

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

MSG: THE RHYTHM OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 7:4

SZN 1: REVIVAL THROUGH RHYTHM

Romans 7:4 ESV

“Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.”

Music is the creative organization of sound.

And The beginning of that organization is rhythm. Rhythm is the arrangement of sounds as they move through time. You can take any sound and arrange them rhythmically to create music.

The term rhythm is also used to describe a specific pattern of sounds. In a very simple form, music can be created by clapping your hands to a specific rhythm.

Few have mastered and understand rhythm, cadence and the space between beats like the the brilliant Hip-Hop duo, CLIPSE - made up of two of our hometown hip-hop heroes, right here from VA BEACH, consisting of up of two brothers, Gene and Terrance Thornton aka Malice and Pusha T.

After a long 15 year hiatus, CLIPSE recently released their magnum opus album, produced entirely by fellow VA BEACH native, Pharrell, appropriately titled, LET GOD SORT EM OUT.

After Gene aka MALICE had a radical encounter with Jesus in 2009, he left the music industry to grow in his relationship with Jesus.

Now, after 15 years of discipleship, returning back to the group to reunite with his brother Pusha T, MALICE penned one of the most viscerally testimonial lyrics on the album in the closing song, BY THE GRACE OF GOD...

Malice writes...

**“Easily I coulda been one of them
Locked up and never get to see the sun again
Burning buildings, I kept running in
The allure every time I flew a hunnid in
Codefendant cave in and lawyers couldn't save him
All for the love of 580's and a mixed lady, having ya baby,
I done dodged strays crazy,
Man, I think about this daily”**

If you can't remember where you were,
who you were,
who you were with and
what you were and
And what you were doing
...you should think about this daily!
it's BY THE GRACE OF GOD that you are here now...

See You can't understand revival if you don't understand rhythm,
You can't truly experience revival, (coming back to life) if you don't experience rhythm

You can't understand rhythm, if you can't understand grace!

Because You can't experience rhythm without first experiencing grace. GRACE IS
UNDESERVED UNMERITED FAVOR. It is God's riches at Christ expense.

Acts 17:28 reminds us

“for “In him we live and move and have our being’;

Maybe you are experiencing the off-beat, bad rhythmic living of performative works based religion.

Or The out of sync, out of time rhythmic existence of self preservation and selfish living.
Or off tempo, off beat rythme or striving, earning and deserving in your relationship with God..

But Today I want to help you find what I call THE RHYTHM OF GRACE....

1. THE RHYTHM OF GRACE EMPOWERS YOU WHEN HIS BODY DIED

Romans 7:4a ESV

“Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ...

HIS DEATH FULFILLED THE LAW

Matthew 5:17 ESV

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

HIS DEATH MADE YOU DIE TO THE LAW

-living by the law is exhausting!

HIS DEATH GAVE YOU LIBERATED LIVING

In her book Peace is a Peace, Morgan Harper Nichols writes,

**“Finding rhythms is about joining in the pulse of what’s already happening,
with our stronger beats and our softer beats, our inhales and our exhales,
through shadow and Light,
we experience life, every day,
all by grace.”**

the rhythm of Grace is liberating! So Live in it!

2. THE RHYTHM OF GRACE EMPOWERS YOU TO BELONG TO HIM

Romans 7:1-2 ESV

“Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?

For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.”

YOU WERE MADE SINGLE TO BE MARRIED TO CHRIST

“Teach me Thy Grace in all the little things of life.”

-Howard Thurman

YOU BELONG TO HIM BECAUSE YOUR CHOSEN

John 15:16 ESV

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

PUSHA T masterfully wrote in the song...

**“In closing, I see I'm chosen
All my pressure points frozen
You know how it goes,**

**When the crew breaks apart, who takes the charge?
You face the cards, I lace the squad
Went from mason jars to crepe tartare's
Escape the odds by the Grace of God”**

Your chosen!

-Look at what he's done in you, through you and for you!

You escaped the odds... by the grace of God!

3. THE RHYTHM OF GRACE EMPOWERS YOU TO BEAR FRUIT

Romans 7:5-6 ESV

“For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.”

THE LAW EXPOSES OUR SIN

EXAMPLE: DO NOT TOUCH SIGN

WE DIED TO SIN AND WE DIED TO THE LAW

MY WAY GETS IN THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT

There is favor in Spirit empowered living!

THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT IS...

1. BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:18 ESV

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

2. BEARING FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

3. BALANCING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 12:4-5 ESV

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;”

Pharrell sings...

**“I seen killers and kingpins sing behind the wall
I watched many men die cause no one would make the call
I've seen entire empires crumble and fall
Yes, I've seen it all
They missed this wall
By the Grace of God”**

Who is ready to live move and have your being...by the RHYTHM OF GRACE