

[A Devotional Study on God's Power for Daily Living]

LORD,
I Need
Grace to
Make It Today



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

1. What was the root or the basis of the sin displayed by Adam and Eve's disobedience? What is the essence of all sin?
2. When Adam and Eve were confronted with their sin, what was their response?
3. What effect did their sin have on them? What did they do? Why didn't they respond to God's call?
4. What could Adam and Eve do to redeem themselves?
5. Explain what God had said would be the consequence of disobedience on Adam and Eve's part. Did He hold the line that He had drawn against which righteousness would be measured?
6. What was God's immediate response to their sin after the consequences were realized? Did He leave them in this condition?
7. What did God do to make provision for Adam and Eve? For you and me?
8. Why did God make a provision? What does this provision show us about our God?
9. We learned that grace was not seen in its fullest sense in the Old Testament. According to John 1:17, when was the grace of God truly realized?
10. Until the Son of God came, men were living under what covenant?
11. Yet how do we know that grace existed before the Law? What did God do for Adam and Eve?

12. What can you and I do to earn God's grace?
13. What is the key that releases us into the grace of God?
14. Once we have believed in Jesus Christ, accepting God's provision, what can remove us from that standing or position?
15. What is the key to your relationship with your heavenly Father?
16. Which covenant do you and I live under today?
17. Explain what living under that covenant means to us in our daily lives.
18. Upon what basis does God always grant salvation?
19. After your study this week, how would you define grace? What does that mean for your life?
20. What will change in your life as a result of your study this week?

CHAPTER 2

In week one we saw that God created us and set boundaries for us to live by. These boundaries were not put in place to make us unhappy or to stifle us in any way. They were established for our good, for our protection.

We saw that our disobedience to the standard which God had set brought death and separation from God. Then we saw how God, in His great graciousness, reached over that line and made provision for us to be reconciled to Him.

We looked at the fact that faith is the key that unlocks the grace of God. And we learned it is by grace through faith that we are saved, and it is by grace through faith that we live a victorious Christian life day by day.

1. Why did God ever institute the Old Covenant?
2. What did you learn this week about the Law? What was it never intended to do?
3. When the Law does its job in our lives and exposes our sin, where can we turn?
4. From what you saw in the passage from Jeremiah 31, what was the main difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant of which God spoke here?
5. You also read about this New Covenant in a passage from Jeremiah 32. How long does the New Covenant last? How do you know?
6. Once you have entered into this New Covenant, will you ever turn and walk away from God permanently? Why?
7. In Ezekiel 36, what did you learn that we are given as we enter into the New Covenant?
8. What does God do that will cause us to walk in His ways?

9. As far as God is concerned, what happens to our sin when we enter into the New Covenant?

10. From the passages you studied, what enables us to keep the Law?

11. How do we enter into this New Covenant? What is our responsibility in order to enter? Where do we receive the ability to do that?

12. At this point, share what you see as the differences between the two covenants.

13. Upon which covenant is your daily relationship with your Father based?

14. Upon which mountain do you stand in times of failure, in times of need, in times of hopelessness? Why?

15. Do you see that to live under the Old Covenant is not to accept the graciousness of your heavenly Father who has made a far better way for you?

16. What is your response? What will change in your life today and in the days to come as a result of the grace of God that has been poured out to all men?

CHAPTER 3

In week two we learned that the Old Covenant was to serve as a schoolmaster, or tutor, to bring us to Christ. The Law was to show us that we could not meet God's standard in and of ourselves.

We also learned that the New Covenant would make every provision we needed in order to live in a way that would please God. We saw that we could enter into this covenant through faith and faith alone, that we were not required to work our way into it.

We learned that upon our entry into the New Covenant, God would give us new hearts, that He would write His law upon our hearts, that He would put the fear of Him on our hearts so that we would not turn away, that He would put His Spirit in us to cause us to walk in His ways, that He would supply all that we needed—it was all of grace! We did not deserve anything because of our sin, but God in His graciousness made provision!

1. What did you see this week in Romans 3 about the Law?
2. How does this parallel what you learned last week in Galatians?
3. How does the Law set a standard for us and show us our need?
4. How does the Law expose our sin?
5. How does the Law serve as a schoolmaster, a tutor, in our lives, in the lives of our children, in the lives of our friends, etc.?
6. So often today, we hear a gospel that does not truly deal with the most important issue that lost people need to understand. What is the issue that we need to be certain they understand?
7. How is salvation often presented when someone shares the gospel? What do people often think of salvation as an escape from?
8. The lake of fire is the consequence of what?

9. What did God demonstrate in providing a way for us to be free from the bonds of sin?

10. If we cannot keep the Law, what hope do we have? How can we earn this freedom from sin?

11. What does Hebrews 2:9 say? How was Jesus able to taste death for you, for me?

12. Because Jesus paid the penalty of sin, what is man able to receive?

13. To receive salvation and forgiveness of sin, what must man do? Can one pray to receive Christ and continue to live the same way as before he prayed that prayer?

