

Series: Truth for All Time

The Sufficiency of Grace

September 3, 2023

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Psalm 84:11 declares: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Grace. The One True and Living God is the God of all Grace. Is that grace sufficient? Have we found it to be so? God promised it in the Old Testament, as for example:

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of Grace and Supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. NKJV

The New Testament stresses the grace and truth that came with the Incarnation of Christ, for God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Every believer needs to know the sufficiency of God's grace that he/she might trust the Lord from the heart and lean not on his/her own understanding when going through life by acknowledging Him in all his/her ways so that the Lord will direct our path.

1. Grace for salvation –

John 1:1-5, 14, 16,17: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... ¹⁶and of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. NKJV

Romans 5:15-17: ¹⁵But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. ¹⁷For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) NKJV

Ephesians 2:4-5,8, 9: ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),... ⁸For by grace you have

been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.* NKJV

Grace without truth results in lawlessness and is what we call “cheap grace.” Truth without grace results in legalism and can greatly hinder a personal relationship with the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. Grace for daily living –

What Jesus accomplished as to living a life of radical obedience, personal, perfect, perpetual obedience, even to paying the penalty for sin, fulfilled all righteousness. Jesus died on the Cross not having any personal sin, but dying voluntarily to make atonement, an atonement that was both necessary and sufficient as He bore the curse, bore the sin, bore the wrath of God, and bore the glory. A true believer is redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, meaning the once-for-all time sacrifice of Christ Himself resulted in the Father’s acceptance of that Sacrifice; it never needs to be repeated.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead the Third Day and sits at the right hand of the Almighty. He came to bear witness to the Truth and is Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He made it so that true believers are reconciled to the Father, have guilt and liability removed and overcome, the wrath of God against all that offends a holy God, His nature and ways, and the agony of His love being rejected, and Satan’s kingdom of darkness destroyed.

The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus has accomplished. In the war of the “already and not yet” we have grace to overcome our sin nature, pride, lust of the flesh, and lust of the eyes. We have grace to resist the devil, submit to God, and find help and hope to strengthen us as we move through our lives kept by the power of God.

James 4:1-10: **¹Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for pleasure* that war in your members? ²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?**

⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

**“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”**

⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. NKJV

So humility is key. Think about Jesus in terms of His humility, for this is the spirit of true sonship. Philippians 2 for more.

1 Peter 5:5-11: ⁵**Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for**

**“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”**

⁶**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

⁸**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. NKJV**

2 Peter 3:18 - **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

We are called to be steadfast, but not stagnate. God warns us in His Word that we might not be taken by surprise, but rather learn how to be overcomers, how to worship in Spirit and in truth, how to be ready, how to pray. While we look forward to glory, we can look back at all the examples of Scripture and look at the times in which we live in order that we not be discouraged, but rather allow the hope of the Scriptures to fill us with the Promise.

2 Corinthians 8:9 –**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. BSB**

2 Corinthians 9:7 8 - ⁷**Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. BSB**

Giving is always a touchy subject with too many Christians. We can but thank the Living God that He is a Giver, the Source of all Life and Blessings. We learn to give as we grow in grace; in fact, we call it “grace giving.” We are given grace that we have giving hearts (Ephesians 4:17-32) in order that we might give generously, graciously, gladly, as the Holy Spirit guides, and as we have purposed in our hearts to give in an obedient response to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the need is not the call; doing in obedience to the will of the Living God is the call.

3. Grace for power to bear witness-

Zechariah 4:1-7

¹**Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. ²And he said to me, “What do you see?”**

So I said, "I am looking, and there *is* a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. ³Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." ⁴So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What *are* these, my lord?"

⁵Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?"

And I said, "No, my lord."

⁶So he answered and said to me:

"This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
Says the LORD of hosts.

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!" ' ' ' NKJV

In Zechariah time, as our own time, people were discouraged. A ring of enemies surrounded the men seeking to build and work on the Temple. These men were not mighty as they would define it; yet they would finish because the source of all real strength for serving God and living as God would have us live is God's Spirit.

I read Maclaren's Commentary on Zechariah chapter 4. Here are some of my thoughts:

Let us keep to God's strength, and not corrupt His oil with mixtures of foul-smelling stuff of our own compounding. (Maclaren)

What is our "great mountain"? God's Hand crushes it into a plain when we believe the Word of God. Have faith of God, the God kind of faith. God has what He says. The mountain either becomes a plain, as here in Zechariah, or is cast into the sea, as Jesus says in Mark 11: 22-24.

Then there is this. Zerubbabel finished his task, but it was not the end, it was a new beginning. Despise not small beginnings. Jesus Christ is the One who has made a real new beginning. He is Alpha and Omega; He will carry His work to the end. He is the beginning and the end, the Foundation of the true Temple, the Cornerstone and the Capstone.

'When He begins, He will also make an end.' Maclaren Commentary, Biblehub.com

Acts 4:33 - And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. NKJV

Jesus had said the disciples were witnesses and that they would be given power to be witnesses unto Him after that the Holy Spirit came upon them. Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8. We see the testimonies in the Book of Acts and throughout the New Testament.

2 Corinthians 12:8b-10 –

So to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment [buffet, beat] me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected [or made perfect] in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
BSB

We have great difficulties and struggles. Our biggest struggle is against our sin nature. God is greater than our sin. The mountain that needs leveling or cast into the sea is our guilt and liability for the debt note of sin. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32 NKJV

It will all make sense one day when we behold the face of Christ. The “already and not yet” of our lives will become the NOW and FOREVER according to the sufficiency of God’s grace.

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The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion [or fellowship] of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

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Federal ID 65-0429517