

Freely Receive from God

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

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

GRACE PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 18715
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 1998

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	5
<i>Chapter 1</i>	7
<i>RECEIVING IS NOT OF WORKS</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i>	18
<i>WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECEIVE A WOUND</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i>	28
<i>RUN TO THE ROCK AND RECEIVE YOUR HEALING</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION</i>	40

INTRODUCTION

Paul was sent by God to the Gentiles—among the unbelieving—“to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, *that they may receive* forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:18).

Many who love God deeply have serious periods of being off regarding the principle of receiving. “If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?” (Job 35:7). The problem of the natural, or carnal, man is found in 1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

At the Bema Seat, each believer will “*receive* his own reward” (1 Corinthians 3:8). Even in prayer, “Ye ask, and *receive not*, because ye ask

amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3). But “as many as *received* him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...” (John 1:12). Clearly, the key is to receive.

Today, however, many pulpits, parents, and professing Christians simply reinforce the value of performing without receiving. *So many Christians sweat, trying to perform so they can receive!* Yet, the Word says plainly that it is by the love of God that we keep His commandments; furthermore, “his commandments *are not grievous*” (1 John 5:3), meaning there is no difficulty in keeping His commandments because it is by receiving that we keep them! It’s not something we are, or something we do, or a standard to live up to, or a rule to obey, or a church ordinance to sign: *It is simply receiving.*

Chapter One

RECEIVING IS NOT OF WORKS

“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will *take the cup* of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD” (Psalm 116:12-13). The “cup” represents my capacity. So how do I deal with all the benefits the Lord is imparting to me? By taking a capacity for the Gospel of grace, which delivers me—it is something I *take*. In John 6:53-58, Jesus said except a man eat His flesh and drink His blood he has no life. When the Lord was ready to offer up His life, Jesus said, “Take, eat; this is my body” (Matthew 26:26). We are simply to receive His life.

During a difficult season, with all the financial and domestic problems we face, if we don’t receive God’s forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love, we will be bankrupt. Salvation comes by grace through faith, not of ourselves and not of works, because it is a gift of God.

Whatever we receive from the Lord is not of works. I don't have to show you any evidence that I am "better" or doing well. The gift of God doesn't come by demonstrating that I am worthy. It comes by receiving. In Micah 7, when God's man was down, he declared to his enemies, "I am down and I have been living in sin. You may be mocking me, but the Lord is here with me! I am just about to get up, and He is going to help me up." Micah was able to get up because he was determined to receive forgiveness, receive strength, and receive the life of Christ.

Receive a Relationship with Life

We have a relationship with Life. It is so easy to be in a relationship with a church, legalism, or a program of performance instead of being in a relationship that receives life. But *how do I know how to receive?*

"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16). In the original text, this passage says that we have received all the fullness of grace, and that it is grace *upon* grace. God has given us the Finished Work. Though the law was given by Moses, God has given us the fullness of grace by Jesus Christ's

shed blood. Now we have to learn to receive grace upon grace (John 1:17). Then, when we are in the valley, such as Micah was, we will be able to go from strength to strength! (Psalm 84:7).

In Joshua 13:33, when the land in Canaan was being parceled out to the tribes of Israel for their inheritance, the Word says, “But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: *the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance...*” In other words, the Lord said, “*I will be your life!*”

Before the children of Israel went over the Jordan, God said, “go over...unto the land which *I do give* to them” (Joshua 1:2). Later, in Joshua 6:2, the Lord told Joshua, “I have given you Jericho.” They hadn’t yet taken it, but because of the promise of God, it was a finished work! And according to Joshua 1:3, every place the soles of *our* feet shall touch is ours—because we receive the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Forty-five years after entering the Promised Land, Caleb—now eighty-five years old—confessed, “As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now” (Joshua 14:11). Caleb just kept on receiving, and that is the reward for the Christian today.

