

Under the Policy of 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

Policies are instituted every day by government institutions, by schools, and by communities. Those policies are considered as guidelines for action in certain situations. Heaven, too, has a policy under which it operates. That policy is grace, and grace alone.

The policy of grace is in force today because of the Finished Work: God's plan for Redemption, accomplished at the Cross where Jesus Christ paid for every sin that would be committed—past, present, and future. Now, because of what Jesus has done for us, God can use anyone who has been born again. The only qualification is to receive Him, by grace through faith.

As this booklet will show, God is just waiting to be gracious to us. He longs for us to experience His great blessings. When we allow His Word, which is spirit and life, to be manifested within us, the possibilities for blessings in our lives are endless.

Chapter One

GRACE: THE ONLY
QUALIFICATION

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

“But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in” (Matthew 23:11-13).

“But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

“And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

“They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and

saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

“For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

“The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

“But wisdom is justified of all her children” (Luke 7:30-35).

In any evangelical ministry, there are many, many beautiful people. Yet, there are also Pharisees—people who have an outward religion and really want you to know it, but who have no internal working of love, grace, and humility through the Holy Spirit.

A Pharisee never calls himself a Pharisee, of course. Pharisees and scribes—those addicted to the letter of legalistic thinking—consider certain kinds of people unqualified to serve God. “But,” Jesus said, “wisdom is justified of all her children.” He does what He does through those “unqualified” people to show the wisdom and fruit of His love.

What is the qualification for ministry? What is the requirement or standard for a servant? It

is that we recognize ourselves as sinners saved by grace through faith. We were once so desperately lost that we came to Jesus Christ, confessed our sins and accepted Christ as our Savior. Then, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, established us in His purpose, and gave us a destiny. Through grace, He gave us sixty-eight things at the point of salvation—none of them we deserved.*

The Lord Jesus has never operated outside the policy of grace. Go back to the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve experienced the Fall, but by grace, God killed animals to give the coverings they needed for their nakedness. Did they deserve that? No. But that is how God reveals His character of love to us—through the policy of grace.

God Chooses Whom He Uses

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”

(Galatians 3:26-29).

Consider some of the things Abraham did. He had sex outside of marriage with the maid, Hagar, and the result was Ishmael, a wild man and a mocker. When Abimelech showed an interest in Sarah, Abraham lied and denied that she was his wife in an effort to avoid being killed (Genesis 20:1, 2, 11).

Let's be honest. Some of us would consider the things that Abraham did as grounds for disqualification in the service of God. But what did the Lord call Abraham? He called him a friend (James 2:23) and the father of our faith (Romans 4:11-16).

Jacob cheated his brother Esau out of his birthright and obtained his father's blessing through deceit (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-46). Then, he spent twenty years as a backslider, working for his uncle Laban and taking his cousins, Leah and Rachel, as his wives. Yet, God made him the head of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Numbers 23:21 says that God "hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him." Why? Because Jesus Christ paid for all of his iniquity at the Cross. Was Jacob qualified to become Israel, a prince with God? Only under

the policy of grace.

**For a complete summary of those sixty-eight things and more, read What Happened When You Received Christ? by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 2000.*

Chapter Two

MAKING SOMETHING
OUT OF NOTHING

Moses murdered an Egyptian and spent forty years wandering in the wilderness. But he was the one the Lord raised up to lead Israel out of bondage. Imagine a Pharisee trying to discuss Moses' qualifications with God.

"He's a murderer, You know."

No response.

"Why are You having him lead Your people out?"

Still no response.

"I don't agree with this at all."

Of course, God isn't listening to any of it. Moses came under the policy of grace, which taught him how to grow in grace and knowledge, to deny ungodliness through rebound and through rehabilitation, and to live godly in this present evil world (Titus 2:12).

David will be the prince in the Millennial

Reign, in spite of his failures. God declares that David never turned aside (see 1 Kings 15:5). God can say that David fulfilled all of God's will (see Acts 13:22), because God saw David in Christ and brought him through—under the policy of grace.

Wealth in Weakness

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

“And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

“That no flesh should glory in his presence.

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

“That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

The late Bob Jones Sr. said, “God will even

use *me!*" We all have to admit that at some time, we have wondered why God would bother to use us, considering our weaknesses and failures. The beautiful thing about it is that God doesn't wait until we are completely changed to use us. He takes us in our weaknesses and gets all the glory as He makes us strong (Hebrews 11:34).

God gets the glory when He makes something out of nothings.* That's why He chooses the weak, the failures, the ones who seem to have nothing to offer. Really, could any of us stand up and say, "God, I have done a good job for You"? Perhaps, but only because of the policy of grace.