14. Did you receive the Holy Spirit by something that you did? How did you receive Him?

15. Our salvation then is salvation from sin. It is true that we are saved from the penalty of sin, which is the lake of fire, but what are we saved from in our daily lives as far as sin is concerned? Do we have to live in sin any longer?

16. If you are saved by grace, then what enables you to live daily over the power of sin in your life?

17. What did you see about the Law that will make you more effective in sharing the gospel with your family, with those with whom you come in contact?

18. When you share the gospel, what things do you need to be certain you communicate?

19. How can any person be set free from the penalty and power of sin forever?

20. How has your study of the Law this week affected you?

CHAPTER 4

In week three we studied the effect of the Law in the life of an individual. We saw that the Law was given to serve as a schoolmaster, a tutor, to keep us until grace would come, setting us free from the penalty and power of sin.

We saw, too, that we never were able, never would be able, to keep the Law. And because God is gracious, He made provision for our sin through His Son.

We also discussed the fact that it is through faith that we come to salvation, that our salvation is totally apart from the Law. We saw how the Law sets a righteous standard, how it reveals our sin.

We also learned that grace saves us from sin, from the lake of fire which is the consequence of sin. We saw that people are not saved from hell, but from sin.

1. What will free us from our religiousness and legalism and thrust us into the freedom of a personal and intimate relationship with our heavenly Father?
2. What part does the Law play in our salvation?
3. Explain how it is possible to obtain salvation through your works.
4. What is the key that unlocks salvation? Do your works play any part in salvation?
5. Does living under the covenant of grace result in lawlessness for those who truly know Him and understand His grace?
6. What is the mark of those who live under the grace of God? What typifies their lifestyle?
7. We owe God a life lived in righteousness, but we are unable to give that to God because of our own sinful nature. What provision has God made for the person

who desires to live in the way that God originally intended?

8. Is there any way we can pay the debt we owe to God? What must we do to receive the gift that God has offered to us?
9. How is it possible for us to earn God's favor?
10. Explain why Christ died.
11. If we are able to be justified by the Law, was there a reason for Christ to die?
12. How do you begin a relationship with your Father? What is your part in your salvation? Where did you receive the ability to do what was required of you?
13. How then can your relationship be maintained?
14. Upon what basis are we always to come to our heavenly Father?
15. At what price to our Father do you and I have access to the grace of God?
16. Explain the difference between the first Adam and the last Adam.
17. What is the limit of grace? Is there a boundary beyond which grace cannot extend?
18. Under which Adam do you live? Did you realize that there was a second Adam who had come to set you free from the slavery under which you were born in the first Adam?

19. As you studied this week, did you see that grace, grace, grace is the key to the Christian life? Have you in some way denied the grace of God in your life? What has been your response as you have studied this lesson?
20. How has this lesson affected you? Have you ever thought there was something in your past that was beyond the grace of God? What did you see this week that would allow you freedom from that?
21. When you see the great price paid for you to enjoy the freedom of grace, what is your response? What has changed in your heart this past week?

CHAPTER 5

In week four we again talked about the fact that the only basis upon which the believer could approach God was the basis of grace. We looked at the great price that was paid by our heavenly Father in order for our sin to be covered and for us to have a way to come to Him.

We saw that this price was an act of grace and that we could do absolutely nothing to deserve the graciousness of God extended to us. It could not be bought by trying to pay our own debt. It could not be earned through works. It could not be achieved through the keeping of the Law. It was grace!

And as we marveled again at the grace of God, we began to see that it has no limits, that its capacity cannot be contained in human boundaries.

1. What is the key to being delivered from the power of sin?
2. Is it possible to live in total victory over your past, over your failures, over the pull of the flesh? How?
3. What hope do you have when you fail, when you sin?
4. Is there any relationship between grace and power? Share what your insights were as you studied and as you memorized 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
5. Even though we live in the confines of a fleshly body that is weak against temptation and even though we are faced daily with the lure of the world and its enticements, what do we have available to us that will enable us to rise above the circumstances and be victorious? How is power perfected?
6. What are you and I to depend upon for even our smallest daily needs, for our daily direction, for all that pertains to our daily lives?

7. What is at the root of all of our failures in the Christian life?
8. Why is it so difficult for us to accept and rely upon the grace of God?
9. How do the truths you saw in Romans 12:1-2 fit in with our study this week on grace?
10. How does having a poor self-image and low self-esteem affect your relationship with God? Is there anything that self can do that is acceptable to God?
11. From what you have studied this week, how would you define licentiousness?
12. Does the grace of God grant us the freedom to live as we please?
13. What provision has God made so that we can live under grace and yet live in a way that is pleasing to Him? (Remember your study on the New Covenant.)
14. Is it possible to enter into the New Covenant and then to live any way that suits us?
15. When we do fail as Christians, is restoration possible? Why?
16. Does God ever react as we would react? God always acts from what basis?
17. Have you ever put human limitations on God? Have you thought that He would react in a certain way because that is how you would react? Have you released that misconception and stepped into the glorious liberty that is ours through grace?