Enemies of Receiving

Discouragement and sin are enemies of receiving. Sin is also the enemy of forgiveness—but forgiveness is something we receive. Holding on to a natural disposition is an enemy of receiving God's divine disposition. Likewise, natural emotions become an enemy of God's precious love when we don't receive that love freely. God has given us *all things* freely (Romans 8:32; 1 Timothy 6:17). "For all things are yours, ...And ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:21-23).

Many people have left churches with shipwrecked faith, puzzled by sincere efforts to conform to a standard without being received as God receives them. Romans 15:7 says that I am to receive you as Christ received me—and He received me as someone who was unsaved, drinking, cursing, without any hope. Through a simple prayer of faith, Jesus Christ received me when I received Him as my Savior.

Digging Deep in the Scriptures

Receiving is so crucial to our lives as believers. The Greek text offers many words that are translated as "receive," each with a distinction.

Lambano: to accept freely; to receive some-

thing from God freely (1 Timothy 4:4).

Analambano: to take, to receive, and to enjoy something as you lift it up (Ephesians 6:13).

Katalambano: to understand what you have received freely. It is something definitely attained (Romans 9:30), which you are able to perceive (Acts 10:34); and comprehend (Ephesians 3:18).

Metalambano: to keep receiving until you are changed by what you receive (Acts 24:25).

Paralambano: to take over a position by receiving what God gives; for example, receiving knowledge that leads to victory that leads to life (Philippians 4:9).

Proslambano: to take to one's self (Romans 11:15).

Hupolambano: to receive so to have a godly support (3 John 8).

Dechomai: to receive readily and deliberately what is offered freely (James 1:21).

Anadechomai: to be thankful when you receive because it is yours by grace (Hebrews 11:17).

Apodechomai: to receive with no reservation; to simply receive because it is God's unconditional promise (Luke 8:40).

Eisdechomai: to be received into His life

(2 Corinthians 6:17).

Epidrechomai: to receive with hospitality (2 John 10).

Paradechomai: to receive with approval (Acts 15:4; Hebrews 12:6).

Prosdechomai: to receive to one's self and to keep waiting, looking for more to come (Luke 15:2).

The Word of God is always fresh, and the more we study a theme, the more we uncover gems. If we were to ponder on just one of those descriptions for the word "receive," we would discover such wealth in our hearts.

For instance, *metalambano* implies that I do not change by what I do nor the way I feel. I could feel miserable, undone, and wretched, but just come to God as I am. I receive forgiveness, grace, love, and peace by being in a relationship to life itself—not with words *about* life, but life that is revealed through words.

The Process of Receiving

How many people have sincerely tried to correct sin in their lives, but instead somebody gave them the law? The law merely served to strengthen the sin, because they tried to "do" something without receiving grace (1 Corinthians

15:56).

Seeing God's hands wide open, seeing His heart of compassion, and understanding that He continually gives, we can begin to comprehend this Christian life. Picture it like this: He gives freely, and we receive freely. He gives, we receive. His life keeps coming to us, and we keep taking it in until we have received so much that it pours forth, and we give what we have received.

He conforms us to His image in one area, then another area, continually filling us with all of His fullness. And now it simply, yet powerfully, flows out. "Out of your [emotions] shall flow rivers of living water....this spake he of the Spirit" (John 7:38-39a). This is the process of receiving.

Don't even think about giving! *Giving is the overflow of what you receive.* Rivers of living water are flowing out of your being. What you receive shall be a spring springing up unto eternal life (John 4:14). But the moment you think you must give somebody something that you don't have, you are performing in a works system. *You are not on trial!*

The essence of the Christian life is receiving. Some people may fall seven times a day or

more, ask forgiveness, and get up again (Proverbs 24:16). Still, the Christian life starts out by receiving Christ, and it continues by receiving grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, and peace. It continues by receiving life more abundantly. It all depends on receiving!

It is not what we “think.” It is not what we “do.” If the Holy Spirit is filling us, we can still receive grace and live in the peace He imparts, even though some days we may not “feel” it because of tiredness or physical pain. But if we walk by what we see or by how we feel, we will never understand that the Christian life is a life of receiving.

