by the same  
things that He said would  
be done. I want to be a  
prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Think It Not  
Strange When You  
Suffer

# CAB-04 — 4 - The Smyrnaean Church Age

In plain language, the very  
character of Jesus was  
perfected by suffering.

And according to Paul He  
has left His church a  
measure of suffering that  
they, too, by their faith in  
God while suffering for  
Him, would come to a place  
of perfection.

Why did He want this? James 1:2-4, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

knowing this, that the trying  
of your faith worketh  
patience. But let patience  
have her perfect work, that  
ye may be perfect and  
entire, wanting nothing.”

## 60-0417S — I Know

89 When I lost my baby, my little Sharon, I, that was one thing that stumbled me, I said, “How can that be for the good?”



How can it be for the good?”  
And months later, when I  
seen her standing there in all  
the beauty of a young girl,

speaking to me, standing by  
the side of that old wagon,  
broken down, there, I  
knowed, if she would have  
lived she might have turned  
out wrong,

God had to take her while she was tender and sweet. I know I'll see her again, I know I shall see her, I know it beyond any shadow of doubt.

90 I think of my wife of  
twenty-two years old, taken,  
just merely a girl, a little  
mother there.

When the papers give a headline here, “A Young Mother, Reverendess, Dies,” oh, how my heart bled! I didn’t know what to do.

91 But today I know it was  
all working for my good, I  
know the life had to be  
ground, and twisted,

and squeezed, to get what  
in it, was, out, there was  
too much Branham in there,  
it had to be squeezed out  
before God could make  
Himself known.

92 There was too much of  
you in you, till God had to  
squeeze it out, through  
trials.



And while that squeezing  
was coming on, it's hard,  
but after while, the skies  
clear back, then you see the  
purpose of God,

then you cry, “I know my Redeemer liveth, and at the last days He will stand on the earth, though the skin worms destroys this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”

These little trials and things  
are just for a moment, and  
they fade and pass away,  
but they're only done for  
your good, let us remember  
that, that God would get  
glory.

64-0112 — Shalom

201 Many people asked,  
“Why?” They asked. They  
asked, sometime they ask  
me, “Why? Why must these  
things happen?”

Why—why did this happen  
to me? Why did I start and  
this happen, and I—I had  
this trouble here, and this  
upset me here, and I lost  
this here?”

202 Sometimes I've asked,  
“Why?” Why, when I was  
just a young minister, first  
started out, did God take my  
wife right out from under  
me,

take my baby right from  
beneath me, right beneath  
my heart? Why did He do  
that? I didn't know. I do now.  
I just held my hand in His and  
kept trusting.

203 He knows every  
junction. He knows the  
rhythm must...when it  
must take place. He knows  
what it takes to mold you,  
He knows what kind of  
material He's going to use.



See? The backside of the  
desert sometimes, where  
God molds righteous men  
into sages and prophets.  
See? See?

That's where men are beat  
out. Men are beat out, in  
the Word. When they got  
all kind of creed and stuff in  
them, let them come to the  
Word and God beats it right  
out of them,

molds it right into This, into  
the great Symphony with,  
of His Word. See? And then  
they see the Word moving  
on.

54-1003M — The Word  
Became Flesh (India Trip  
Report)

183 “And they that are sons of  
God are led by the Spirit of  
God.” Then when the human  
element goes out,

and the Spirit of God fills  
that vacancy, where you  
empty yourself, amen, then  
will be when the Church, in  
Its Power of the  
resurrection of the Lord  
Jesus,

will walk in His steps, in His  
Power, in His thoughts, in  
His Being, in His moving!

You see what I mean?

[Congregation says,  
“Amen.”—Ed.]

Then your thoughts will  
become words, and words  
will become material, that's  
when the Church in it's  
Power.

184 I believe it's on its road,  
that when the Church will  
be so wrapped in Christ, the  
Holy Spirit,



mankind so away from  
themselves, that they don't  
see themselves, they don't  
have no [Blank spot on  
tape—Ed.] but to serve God.

And their thoughts move on.  
They refuse the things of the  
world. They just move in the  
Spirit, live in the Spirit, move  
in the Spirit, walk in the  
Spirit,

so fulfill the law of Christ.  
Then, the love of Christ in  
the human heart, moving in  
the Holy Ghost, that great  
wonderful Church will go  
forth with Power and Deity;

because Deity will be  
revealed in human beings,  
by the Holy Spirit, bringing  
to pass, the thought of  
their mind.