18. Have you realized that there is some area in which you have taken liberty because you thought you understood the grace of God, and now you see that what you thought was liberty is really licentiousness? Have you dealt with that area and brought it under the grace of God and put it in its proper place?

19. How has this week changed your view of grace?

20. What things will change in your life as a result of this week's study?

CHAPTER 6

In week five we learned that the key to deliverance from the power of sin is total dependence upon the grace of God in our lives.

We saw the relationship between grace and power, realizing that His grace is sufficient for every situation and that in our weakness His power is perfected.

We looked at the fact that the root of all failure in the Christian life is dependence upon self. We discussed how we must die to self and its ways and live in utter dependence upon grace in order to be what God wants us to be.

We learned that we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and that we are not to be conformed to the world so that we may prove the good and acceptable will of our Father.

Finally, we understood that it is by grace and grace alone that we should live our daily lives. God even made provision for us to be able to walk in His grace when He gave us a new heart and placed His Spirit within us when we entered the New Covenant. We also were reminded that grace is never license to do as we please.

1. When we run to Mount Calvary to have our sin cleansed by the power of the blood of the Lamb, what must we do with our sin?
2. What is God's response to this action described in your answer?
3. Once we have sinned, have run to Mount Calvary, have been restored to fellowship, what is the next thing we need to do? How must we look at our failure?
4. What promise did God make to Abram?
5. What was Sarai's response to waiting on God's perfect time to bring the promise to pass?
6. What was the result of her impatience, of her taking things into her own hands?

7. What was God's response to the situation that Sarai and Abram found themselves in? Was God faithful to His promise?
8. What conflict resulted because Sarai and Abram did not wait on God to perform His word?
9. How does the story of Abram and Sarai in Genesis parallel the study you did in Galatians?
10. In light of your study in grace, what is the bottom-line truth that you need to learn from the story of Isaac and Ishmael?
11. What can we learn from Abraham's faith? Did he look at the circumstances or at the promise of God?
12. When you sin, what do you need to look at?
13. Is it possible to live under grace and law at the same time? Under which covenant do you live?
14. Why did Christ die? Why did He set us free?
15. What causes us to be "accepted in the Beloved"?
16. What must our attitude be toward sin in order for God to be able to respond in grace? What is the attitude in us that God must resist?

17. If a person continues in willful sin, thinking that grace will cover, what has he or she not understood? What was the price of grace?

18. What did you learn this week that will help you not to look at the circumstances or at your feelings when these conflict with God's Word to you?

19. The next time you sin, how are you going to deal with that sin?

20. What did you learn about pride this week? About humility?

CHAPTER 7

In week six we looked at the way in which we must deal with our sin by running to the foot of the Cross for cleansing and by agreeing with God about our sin. We saw that we must call our sin “sin” and be willing to turn from it.

We studied the story of Abraham and Sarah and the son of the free woman and the son of the bondwoman. God taught us a powerful lesson through what happened in this situation, showing us that we cannot live under two covenants — law and grace. We saw, too, that it was the bondwoman and her son who were cast out. Again we saw in picture form that it is all of grace!

1. Why are we not seeing Christians having a greater impact on the world for the kingdom of God if God truly is responsible to pour out His grace and enable them?
2. What keeps us from carrying out to its completion what God is working into our lives?
3. When we do not do what God commands or what the Word of God teaches, how does this affect the Holy Spirit?
4. How are we able to carry out to completion what God has enabled us to do? What gives us the power to be obedient?
5. Did Paul have any reason to think that he could never be used of God, that the grace of God could never cover him?
6. How did Paul overcome his past and come to the point that God could use him in the furtherance of the kingdom?
7. How was the grace of God manifested in Paul’s life?

8. Was God surprised when Paul cried out to Him for salvation? Did God know who Paul was, or did God extend to Paul His grace and find out later that He had saved someone who had been persecuting His people?

9. Upon what basis did God save Paul?

10. Upon what basis did God save you?

11. Upon what basis are you serving God? Is it under legalism or to gain approval, or is it because of the love you have for a gracious God who has poured out His unfathomable love toward you?

12. Did you see this week that it is by the grace of God that you are what you are? Will His grace be poured out on you in vain, or will you serve out of love the One who paid such a great price to offer you grace?