As we begin to grasp this doctrine of receiving, we see that it is marked by the absence of works and human performance. *God* performs what He asks us to do (Job 23:14)! “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24). Whatever we ask, we receive of Him in prayer (1 John 3:22). It is by simple faith and simple grace that we are able to receive.

Remember, grace always depends upon the Giver and never upon the receiver. Unconditional love is always based upon the character of the Lover, not the one being loved. Just receive it!

Which Kingdom are You Receiving From?

Our situations have been ordained by God. Whatever the circumstances may be, we are simply learning how to live practically by *faith!* The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (Romans 1:17). Notice, it is *God's* righteousness, not ours. That is why Paul wrote in Titus 3:5, it is "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...."

God is the most amazing, incomparable Giver, and we need to learn how to be amazing receivers. I am what I receive from God, His Word, and His Spirit. By the same token, I become what I receive from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

I became who I am in Adam by receiving from the kingdom of darkness. But, I am going to become what God has already made me to be through what I receive freely from the kingdom of God's dear Son. First Corinthians 2:12 and Romans 8:32 tell us that He has freely given us *all* things. The Bible would not say that if it were not true!

Paul wrote in Galatians 1:6-8 that if any man preach another gospel outside of the Gospel of

grace, let him be accursed! Receiving the Gospel is entering into a relationship of life, a most incredible experience for the Christian. And yet, there are people who always need to work up their emotions to have a “spiritual” experience. This is nothing more than a religious program of works, where people shut their minds off and receive whatever is floating around in the air of religion. But that is not God!

We need to receive the Word of grace that is able to build us up and to give us an inheritance among the saints (Acts 20:32). Philippians 2:16 calls it the Word of life. Receive it! And if we simply keep on receiving without being self-conscious of our performance, we will be liberated from all works. But the moment we step outside of grace, we are on a self-conscious works program. To be God-conscious, you first have to receive with no self-consciousness (or you will feel that you are not worthy).

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Romans 11:6). God’s only requirement is to receive! Of course, we all have impulses to live in the predisposition of the old sin nature. We may even be compulsive as we

try to do something to get out of it. The effort to stop becomes strength to do it more, because the strength of sin is in the law (1 Corinthians 15:56).

But thanks be to God! He opens our eyes, turning us from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that we “may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:18).

Chapter Two

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECEIVE A WOUND

“And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

“And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

“And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host,

and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

“And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:30-37).

Many people in the world live with unbelievable wounds and yet do not know it! Then, there are those who know it but are helpless to change. These wounds paralyze the potential of individuals. Our impulse may be to feel sorry for those people, and they certainly need our prayerful support; however, many are unaware of the place they have given to Satan and his world system because of the wounds they received.

Even Christians in Bible-believing churches don't know how to be delivered from wounds and may deny that they have been wounded. Too often, however, these same people live in marriages that are merely sustained by human good, but they are not victorious in divine good. Some couples separate and refuse to be reconciled because they have never personally dealt

with their wounds.

So much of the violence in our society—the murders, rapes, and molestation—comes from wounded people who choose to react to their wounds by inflicting others with their pain.

Today we can observe whole segments of society where natural affections have been lost to the effects of sin and self-orientation. Children are being raised in environments of abuse and gross neglect. Though they did not choose their wounds, they will still be responsible for their reactions down the road. This is why the Church is so accountable to minister to the needs in our ‘Jerusalem’ as well as the uttermost parts of the world. By the grace of God, we go into our cities with Bible clubs and a variety of outreaches to bring a healing balm to whosoever will *receive* it.

When we neither ask of God nor live in His provision, we will have wounds that are self-inflicted. Then the Word of God teaches that if we refuse to accept His solution, *God* will make us sore: “He woundeth, and his hands make whole....hear it, and know thou it for thy good” (Job 5:17-27).

Psalm 38:5 says, “My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.” The text implies that the wounds stink because a person has

acted corruptly, making corrupt or morally degenerate decisions without thinking with God. These are the people who are wounded and do not know why!

