

GRACE TO COMBAT SIN AND SATAN

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1. We are to put sin out of our lives and bring into our lives ... righteousness.
2. The consequences of our sins can be horrific!!
3. Sin can open the door to satan the devil. He is going around to and fro looking for some whom he can devour.

Regrettably, we all DO SIN. Jesus' shed blood is more than enough to cover all of our sins.

God has made supernatural provision to rise above sin so that we are not endlessly giving satan the opportunity to enter our lives.

Grace can help us to combat sin and satan.

We need to understand Grace.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and **His grace** toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, **but the grace of God which was with me.**

It was God's Grace working in Paul's life that helped him do what he did.

2 Corinthians 11:23-33

Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. (**My infirmity = my weakness (asthenea)**) The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:23-33 NLT

Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?

If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying. When I was in Damascus, the governor under

King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.

Paul explains ... what a life he'd had. Nobody has this much trouble naturally!! There's a reason for that:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace (charis) is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities (weaknesses), in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (When Paul was weak in himself (his body) ... he was strong in God's grace)

2 Corinthians 12:7 WEYMOUTH

And judging by the stupendous grandeur of the revelations--therefore lest I should be over-elated there has been sent to me, like the agony of impalement, Satan's angel dealing blow after blow, lest I should be over-elated. (Satan's messenger was there stirring up hatred and envy.)

Grace is available to us as it was to the Apostle Paul. Grace is to be possessed of unflinching strength.

Philippians 4:9-13

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be

hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4:13. AMPLIFIED

I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me **[I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].**

This is where Grace plays a big part. Grace is unmerited favour ... unmerited pardon. Grace is active and dynamic in strengthening us on the inside.

In Paul's writings, Charis (Grace) is never merely an attitude or disposition of God. Consistently, it denotes effective divine power in the experience of men.

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We really cannot overcome sin ... can't resist satan. The good news is it's not just us ... it's God's Grace (effective dynamic power) in us.

1. How Grace helps us to combat sin

Romans 7:14-25

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.** O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God (my preference), but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Two ways ... a choice ... Fleshly Walk or Spiritual Walk)

Galatians 5:16-17

I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Galatians 5:17 NET

For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want.

James 4:1-5

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (You ask --- but, you ask amiss --- WRONG MOTIVATION!!!) **Adulterers and adulteresses!** Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes

himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"**God resists the proud,**

But gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 AMPLIFIED

But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (God shows us the way out)

1 Corinthians 10:13 THE MESSAGE

No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 AMPLIFIED

For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man [that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape

to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently.,

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (A proud person ... smug)

Romans 5:19-21

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, (hyper abundant!!)so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20 THE VOICE

When the law came into the picture, sin grew and grew; but wherever sin grew and spread, **God's grace was there in fuller, greater measure. No matter how much sin crept in, there was always more grace.**

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** (Certainly not! God forbid! The Greek implies ... Have you fallen off your donkey and knocked your head on a rock?) How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

2. How God's Grace helps in our overcoming satan

Ephesians 6:11-13

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (BE AN EXPERT IN KNOWING, UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE WORD OF GOD) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour

of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

2 Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble." (Proud people make excuses. Humble people make adjustments.)

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Don't be proud. Be humble. God will give you more grace.)

1 Peter 5:5-10

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 to the humble."

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Is there a place of Grace? Yes. There is a Place of Grace.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, (We do have a High Priest who can sympathise with our weaknesses) but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16 AMPLIFIED

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

Hebrews 2:14-18

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, (It was essential that He be made like His brethren ... Amplified) that He might

be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (He is able to aid ... BUT ... WE HAVE TO ASK. He extends grace towards us.)

Jesus has faced sin ... has faced satan ... has faced everything that we have faced. Right now He is at that Throne of Grace to assist us.

So. God's Grace is freely available. We can at any time come boldly to the Throne of Grace to find help in time of need. So. Grace is the key to overcoming sin and overcoming satan. (That is why New Testament writers discussed and mentioned it so often ... Charis > 230)

So. In conclusion. Let us thank God for His grace and ask for more of it.