

Champions of God's Grace

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Have you ever considered just how much you are worth to God? In His eyes, one sinner is worth more than all the world. He so loved the world, God sent His only Son to Calvary to pay the sin debt for the world. Considering all that has been done, it is such a shame to see so many people trying so hard to overcome things by their own devices.

The greatest battle ever fought was on Calvary. God won the victory. And now, as we walk in that victory, He declares us champions. Satan’s plan was defeated, and ultimately he will be exposed for the loser that he is. But by

Jesus Christ who lives in us, we can do anything. We are champions of grace—more than conquerors, with a victory that can never be taken from us.

Chapter One
GOD NEEDS YOU

Any good cook works very hard to prepare a meal for dinner guests. How do you think that cook feels after working diligently only to find that the guests do not show up? A diligent pastor-teacher feels the same way when members of his congregation miss church services. I thank God for every member in particular (1 Corinthians 12:27). I thank Him for all those who do not forsake the assembling of themselves together, but do it much more as they see the day of Jesus Christ approaching (Hebrews 10:25).

It has been said, "If you go to church Sunday morning, you love your church, and if you go to church Sunday night, you love your pastor. But if you also go to church on Wednesday night, you love God." That statement is true. God writes in His book of remembrance every time a believer attends church, and He knows every time a believer does not come.

I weep over the people in my church who seldom come to services. For them, it's hit or miss. I am not rebuking them; I am pleading with them because as a pastor I need their portions. Just as a construction engineering crew needs workers to get a job done, in the same way, I need every member in particular to be in church.

I thank God for every co-laborer wherever they are. The businessman needs his employees. Parents need the love and contributions of their children to help keep up the home. Teachers need their students to study and be faithful in attendance. And I need you.

Fill Up the House of God

I need folks to say to their neighbors, "We're having the greatest services in the history of our ministry. We're in the midst of revival. Would you come to church with me just once?" I need people to bring guests on Wednesday nights. I can promise that I will study and prepare diligently. Won't you please pray and bring a person with you?

By God's grace, we are having one of the greatest revivals I've ever seen. So when some of my dearest friends have a hit or miss attitude

toward church, I weep for them. I'm not upset. I am not even rebuking them, I just don't understand it. The days are too precious and too few to ignore our call to the local church.

Jesus Christ is in the midst of every church service, taking note of who is there and who isn't. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" (Malachi 3:16).

I am not talking about those who are ill, who are working, or who are on vacation—everyone needs vacations. I'm talking about people who could be at church, but do not show up. They will be made accountable at the Bema Seat of Jesus Christ for what was preached at that service. Some people say, "He expects me to come to *all* the services?" But this has nothing to do with me; this is what the Bible says. All I am doing is quoting from the Bible.

I am in the pulpit when I'm sick. I am in the pulpit when I'm brokenhearted. I am in the pulpit when I feel pain that I can't even tell my wife about. I don't know how many days I have to serve God on this earth. I thank Him that I'm

healthy now and by God's grace, I will live a lot longer. All I am saying is that I need you. There are many in my church who I believe have kept me alive with their prayers. They have loved me and prayed for me. They were faithful. In heaven, they will find out that their pastor did not die from a broken heart because their prayers kept me—I am sure of it. They kept me going because they needed me, they loved me, and they co-labored with me in serving God.

Please don't be hit or miss Christians. If I have said anything offensive, I repent. My prayer is that these instructions—not rebukes—will be helpful to all of us for all eternity.

Chapter Two

'WHEN I FALL, I SHALL ARISE'

“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because *I have sinned against him*, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: *he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.*”

“Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets” (Micah 7:7-10).

“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him*, being abominable, and disobedient,

and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:15-16).

There is never a question in the Word of God about who is sinful and who is not. *All* have sinned (Romans 3:23). The question not so easily discerned by human perception is this: "Who is godly and who is not?" Jude 4 says that "certain men crept in unawares, . . . ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness." Galatians 5:4 says that Christ is of no effect to those who are justified by the law: they have fallen from grace.

With that in mind, I want you to know that we believe in old-fashioned, practical holiness. Men ought always do what is right in the eyes of God. Nevertheless, we fail as much as anyone else does, but we are broken before God. We repent and rebound and go right after God immediately because we hate sin, and we love His righteousness.

As we read in the opening verses, Micah has fallen. He was living in sin and his enemies were judging him and mocking him publicly, calling him a hypocrite. But he was not a hypocrite. Micah was a man of God.