13. What is the most basic truth you learned this week from your study in Psalm 139?

14. Was God surprised when you came to Him? Did He have any idea about the things you had done when you were walking your own way, doing your own thing? Did He know of the ungodly things that had been done to you? Did it affect His decision to accept you in the Beloved? Why?

15. What aspect of God's character is demonstrated by the fact that He knew all about you before you ever decided to come to Him? What does this mean to you now that you know Him?

16. When things seem out of control, when you have blown it, when you have been disobedient, when you have failed miserably, do you ever want to run and hide? Does it do any good at all to try to hide from God the things that we are ashamed of, the things that we don't want anyone else to know? Why? What did you learn about His character that lets you know that you cannot hide from Him?

17. How is the particular attribute of God alluded to in question 15 a comfort to you as His child?

18. Are you ever unhappy with the way you look, with your height, your weight, the length of your nose, the size of your feet, the color of your hair, etc.? Who made you? How do you know that He made you just the way He wanted you to be to bring Him the most glory?

19. Sometimes do you wonder how you will make it? Who is the One who will sustain you?

20. Has someone wronged you? Do you wonder how you will be vindicated? What did you see about your God this week that allows you to rest in Him regarding this concern?

CHAPTER 8

In week seven we discussed the apparent contradiction that the grace of God is available for every situation and yet we can look at some Christians who do not seem to be as effective as other Christians. When we reflect on the state of Christendom, we may wonder why the kingdom of God does not progress more expediently. We looked at scriptures that helped us to understand that we are the bottleneck, that we need to work out our salvation.

We looked at the way Paul responded to the grace of God in his life, and we realized that he could have let his past overcome him had he not understood and appropriated the grace of God.

Then finally we looked at Psalm 139 to get a perspective on our God and His understanding of us, and we came to an even better understanding of His graciousness toward us through this study.

1. What obligation does grace carry with it?
2. How are we able to fulfill this obligation?
3. What gives us access to the grace of God?
4. What does it mean to have access to the grace of God? How will this understanding affect you moment by moment?
5. When would God's grace be poured out on you in vain?
6. In His grace, what has God provided you so that you can serve the body of Jesus Christ?
7. What purpose do the gifts serve?

8. Are all of these gifts alike? Do they all have the same result?
9. How is it determined which gift(s) you will receive? When do you receive the gift(s)?
10. In your study this week, what did you learn about the purpose of your life?
11. Will you be able to serve God no matter what He brings into your life? Why? Share the example of this from Paul's life.
12. We all have access to the grace of God, but what activates the grace of God?
13. By what are we able to unlock all the resources of God which He has made available to us?
14. Grace strips us of everything except what?
15. What gives faith its strength?
16. What is necessary in order to lay hold of grace?
17. If you do not appropriate the grace of God, how can this affect your service for Him?

18. What did you learn this week about grace and faith that will change your perspective forever?

19. What spiritual gift have you been given to serve the body of Christ? In which ministry do you use your gift? (Don't feel bad if you don't know; just determine before God to find out by studying His Word and by waiting on Him to show you.)

CHAPTER 9

In week eight our study centered on the grace of God poured out in our lives.

We looked again at the fact that the grace of God is activated and appropriated by faith.

We saw, too, that our faith is only as strong as the object in which we have placed it.

A new insight that we gained last week was that we have each been given a spiritual gift(s) by which to serve the body of Christ. We saw that by using this gift we were appropriating the grace of God through faith in service to our brothers and sisters.

We also understood that grace could be poured out on us in vain, and we talked about how to be certain that this would not be the case in our lives.

1. What did you learn about grace from the passage in 2 Corinthians 12 that you studied this week?
2. Are we never to suffer trials, sufferings, heartaches because we belong to the Lord?
3. If trials do come, what assurance do we have in the midst of them?
4. Does God ever place us in a trial or in a time of suffering that we are not able to handle? How do you know?
5. What does the scripture mean when it says that God will provide the way of escape in any temptation?
6. Can you explain the sufficiency of His grace for every trial of life? How is His grace sufficient?
7. What purpose do trials serve in our lives?

8. Again, you saw the relationship between power and grace. Can you explain it? What does that mean for you?
9. From what you saw this week in Hebrews, why are we disciplined?
10. What is the result of the discipline of the Lord?
11. In the discipline process, what is our responsibility?
12. What can happen in the midst of a trial if we do not respond properly?
13. Grace is a free gift of God to His children. But what is our responsibility regarding grace?
14. What was Esau's mistake in his trial? What lesson can we learn from the way he responded?
15. Where are we to run when we find ourselves in the midst of a trial?
16. When we respond properly in a trial, what effect does it have on others?
17. What will carry us through the trial, the suffering?
18. How will you respond the next time you find yourself in the midst of a trial, in suffering?

19. As you enter into a trial, what verse do you need to remember and keep ever before you?

20. What have you learned this week about the discipline of the Lord?

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