

A Source of Endurance

Series: The Good News About Grace

January 10, 2010

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REVIEW:

WHAT IS SAVING GRACE?

G= GOD'S GIFT TO ME

Romans 3:24 (NCV) ...and all need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift...through Jesus Christ.

R= RECEIVED BY FAITH

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

A= AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

Romans 10:13 (NIV) “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

C= COMES THROUGH CHRIST

John 1:17 (NCV) The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

E= EXTENDED THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

Romans 6:23 (NLT) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

TODAY: SUSTAINING GRACE

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) ...God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished...

Sustaining grace is the power to keep going when I feel like giving up.

Sustaining grace is the power to do the right thing.

I Peter 5:12 (NLT) ...My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that the grace of God is with you no matter what happens.

GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE...

1. HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TEMPTED

I Peter 5:8-9 (NLT) Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith...

We are all faced with moral choices.

I Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

None of us have any unique temptations.

2. HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TIRED

II Corinthians 1:21-22 (NLT) It is God who gives us...the ability to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts...

It is the Holy Spirit, placed in our hearts by God's grace, that energizes us.

Philippians 2:13 (Ph) For God is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.

God never asks us to do something He doesn't give us the power to do.

3. HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TROUBLED

The most difficult kinds of trouble to handle are the troubles that are unplanned, unrelenting, and undeserved.

Isaiah 41:10 (NCV) So don't worry, because I am with you. Don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you; I will support you with my right hand that saves you.

Psalm 46:1 (NLT) God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE...

1. CALL OUT FOR GOD'S HELP

James 4:6-8 (NLT) ...“God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble.” So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you...

When we pretend to be self-sufficient, we short-circuit God's grace and power in our lives.

2. FILL YOUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:25 (NLT) ...I am...completely discouraged; revive me by your word.

3. ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

Galatians 6:2 (NCV) By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.

We can experience God's sustaining grace by being in a Life Group.

4. HOLD ON TO GOD'S PROMISES

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV) He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

CONCLUSION:

II Corinthians 12:8-9 (NLT) Three different times I begged the Lord to take it [my thorn in the flesh] away. Each time he said, “My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.”...

The message I proclaim to you this morning with certainty is that God's grace is enough.

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?