After You Fall, Get Up

“For the faithful fail from among the children of men” (Psalm 12:1*b*). Everyone fails, but there is a tremendous difference between failing and never getting up from failure. A person may have just an isolated failure in his daily walk with God, or it may possibly end up being an entire season of failure. In either case, this person is not a failure, though perhaps he has failed many times. But he needs to rebound every time he sins by confessing it, then getting up and moving on.

Be careful never to judge another person who fails. The Bible says, “For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law” (James 2:11). Also, Romans 2:1 says, “Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another; thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the *same things.*”

Are you getting this? If you commit one sin and I commit another sin, we’ve both offended the law. I can’t judge you and you can’t judge me. Though you may not be committing the

same sin as someone else, you are doing the *same thing*—offending the law.

The Principle of Restoration

We can go alone and try to restore someone if we know for certain of his sin. We must go with an attitude of meekness, always considering ourselves lest we also fail. We are to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and sometimes the burdens they carry are because they have fallen.

Grace is not given so we can continue in sin, but grace is given because we do sin. *Jesus Christ was with Micah while Micah was sinning.* "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," God says in Hebrews 13:5b. If you receive that truth alone from this booklet, you will love God, worship God, and thank Him. You will know that Jesus Christ stays with you all the time, even in the midst of your failure. Certainly the Spirit is grieved, but He never leaves you. Beyond your failure, He is waiting to be gracious to you. He is a God of doctrine. Blessed are those who wait upon Him (see Isaiah 30:18).

God is just waiting for us to confess what is written in Psalm 22:4, "Our fathers trusted in [God], they trusted, and thou didst deliver

them.” This is *the* work of God: to believe on Him (see John 6:28-29).

“I am so weak, I’m so frail,” you say. Still, “the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25). Even at your weakest, you are still stronger than any non-Christian because of Who is in you (Colossians 1:27).

Chapter Three

HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

According to 2 Corinthians 12:9, God's grace is made sufficient in our weakness. It doesn't refer to something else besides grace. God says, "My grace alone is sufficient for your weakness." I'm so glad He didn't say, "My *holiness* is sufficient," although His holiness is precious and absolutely necessary. But I am so glad God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee, and My strength is made perfect in your weakness."

When we understand this, we will glorify God. We will thank Him and praise His holy name. We will praise Him, for His grace is sufficient for us and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. I am so happy about that right now. I'm so happy to know that Jesus Christ never leaves me.

No Matter Where You Make Your Bed

Psalm 139:8 says that if I ascend up to

heaven, God is there. Even if I make my bed in hell, He is there. Our enemies don't think so, but God is there with us. Micah's enemies didn't think God was with him, but He was. God forbid that we make our bed in hell, but if we do, God is there. Every one of us has made his bed in hell at one time or another. Some very "good" people make their bed in hell through self-righteousness, which is the worst sin in the Bible. Isaiah 64:6 says our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in God's sight.

When we make our bed in hell, the God of all grace is there, waiting to bless us, waiting for us to say, "I did it, I acknowledge my sin, and I rebound."

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isaiah 43:25). "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: *return unto me; for I have redeemed thee*" (Isaiah 44:22).

Think of it. When we confess our sin, it is *gone*. Just as a storm cloud dissolves into a mist when it is penetrated by the intensity of sunlight burning through, so our sins lose their power and are gathered back to God's sea of forgetfulness. *Praise Him for that*. God Almighty says,

“The Son took all of your sins on His precious body, and I remember your sins no more.” His desire is that we would really believe it. Jeremiah 50:20 says that when the accusers tried to search for the sins of Judah and the iniquities of Israel, they could not be found.

Glorify God for His grace. He means what He says from the bottom of His heart. He cannot find *any* of the sins committed by Judah and Israel. Consider what those nations did: They worshipped idols—trees and everything under the sun. Like an adulterous woman, they wandered far from the Beloved. But God can’t find their sins and iniquities because each one was placed upon Jesus Christ the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world. He was judged for every sin—past, present, and future. And as the sins of the world were put on His body at Calvary, God the Father could not look upon the Son. The precious Saviour was separated from His Father for three hours because of His identification with us.

You Can't Run from God

“If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand

shall hold me" (Psalm 139:9-10). Even if I run because of my iniquity, and I run because of my sin, God meets me where I am and His hand leads me. His right hand holds me. "For thou hast possessed my [emotions]: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13), because in His foreknowledge He knew I would be saved.

Micah said, "Yes, I'm down. Yes, I failed." I may be down, just as Micah was. I may fail. But my failure doesn't mean I have to see myself as inferior. Failure is an opportunity to respond to grace—to isolate my sin, rebound, and go on.

