

3 Practical Steps to Access the Power of Grace

As we enter this time of breakthrough and new beginnings together in 2020, I encourage you to consider every aspect of your life through the lens of grace, *charisma*, the free gift of God.

Not only does grace enable us to receive salvation through Jesus Christ, it also empowers us to live a victorious life in Him: to overcome sin and walk in freedom, power and holiness, and fulfill our destinies. Here are three practical steps on how to access the perspective and power of grace in your life:

1. **Receive revelation of grace.** “Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ, even when we were dead in our trespasses” (Eph. 2:4-5a, BSB).

In order to understand grace, you must receive greater depths of wisdom and revelation (Eph. 1:17), a spiritual understanding that will go beyond intellectual head knowledge. It is one thing to know that God is rich in mercy and love with your mind; it is another thing to understand it with your heart.

When I began my studies at the University of Maryland, I was a high school dropout and former drug addict. I had been saved, but it was difficult for me to remember much at all because of the drugs I'd taken. But the Holy Spirit directed me to memorize Scripture, helping to restore my memory and clarity, and by the grace of God, my mind was restored and I was able to graduate college with a 3.5 GPA and eventually graduate from Fuller Seminary with a 4.0 GPA!

I want you to understand—this is all by grace. I did nothing to deserve this, but I approached God to help me in my time of

need.

I encourage you today to consider how God has supplied you grace in your own life. He has saved you and given you new life in Jesus Christ, and He has shown His kindness and mercy to you again and again. Remind yourself of specific times where He has been good to you, and you will receive revelation of His grace that goes beyond what you know with your mind!

2. Don't do anything in your own flesh. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Apart from Jesus, we are considered "dead in our trespasses." We cannot please God, experience true freedom or joy, overcome sin or do anything good without the free gift of grace. In the book of Galatians, the apostle Paul (who speaks of grace more than any other New Testament writer), encourages the church of Galatia to repent of trying to obtain the merit of God through the old, written way of the Law (Gal. 3). Do not strive to obtain with your flesh, or in your own strength, what you have already received freely through Jesus Christ.

When you begin to walk in humility, knowing that apart from Him you can do nothing, you will begin to see victory in every area of your life. Humility is key to walking in grace, because it requires you to depend fully on Him rather than on yourself to do good and live in abundance.

3. Ask for grace! "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (Heb. 4:16, NLT).

Because you have free access to God through the blood of Jesus, you can approach Him at anytime, anywhere and about anything, to receive His grace and ask for mercy. If you need breakthrough in any area of your life, whether it be in finances, health, in a relationship or in any other area, I encourage you to ask for what you need from your heavenly

Father. Pray to your heavenly Father, and be specific with your requests. He is faithful to answer!

Scripture says we are to abound in grace (2 Cor. 9:8)—in other words, we can *grow* in grace. As you come boldly to His throne of grace, knowing that you have this free privilege, you will find you receive more favor and blessings!

Living Victoriously

We cannot live in victory over sin, addiction or any area where we feel stuck in a pattern of brokenness, apart from understanding and knowing that we cannot merit God's acceptance, favor and provision. I encourage you today that if you are living in bondage to feeling stuck in a pattern of brokenness, or in a specific sin or addiction, you can find true freedom when you begin to understand and receive His grace with greater revelation. I believe that grace is not only a perspective—it is the supernatural power of Jesus Christ to save you, transform you, give you favor and empower you to fulfill your destiny! {eoa}

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