

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may **live new lives**.

God's Grace is so much more than forgiveness.

God has given us all the power we need to live a "Brand New" Life in this world. And eternal life beyond that.

Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

³ For you died to this life, and your **real life** is hidden with Christ in God.

In **Romans 10:9** it states that we should confess Jesus as Lord Lord – *kurios* – *master, owner, supreme in authority*

Grace is empowerment!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."

Grace – Strong's Exhaustive Concordance:

"gift, benefit, favor, gracious, and liberality"

"the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life"

Obedience is the outward evidence of the true fear of the Lord

When we fear God we will...

- Obey Him instantly
- Obey Him even if it doesn't make sense
- Obey Him even if it hurts
- Obey Him even if we don't see the benefit
- Obey Him to completion

How many people have you heard that say, “*God has been dealing with me the past few months about...*” and they shrug it off with a laugh?” – How sad!

God tells Abraham to offer the son he had waited 25 years for and *the very next day he obeys*

While Abraham has the knife pulled, ready to offer his son

Genesis 22:12 (NLT)

¹² “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

James 2:23 (NLT)

²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” * He was even called the friend of God. *

If we want to live a life of obedience, then we must be on guard because the world we live in is hostile toward anything that's of God's kingdom

John 15:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

- Whether we like it or not we're at war
- If you never feel like there is a force opposing you, you should be concerned
- The enemy loves its own
- And a hypocrite poses no threat to the kingdom of darkness

Jesus said of the hypocritical leaders of His day...

John 8:23 (NLT)

²³ Jesus continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not.

And further...

John 8:44 (NLT)

⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

If you're of the world, you'll be embraced by the world; if you're of God you'll be resisted and hated by the world's system

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)

⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have *divine power* to demolish strongholds.

- Divine power – God's Grace
- We've learned that we can substitute the word power or empowerment for grace

1 Peter 5:5–12 (NKJV)

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* (power) to the humble." ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting 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. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But may the God of all *grace* (empowerment), who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

¹¹ To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true *grace* (power) of God in which you stand.

- When we are submissive we come under the same mission with one another
- God gives His *grace* (power) to the humble
- We are deemed humble when we expect our cares to be met by His *grace* (power), not our own strength
 - Life issues, concerns, responsibilities, needs, or various desires
 - They can be temporal or, most importantly eternal
 - To experience abundant life and meet the needs of others in our sphere of influence

When we try to live this way we will experience resistance from the enemy – **Mark 4** “**The sower and the Seed**”

- We are to maintain a sober mind that is well aware of the promises of God and be vigilant in prayer
- Equipping us by the *grace* (power) of God to advance His kingdom

The purpose of the true grace of God is to empower us to victory through trials as we mature and become stronger in His grace

Grace should never be reduced to a ticket to cover up sin and get us into heaven

The enemy will not just lie down and let us impact the world for Christ

- I believe this is why more believers are not living for the mission at hand
- It's easier to live for ourselves and not have to wrestle with the enemy
- But the fight is exactly what causes us to mature and grow

1 Peter 5:12 (NIV)

“this is the *true grace* of God. Stand fast in it.”

2 Timothy 2:1, 3 (NLT)

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. ³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

- Paul encourages him to be strong in grace
- It is our greatest spiritual weapon
- Paul reminds him to not succumb to the spirit of fear but to grow in power and love
- Faith, power and love work through Gods remarkable grace

Paul exhorts him to fan the flame!

2 Timothy 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

We don't "tip toe" into greatness or engage "cruise control" to live a distinguished life for the Lord

Philippians 3:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- We only need to press in when there's resistance
- If there's no resistance we're not living by the power of grace
- We are soldiers in a battle
- Our arsenal is the grace of God

A soldier can retreat from battle and experience a much quieter lifestyle

- That doesn't mean the war is over
- That just means we went A.W.O. L.
- He may have his uniform and gear but he's heading in the wrong direction
- We are not to appear Christ like but to be Christ like
- The evidence of what we believe is a corresponding action

1 John 3:8 (NLT)

⁸ But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

Grace is the power to overcome hardship. When Jesus bid Peter to walk on the water He simply bid him to come. That one word was all the grace he needed to believe and do the impossible. When he stopped believing the grace (power) waned and he began to sink.

We have unlimited grace in Christ, but we can only access it through faith

Romans 5:2 (NLT)

² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

- It's not that grace fails
- Our faith wanes and cuts off the distribution of grace
- We are left fighting in our own strength
- If a pipeline ruptures, there's still water it just doesn't make it to your house
- Our faith is the pipeline for grace

This is why we must “build ourselves up” in the faith of Jesus Christ

- Get into God's word
- Live a life of praise and worship
- Pray in the Spirit
- If we don't our faith will wane and we'll start to live in our own strength
- Soon we are not ruling and start letting the world rule us

The apostle Peter writes that the only way we grow in our new life and not return to our former life is by growing in grace through faith

2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

- Growing in knowledge is learning God's ways
- This builds our faith

By building our faith we can increase our faith

Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

- The more faith, the bigger the pipe
- Consequently, more water (grace)
- God can entrust us with more responsibility to bring new life to others

In order to increase our faith and allow the grace of God to flow through more abundantly we must remain humble

We need humility and patience to finish well and live an effective life

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

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

Those who are truly humble believe, trust, and obey God’s word over what they think, reason, feel or desire

They depend completely on God’s ability rather than their own

- They seek His will
- They’re living on mission

Pride and faith are polar opposites

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

- Humility and faith go hand in hand
- Pride and unbelief go hand in hand
- To not believe God’s word is to declare we know better or trust our own judgement more – Pride

Israel spying out the Promised Land

Numbers 13:2 (NLT)

² “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.”

- Moses sends out the twelve
- Ten *seemed* Humble
- Two *seemed* Proud

After “*forty days*” in the Promised Land

The ten said they saw a land flowing with milk and honey, but the giants there are too strong for us

- We must consider our well-being, our families
- They are skilled – we are slaves
- It’s impossible to take the land
 - Sounds humble, honest and safe

The two said – We can do it!

- They may have seemed careless or crazy
- They may have seemed proud and arrogant
 - If we follow them, we may be in danger

Numbers 14:11 (NIV)

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

- It takes genuine humility to have faith
- You rely and trust God’s ability not your own
- What the majority thought was humility was unbelief
- Unbelief is viewed by God as pride

We are at war and the only way to be strong is to grow in grace and humility, allowing us to be relentless in our faith. Being relentless is a delight to the Lord and He will reward those who fight and “Never Give Up”. When we live this way we are a genuine threat to the kingdom of darkness. This is our calling, our destiny, our privilege!