God's Provision for Wounds

“For God so loved the world, that *he gave his only begotten Son*, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, *we have an advocate* with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...”—the One who died not only for our sins but for the sins of the whole world! (1 John 2:1-2).

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us *the word of reconciliation*” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

These verses speak about God's solution, God's provision.

This is the point: God loves the world—everyone in it—just as they are. Not everyone will go to heaven just as they are, but God *loves* each one and will meet them, as they are, with a plan of reconciliation.

Next, God understands that everyone in the world has “wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores” (Isaiah 1:5-6).

God knows that because of Satan’s attack, every person is mentally ill (according to divine viewpoint). “The whole head is sick...” (Isaiah 1:5).

The Lord knows that our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9), and that though we may be “good” (humanly speaking) and do the best we can, we cannot save ourselves.

Yet with all that He knows of our sick, sinful state, because of His great love, Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, reconciling us to God. Speaking of Christians, 1 John 5:19 says that “we know we are of God.” Then it says, “the whole world lieth in wickedness”—infected by the devil, the infectious one, who is the god of the world’s system. That is why God addressed an entire nation in Isaiah 1:5 when He declared, “the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.”

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is

the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20). *What happened? Why, when we have such a glorious provision, are we so easily turned aside?*

Exodus 34:7*b* says that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the third and fourth generation. Psalm 51:5 says, "I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Then in Romans 6:12, we are told to "let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body," or, "Don't allow the old sin nature to reign in the *cells* of your body."

Through the sin of Adam, the sin nature was imparted to the entire human race. God knew we would eventually choose to sin, so before any one of us *personally* sinned, He imputed sin to our account. We were born guilty, owing an impossible debt with no hope of getting out of it: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). But because God charged us with sin before we were born, He was also able to impute the gift of perfect righteousness to anyone who would *receive* His provision: "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23*b*).

Satan's Plan for Christ's Life

Satan's desire is not to destroy your marriage. It is to destroy you, *and* your marriage, *and*

your family, *and* your descendants, *because* of you. For example, when Abraham sinned with Hagar (Genesis 16; Galatians 4:22-31), the result was the birth of Ishmael—but the consequences did not end there. Today, an entire nation is against Jesus Christ. The issue was not simply Abraham having a night with Hagar; Satan’s plan was to take millions of lives and turn them against Jesus Christ.

If you could sin and only hurt yourself and God, that would be one thing. But you cannot!

Lot sinned with his daughters (Genesis 19:31-38). They made him drunk so that his seed would be preserved through incestuous relations with their father. The Ammonites and the Moabites, two nations born from Lot’s sin, are against Jesus Christ to this day—all because of one night of drinking.

In Genesis 9, Noah took too much wine, and the Bible says he was drunk. Then Ham, the father of Canaan, went into his father’s tent, saw him naked, and went out to tell his brothers what he saw. With a garment, Shem and Japheth covered Noah (who was their pastor as well as their father) and never saw his sin. But the sin of Ham brought a curse to Canaan and all of his generations.

Does Jesus Christ remove the curse? According to Galatians 3:13-14, Yes! Can anyone be saved and come out from under the curse? Yes! “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). “As many as *received* him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...” (John 1:12). Once again, the key is in receiving.

Spiritual Stroke

In many cases, however, people are not aware of what they do (or why) in reaction to their wounds. A woman who was molested as a child has problems in her marriage today. She will not submit to the authority of her husband or her pastor, and she has had problems with authority in every job she has held—all because of a spiritual stroke stemming from an unresolved problem, a wound in her past.

Isaiah 30:26 says, “He healeth the stroke of their wound.” A physical stroke is caused by damage in the brain that cuts off the blood supply and often results in a measure of paralysis. A spiritual stroke results in a paralyzed capacity as a direct result from wounds caused by sin. But God said to Israel, “I will restore your health; I will heal your wounds!”

Thousands of Christians in churches everywhere smile and cover up their wounds, but they have the deepest kind of wounds, and their wounds have caused a stroke.