Joy in Body Life

"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In Jesus Christ, we are saved, justified, sanctified, glorified, Spirit-filled, cleansed, purged, and forgiven. We are hid with Christ in God, and we are new creatures, on our way to heaven.

Old things are passed away because Jesus did it all. He paid for all of our sins. We accept all that He has for us by faith and consider that each day is a gift from Him.

Recently, some young athletes died on football fields. They were fit, healthy, and had promising futures. Their last days came suddenly, and now, many of their teammates realize that tomorrow is not promised to them. No matter how old we are, we should live each day to the fullest, to the glory of God, under His policy of grace.

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

**Read Making “Nothing” Count, through the Power of God, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 2000.*

Chapter Three

**GOD IS IN THE BLESSING
BUSINESS**

*Something good is going to happen to you,
Happen to you — this very day.
Something good is going to happen to you!
Jesus of Nazareth is passing your way.*

I love that chorus. It says to me that God is always waiting to be gracious to us.

A woman spent thirty years in a wheelchair, but one prayer changed her life. She came up to me at a recent meeting and said, “I was in a wheel chair for thirty continuous years, and I could not take a step. You prayed for me, and I got out of that wheelchair that night. I have been great ever since.”

Once during a radio broadcast, God led me to pray for someone who was blind in his right eye. It turned out to be a priest who was listening at that very moment. Jesus passed by and

the priest was healed in an instant.

These are some of the beautiful things that happen under God's policy of grace.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63).

There are so many verses in the Bible that speak of healing the whole man—mentally, physically, emotionally—whatever the need. Whether you have marital, financial, social, or business problems, God has a provision for you. But those words need to be heard.

The Word Becoming Spirit and Life

When you first hear and believe certain promises from the Bible, you may not get healed right away. As you hear the words about healing, those promises are becoming spirit and they are becoming life (John 6:63). The more you hear them, the more you receive them. The more you receive them, the more you are healed. The more you are healed, the more faith you have to be healed further.

This is what God is saying: "At first, My words may be just words to you. But sooner or later, as you keep mixing faith with them, My words will become spirit and life to you. Then,

whatever is wrong with you will be corrected—sometimes right away.”

Former President Ronald Reagan once said that the White House was a miserable place at times. The eye of the camera was always on him. The pen of the journalist was ready to write something negative. The politicians scrutinized him, and the public judged his decisions.

“I felt so empty in that big Oval Office,” he said. “I was so empty, until I prayed. I would study to be quiet and just say, ‘Thank you, Jesus.’ Then the Spirit filled that emptiness.”

Weathering the Storms

Whatever state you are in, think under the policy of grace. Something good is going to happen to you! God is ready to give you serenity, calmness, quietness, joy, faith, and fervency.

According to the Bible, Job had it all: wealth, health, land, livestock buildings, and a large family. But the winds of adversity came and destroyed everything.

Yes, the storms with their high winds may come. For some, the storms bring the death of a loved one. Others may lose everything they have worked so hard for. These are difficult things to overcome. But God will make some-

thing good happen. His policy of grace remains in effect. He will see you through to the finish line.

Rest in God in Times of Need

Some churches today have large congregations and beautiful buildings. By sight, all appears wonderful. If, however, they have no consistent outreach to people who are empty and without hope, then they do not understand the policy of grace.

George Mueller was one man who did understand the policy of grace. He spent twenty days in fasting and prayer for his orphanage. He was running out of money when he prayed, "God, You are in heaven. You know what I am doing for these children. I need the money for them. I have no desire for myself. You have to do this. I will rest, I will abide. You know our need. You will supply."

Perhaps you know the rest of the story. Someone gave the money the very next week. Mueller never found out who gave it. It all came in supernaturally. No letters were sent out. No one was asked to give. Yet, God provided—under the policy of grace.

Mueller's stand was this: "My ministry will

be just as successful as the faithfulness of God in His promises.”

CONCLUSION

Something good is going to happen to you. Believe in the law of faith. Continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. Refuse to let anything cause you to doubt.

God wants to bless you. You can be blessed in your health. You can be blessed financially. God wants to prosper you. Think beyond where you are now, even if you are in a “good” place. Think beyond your present circumstances. You know what you want to do in God, and you can do what God wants you to do.

The apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” Paul had lived a victorious life in Christ through the policy of grace, and he was ready for the next step.

Know with all your heart that God is for you. None can be against you. You are under the policy of grace where God takes frail believers and uses them to glorify His name. Let Him

teach you how to walk by grace through faith as you grow in His nature.

God is waiting to bless you. Just reach out to Him and say, "Thank you, God! I accept Your blessing, and I am going on by faith."