When the prodigal son failed, he eventually came to the end of himself (Luke 15:17). When he came home, his father ran to meet him, kissed his neck, and never mentioned his son's sin one time. The son said, "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son" (Luke 15:21). Verse 19 reveals that the prodigal had planned to say to his father, "Make me as one of thy hired servants." But his father would not let him finish his confession. Instead he just kept kissing his son's neck. Why? Because failure wasn't the issue. Coming home was the issue. The lesson wasn't, "You will pay for your sins." The lesson

the son learned was this: The Father is always waiting to give grace.

Why wouldn't the father let his son get through his confession? Because the son had *already* rebounded in his heart. In essence, the father said, "It doesn't matter to me what you have done. You're back home, and that's what matters." Then he told the servants, "Bring him a robe. Give him the ring. Bring him new shoes. Kill the fatted calf. We're going to have a welcome home party for my son. He was lost, but now he's found. He was blind, but now he sees."

Chapter Four
FOLLOWED BY GOODNESS
AND MERCY

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever” (Psalm 23:6).

What is goodness? It is God’s mercy that endures forever. When sin abounds, God’s grace does much more abound. Goodness is a love that goes beyond knowledge; it is forgiveness that forgets. Goodness is the power of God that will never give up on you until He perfects you (see Philippians 1:6; Psalm 138:8).

I want to keep getting to know this kind of God. He takes the worst cases in the world and makes those people champions of grace and faith. God doesn’t know Abraham after any of the sins he committed. God only knows him as a hero of faith and the father of children of faith. Jacob cheated and lied and stole his brother’s birthright. But God only knew Jacob as a Spirit-

filled man because he kept rebounding and getting up again. Of David, God says, "I only know that you followed me. You failed, but you kept following me. In My eyes, you never turned aside. You fulfilled My perfect will" (see 1 Kings 15:5; Acts 13:22).

That's how God sees each of us. He saw the blood on the doorposts in the land of Goshen and passed over the children of Israel (Exodus 12). That's the way it has always been with God; when He sees the blood, He passes over the sins and iniquities of His people. The blood of Christ is upon us. When we fail and confess our sins, He uses that same blood to cleanse us from all evil infections and works, through His eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14).

Held in His Right Hand

Moses, the meekest man on the face of the earth, murdered a man one day; yet, he became a champion of grace and a champion of forgiveness.

I am broken when I consider that God's goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life, whether I ascend into heaven with my thoughts, or whether I make my bed in hell. When I try to escape and run to the uttermost

parts of the earth, surely goodness and mercy follow me. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. David appreciated these words in Psalms 23 and 139, and so do I.

How will we escape if we neglect so great a deliverance? (See Hebrews 2:3.) Psalm 139:10 says that “[God’s] right hand shall hold me.” Three times in the book of Hebrews, Jesus is described as being seated at God’s right hand, having finished the work on Calvary. Forty days after He died for our sins and was resurrected from the grave, Jesus, as the glorified man, ascended to heaven and was seated at God’s right hand. The Father accepted the Son’s final payment for our sins. Therefore, the right hand speaks of God’s approval of us forever—even when we make our bed in hell, thank God.

Though God must sometimes lovingly chastise His children, His right hand holds us up so that He can bring us back to the peaceable fruits of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11). This is eternal life, that we know Him, the only true God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

The reality of Calvary overwhelms me. Psalm 26:12 says we stand at an “even place.” You are there, just as much as I am. The carnal believer is there as well as the spiritual believer. We stand in an even place to receive forgiveness as a part of our inheritance (Acts 26:18). We stand there to receive our provision from God for whatever our need is.

If you are backslidden, these words were not meant as a rebuke. Please, won't you make this a time for rebound and renouncing your old ways? Establish a brand-new commitment to Jesus Christ even now as you are reading this booklet.

God desires to heal you from sin and sickness because of His great compassion. Set the Lord before your face. Enjoy the pure presence of God and receive His healing.

Be quickened and advance into Satan's territory and begin to recover what he has stolen

from you. Advance in God's kingdom as a champion of His grace. By faith, put your foot down and claim some promises for your life.

Precious Father, we come to You in love. You see into every heart. I pray that You see Your people loving You right now. We don't come in hypocrisy, we come in love. We don't pretend to be anything but saints saved by Your grace. Give us a champion's mentality for our spiritual, physical, financial, and domestic needs. We are servants of your special favor. Give us your abundant blessing. By the grace of Jesus Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we say, "Amen."