Job 24:12 says, “The soul of the wounded crieth out.” Rebellious children often misbehave because of the wounds caused by selfish, uncaring, and inconsistent parents and broken homes. They are deeply wounded.

“My heart is wounded within me” (Psalm 109:22). In Judges 9:40, many were wounded and overthrown. First Samuel 17:52 says that the wounded fell down by the way. But our God wants to restore our health and heal the wounds.

God’s Operation for Our Desperation

“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). “Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning,” said Job (Job 23:2).

The Psalmist cried out, “Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand” (Psalm 39:10).

A spiritual stroke means that someone has been beaten repeatedly so that they are left without a capacity to receive love and grace. Much

like a physical stroke, it affects their spiritual hearing, speech, and thinking. Their perception and awareness are impaired, making them an emotional liability as far as their personal growth in Jesus Christ.

Second Chronicles 36:15-16 says that God sent the Word through His messengers because of His compassion; but because the Word was mocked and rejected, there was no remedy.

Though people may go on as though everything is fine, it is possible that they are harboring wounds that have caused a stroke. Spiritually, the energy of God is not able to get to their heart, and the Resurrection power of God's love doesn't reach their soul. They try to hear, but spiritually they are hearing impaired. They do the best they can to receive the Word that was sent to heal, but deep within the soul there has been a stroke.

God desires to heal us completely. In that day, "the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound" (Isaiah 30:26).

Chapter Three

RUN TO THE ROCK AND RECEIVE YOUR HEALING

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), a man was traveling from Jerusalem (which represents peace) down to Jericho (decay, ruin, rebellion). Halfway there, he was robbed, beaten, and left half-dead: physically alive, but spiritually dead.

The priest (representing religion), went by in a hurry, probably on his way to an appointment, and walked by the wounded man. The Levite (representing the law) just looked at him as unclean and walked by. Finally, a Samaritan, who was despised because he was half-Jew and half-Gentile, bound up the man's wounds and took him to a hotel. There, as a picture of Jesus Christ, he told the keeper, "You take care of him, and I will pay for everything."

Mark 12:4 says something so few of us have considered: *The wounded man was shamefully*

handled. Wounded people are not healed through counselors who don't know the love of Christ. Healing comes in the power of God, in the love of a family of compassionate people, in an assembly of believers.

The wounded are healed by just being loved—in season and out of season. Healing comes by communicating with them and building them up until God lifts them out of their wounds. Ultimately, He heals the stroke of their wound. It is the Lord who restores their mental health. He binds up their wounds to heal them.

A Call to Bind Up the Wounds

Do you understand why the Bible says that Jesus came to heal the broken-hearted (Isaiah 61:1)? Do you see why God is against the pastors who are not concerned with healing the wounds of the flock (Ezekiel 34:1-11)? Psalm 107:20 says, "He sent his word, and healed them." He sends healing through the love of individuals, through the compassion of the Body of Christ, through those who really care—those who will send that note, make that call, write that letter, and meet with that person.

But because of self-orientation among pastors and congregations, there are people in

churches everywhere who have been wounded, and those wounds in many cases have caused a stroke.

Jesus Christ said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly*” (John 10:10)!

First, He forgives every sin we have ever committed. Next, He gives us eternal life, a life that has no beginning and no ending but is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2*b*). When we live in that precious life, being filled with the Holy Spirit, we have the privilege of not remembering what people have done to us.

Jesus said, “In My eternal life, you won’t have to remember the things that have pierced and hurt you nor the stroke that paralyzed you.” Though you may have covered it up, deep within your subconscious mind the wound remained. It governed your behavior, your decisions, your self-image, and your responses.

Behind so many sins are wounds that were inflicted by others. Satan uses *people* to wound and to infect the world that Jesus Christ died for. But the Lord came to seek and to save that which is lost and bind up the broken-hearted.

