

Embrace the Grace

Shout Grace!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV) - *...because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

We greatly underestimate the fact that God is for us and not against us. He has decided to bless us and shower his goodness upon our lives. Everything that He does for us is motivated by his deep abiding love for us and our future. **God wants you and I to be and have great success in life.** In fact, that is why He bestows his **GRACE** upon us, so that we will be a success.

Moses told the children of Israel as they started their journey into the promise land that if they obeyed God's instruction that they would...

Deut. 28:1-13 - *"The LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing on you"*

He wanted His people to be successful then and God has never changed his mind, He wants us to be successful now! **When we succeed we make God "look good"**. When someone asks, "How did you get that promotion?" or "How did you become the salesperson of the year..." when you don't have nearly as much expertise as some of the other people in this company? We have an opportunity to tell them about the favor God has shown us—and wants to show them.

God's GRACE on a person's life is there for the primary purpose of bringing the person success so that God will become attractive to somebody else.

Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD" (Deut. 28:10). The passage goes on to say where this will happen: "in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you" (v. 11)."

*Not only does God's **GRACE** on us bring Him more glory and honor, it also empowers us to take possession of His promise.*

Psalm 44:3: "For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them." (You put your grace upon them...)

The **GRACE** of God enables us do what we cannot do on our own. It is what causes God's "super" to come on our "natural" – equipping us to do the "supernatural".

- **GRACE** can produce what money cannot buy
- **GRACE** can promote you when you aren't even qualified for promotion.
- **GRACE** can move you into a position of blessing

You might say, "Pastor, you don't know my circumstances, what I'm facing, who my enemies are, what kind of obstacles I have to overcome. Listen, The **GRACE** of God on our lives brings about things that seem impossible from a human perspective—and it guarantees victory, no matter how much our adversaries oppose us.

Ps. 41:11 KJV - "By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me."

When we are consistently declaring and walking in the favor of God, it is impossible for the enemy to prevent us from succeeding in the things that God has called us to do.

GRACE GIFTS:

1. Favor produces supernatural increase and promotion. - "But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Gen. 39:21).
2. Favor produces restoration of everything that the enemy has stolen from you. - "And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty" (Ex. 3:21).
3. Favor produces honor in the midst of your adversaries. - "And the lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people" (Ex 11:3).
4. Favor produces increased assets, especially in the area of real estate. - "And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full with the blessing of the Lord, possess thou the west and the south" (Deut. 33:23).
5. Favor produces great victories in the midst of great impossibilities. - "For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might

destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favor, but that he might destroy them, as the Lord commanded Moses" (Josh. 11:20).

6. Favor produces recognition, even when you seem the least likely to receive it. - "And, Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight" (1 Sam. 16:22).
7. Favor produces prominence and preferential treatment. - "And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti" (Est. 2:17).
8. Favor produces petitions granted even by ungodly civil authorities. - "If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said" (Est. 5:8).
9. Favor causes policies, rules, regulations, and laws, to be changed and reversed to your advantage. - "And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son, of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces" (Est. 8:5).
10. Favor produces battles won which you won't even fight because God will fight them for you. - "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them" (Ps. 44:3).

1 Pet. 1:13 - "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"

Notice that the New King James text uses the word "grace," which the Amplified translates as "divine favor." The Hebrew word for grace is *chen*, which is defined as "favor, kindness and graciousness." When we translate *chen* as "GRACE," Scripture takes on a whole new meaning."

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 The Apostle Paul is fighting a thorn in his flesh, and he ask God to remove it. God told Paul, "My grace is sufficient..." In other words, I know the enemy is coming against you Paul, but the force of my **GRACE** is more than enough against enemies, infirmities, reproaches, needs, persecutions, and distresses.

- When we are in distress – declare God’s **GRACE** is enough for me
- When we are overwhelmed by worry – declare God’s **GRACE** is enough for me
- When we are under spiritual attacks – declare God’s **GRACE** is enough for me

You need to have and expectation in your heart that the GRACE of God is coming to you!

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- When we are struggling financially – declare God’s **GRACE** is enough for me
 - God’s **GRACE** is enough when my family is in trouble
 - God’s **GRACE** is enough I need direction

The apostle Paul’s revelation of **GRACE** became a revelation of the power of declaring that **GRACE** over the lives of those to whom he ministered.

- Paul wrote 13 of the 27 epistles, or letters, contained in the New Testament. In each one, he began with a greeting of grace, or divine favor, and he usually concluded with a reminder to his readers that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with them all. Repeatedly Paul shouts “**GRACE**” over the churches he’s serving.
- He got a revelation of the force, the sufficiency of God’s **GRACE**!

The Early Church faced its share of challenges. Those believers had to deal with unthinkable opposition and persecution, but God blessed them in the midst of their trials. The Word says in Acts 4:33-34 - “With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace [divine favor – the touch of God] was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked.”

When the **GRACE** of God is manifesting in the lives of His people the way He desires it to be, there will be no lack among them. Great **GRACE** was upon the Early Church, with remarkable results. *We should expect nothing different today.*

I think about Joseph:

- When he was betrayed by his family, thrown into the pit and sold to slave traders – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient.
- When Joseph was later put in prison – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient.
- When Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient.
- When Pharaoh had a dream that needed interpreting – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient.
- When Egypt was struck with a terrible famine under Joseph’s leadership – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient
- When Joseph had his brothers that betrayed him and hurt him come to him for help – God’s **GRACE** was sufficient

I think about Noah:

- When Noah was facing the worst storm in the history of humanity – Noah found the “favor” – **GRACE** - of God
- It was **GRACE** that showed him how to build that boat
- It was **GRACE** that caused those animal to line up

- It was **GRACE** that held that boat together on the stormy seas

If you are facing a storm – the **GRACE** of God will do the same for you!

Conclusion: Key to **GRACE** – Declaration...

In the midst of adversity, the key to our victory lies in declaring God's **GRACE** in our lives! If God's **GRACE** brought victory to all of these people under the old covenant, how much more so will it bring favor to us who have a new covenant founded on promises of grace?

All of us face mountains of adversity in life. I have found that those *mountains* can talk! They speak to us about how we will never be able to get over or around them. They talk so much they keep us up all night and trouble us all day. But Jesus gave us a key – make a declaration to that mountain – speak to it!

Mark 11:23 - "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says"

It isn't enough for us to believe and expect God's **GRACE**, we need to decree and declare God's **GRACE**!

**Don't let your mountain tell you how big it is...
tell your mountain how BIG YOUR GOD IS!**

There's a familiar verse in **Zechariah 4:6** that says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts"

Most of us stop reading at that point, but verse 7 teaches us something crucial about God's **GRACE** and the mountains in our lives...

Zechariah 4:7 - "Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

- According to the Word of God, we are to shout grace to our mountains.

If you have a mountain that you are facing right now, you can't just believe it away, **you need to shout it away!!!**

I want to finish today by leaving you with the four meanings of this **GRACE**:

1. **Something granted out of good will** – You don't deserve it and you could never earn it!
2. **A gift bestowed as a token of regard, love or friendship** – Its coming because he loves you, no good gift will he withhold from you
3. **Preferential treatment** – Your God's favorite
4. **Advantage** – someone is going to get a break today

2 Pet. 1:2 (*The Amplified Bible*) - "May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in [the full, personal, precise, and correct] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."