God doesn’t want us to be in bondage to a

certain kind of sin that was merely the outworking of old wounds. He doesn't want us to be preoccupied with a bad habit, but He will help us to get rid of it. We don't have to be preoccupied with psychosomatic pain from the unconscious mind. He will give us the victory.

Of course, the consequences of wrong decisions can result in self-inflicted wounds. But the Lord Jesus Christ came to deliver us from those effects, even if we blame ourselves. He came to give us an abundant life, and all we have to do is receive it.

A Sure Foundation: The Rock of Our Salvation

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he" (Deuteronomy 32:4).

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a *tried* stone, a *precious* corner stone, a *sure* foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16).

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and *that Rock was Christ*" (1 Corinthians 10:4).

Often when God begins to lift a person out

of the mystical, undefined wounds that have accumulated through the years, the Word may stimulate, bless, and even sustain him, but not necessarily deliver him from the stroke. The problem is not knowing how to appropriate the Word personally.

The foundation has been laid; it is Jesus Christ, the Rock, and there is no other. It is not simply a dimension of Christianity or a movement—we live by *every* word of God, from Genesis to Revelation. In Exodus 33:21, the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock.”

Every Christian is standing in the pure grace of God, depending on *God’s* character, not our own (Romans 5:2). The Greek text uses a perfect tense, active voice, and indicative mood: We *are standing!* We have been, we are, and we will be, because we are *cemented* in the grace of God, and we are standing on the Rock. Thanks to God, nobody can move us from that Rock. You can’t move your *self* from the Rock! “Shall your unbelief make the [Word] of God without effect?” No (Romans 3:3)! “If we believe not, he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:13).

“The foundation of God standeth sure” (2 Timothy 2:19a). We have a sure foundation.

Hid in the Rock, Covered by His Hand

In Exodus 33:22, the Lord told Moses, “While my glory passeth by, I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.”

First we are standing on the Rock, then we are hid inside the Rock. And what is His glory? Exodus 34:6-7a tells us: “And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin....*” That is His glory.

We are covered by His hand. In John 10:28-30, Jesus said, “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” Furthermore, He said, “My Father, which gave them [to] me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” We are one with Him!

Every born-again believer is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). He has placed us in His wounded side, and He covers us with His wounded hands, with the precious blood that poured out. We are seated in heavenly places

with Jesus Christ, hid inside the Rock.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for *it was founded upon a rock*” (Matthew 7:24-25).

Now, according to 1 Corinthians 3:12, we build upon the foundation with gold (appropriating the attributes of incarnated deity), silver (redemption of the Word and the Spirit), and precious stones (applying specific categories of doctrine as we walk). Otherwise, we build with wood (works of the flesh), hay (emotionalism), and stubble (hearing the Word but having it aborted because it was not received in meekness, humility, or faith). The trials we go through will reveal the content of the structure being built in our soul.

A Tried Stone

This Stone we build upon is a *tried* stone. When Abraham sinned with Hagar, Jesus Christ came through and fulfilled the promise with the miraculous birth of Isaac. God has been tried and tested.

After Moses murdered a man and spent forty years alone in the desert, God led him out and raised him up to deliver Israel. God was tried with Moses' life, and He gave him grace.

David failed again and again, but when he died, God declared that David fulfilled all of His will. David will reign as prince in the Millennium, and he has *sure* mercies. Jesus Christ bore David's sin, and though he was chastised in the matter of Uriah (1 Kings 15:5), it was never held against him in God's eternal viewpoint.

People hold sins against you, but God Almighty does not. David rebounded and the chastisement was removed—not for a week or a month, but it was removed forever. Jesus Christ is the tried stone.

He was tried in the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew boys. He was tried in the lions' den with Daniel. He was tried when, in John 1:10, He came into the world He created and they didn't know him. He was tried when He came unto His own—the Jewish people—and they received Him not. When His own family of half-brothers and sisters (John 7:5) didn't believe in Him, He was tried.

Jesus was a man of sorrows, wounded, rejected, with no beauty that anyone would desire

Him. When He struggled to carry His cross up Golgotha's hill, He was unable to bear it, and another had to carry it for Him. Nailed to the cross, Jesus appeared to be guilty. Becoming sin for us, even His Father could not look upon Him. But He went into the grave and came out in Resurrection power, the tried and *true* Stone.

A Precious Stone and A Sure Foundation

Jesus Christ is also a *precious* Stone (Isaiah 28:16), meaning very costly. Thank God for His holy life. Thank God that He forgives our sins seventy *times* seven, unfailing in His love. He is longsuffering, forbearing, patient, always leading us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Thank God that His mercy endures forever (Psalm 136).

His *name* is Gracious Merciful Longsuffering Patience! Thank God, His name is Love. *This* is His glory.

He is the precious Stone! His presence is precious. His Word is so precious. Just the fact that He will never leave a believer, ever, and that He will heal the stroke of our wounds makes Him precious.

He is a *sure* foundation. He will never leave us without Resurrection power in any situation if we trust Him with all our heart. For every de-

tail of life, God has a wonderful provision. Psalm 18:30 says His plan is perfect, and *He* will perfect that which concerns us (Psalm 138:8). We do not have to worry about it.

This God will take away the strokes that have paralyzed us and hurt us, that we try to cover up. The precious love of God permeates and penetrates through the Holy Spirit and goes into the unconscious and the subconscious mind. Then, it overflows into the conscious mind, and suddenly there is a supernatural, miraculous healing by the precious Word of God. We stay on that foundation; therefore, we do not yield our bodies as members of unrighteousness unto sin (Romans 6:13). Instead we receive Christ's righteousness; we fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on that eternal life wherein we were called (1 Timothy 6:12).

Receive Your Healing and Walk in It

The Lord Jesus Christ desires that we would have a complete healing as well as an understanding of how to be kept in that healing.

How can we keep our healing once it has happened? The Word of God makes it crystal clear. Read Lamentations 3:22-24 in a way you have never read it:

“My mercies are new every morning; therefore, you will not be consumed with your wounds. My compassions will not fail you for this day, and I, the Lord, will be the portion of your life. Not part of your past. Not the dilemma of the present. Not the fear of the future. *But I will be your life!*”

Jesus Christ calls to us and says, “Now remember, come every morning. Come *all* the time. Come! Run! *Run to Me*. Just run into My arms and you can leap over the wall! (Psalm 18:29). I want you to come to Me continually. My yoke is easy, and My burden is light!”

Before you know it, your identity will no longer be derived from the terrible way you were wounded, for whatever reason you were wounded.

The Lord’s purpose in coming was to heal all that were oppressed of the devil. Satan wants to destroy the world by wounds, infections, sores, and bruises. Jesus wants to heal each one with His love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, life joy, peace, and by the riches of His gift of righteousness and the gifts of His promises.

Remember, there are two kingdoms operating in the world, and only God’s kingdom will allow you to prosper even as your soul prospers

in the Word (3 John 2). Just run to Him! And if you feel the weight of oppression coming back, *run to Him with all your might!*

Don't take time off. Don't take days off where you forget the love of God, where you don't live in the grace of God. Don't have times when you stop building yourself up in the faith of God, but always keep yourself in the love of God. Every moment, keep looking for God's mercy.

CONCLUSION

*I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned,
But this I know, at His right hand
Is One who is my Savior.*

*That He should leave His home on high
And come for sinful men to die,
You count it strange? Well, so did I,
Until I met the Savior.*

*Living, loving, let me bring
Strength and solace from this spring,
That He who lives may be my King,
Who died to be my Savior.*

—Author Unknown

There is a long story behind every act of sin. Every effect has a cause, and when we ask God what is causing the effect we are living in, the

Word of God reveals it. For every effect, Calvary and Resurrection life will produce a healing.

Healing is right where you are. It is in your soul. Reach out. You receive your healing by grace through faith. Not a partial healing, not stimulation, but a miracle of love to build yourself up (Jude 20-21). Simply receive, then build yourself up in the love of God and abide in the faith-rest of Christ.