

The Journey of God's Grace

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GOD'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT *(relentless - determined, and never stopping your attempts to achieve something)*

No matter how far, how deep or how long you rebel against God, His love for you burns just as passionately as the day He sent Jesus to the cross to die for you. God is love, and it is impossible for His love to ever change, diminish, wane or fail. God's love will never run out, but time will.

Romans 5:6–10

6 **FOR WHEN WE WERE YET WITHOUT STRENGTH** *(impotent, helpless)*, **IN DUE TIME CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY.**

7 **FOR SCARCELY FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN WILL ONE DIE:** YET PERADVENTURE FOR A GOOD MAN SOME WOULD EVEN DARE TO DIE.

8 **BUT GOD COMMENDETH** *(demonstrate)* **HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.**

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, **WHEN WE WERE ENEMIES, WE WERE RECONCILED TO GOD BY THE DEATH OF HIS SON,** much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Ezekiel 16:1–15

1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

4 And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

5 **NONE EYE PITIED THEE, TO DO ANY OF THESE UNTO THEE, TO HAVE COMPASSION UPON THEE; BUT THOU WAST CAST OUT IN THE OPEN FIELD, TO THE LOTHING OF THY PERSON, IN THE DAY THAT THOU WAST BORN.**

6 **AND WHEN I PASSED BY THEE, AND SAW THEE POLLUTED IN THINE OWN BLOOD, I SAID UNTO THEE WHEN THOU WAST IN THY BLOOD, LIVE; YEA, I SAID UNTO THEE WHEN THOU WAST IN THY BLOOD, LIVE.**

7 I HAVE CAUSED THEE TO MULTIPLY AS THE BUD OF THE FIELD, AND THOU HAST INCREASED AND WAXEN GREAT, AND THOU ART COME TO EXCELLENT ORNAMENTS: THY BREASTS ARE FASHIONED, AND THINE HAIR IS GROWN, WHEREAS THOU WAST NAKED AND BARE.

8 NOW WHEN I PASSED BY THEE, AND LOOKED UPON THEE, BEHOLD, THY TIME WAS THE TIME OF LOVE; AND I SPREAD MY SKIRT OVER THEE, AND COVERED THY NAKEDNESS: YEA, I SWARE UNTO THEE, AND ENTERED INTO A COVENANT WITH THEE, SAITH THE LORD GOD, AND THOU BECAMEST MINE.

9 THEN WASHED I THEE WITH WATER; YEA, I THOROUGHLY WASHED AWAY THY BLOOD FROM THEE, AND I ANOINTED THEE WITH OIL.

10 I CLOTHED THEE ALSO WITH BROIDERED WORK, AND SHOD THEE WITH BADGERS' SKIN, AND I GIRDED THEE ABOUT WITH FINE LINEN, AND I COVERED THEE WITH SILK.

11 I DECKED THEE ALSO WITH ORNAMENTS, AND I PUT BRACELETS UPON THY HANDS, AND A CHAIN ON THY NECK.

12 AND I PUT A JEWEL ON THY FOREHEAD, AND EARRINGS IN THINE EARS, AND A BEAUTIFUL CROWN UPON THINE HEAD.

13 THUS WAST THOU DECKED WITH GOLD AND SILVER; AND THY RAIMENT WAS OF FINE LINEN, AND SILK, AND BROIDERED WORK; THOU DIDST EAT FINE FLOUR, AND HONEY, AND OIL: AND THOU WAST EXCEEDING BEAUTIFUL, AND THOU DIDST PROSPER INTO A KINGDOM.

14 AND THY RENOWN WENT FORTH AMONG THE HEATHEN FOR THY BEAUTY: FOR IT WAS PERFECT THROUGH MY COMELINESS, WHICH I HAD PUT UPON THEE, SAITH THE LORD GOD.

15 BUT THOU DIDST TRUST IN THINE OWN BEAUTY, AND PLAYEDST THE HARLOT BECAUSE OF THY RENOWN, AND Pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.

Ephesians 2:4–10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 **EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS, HATH QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, (BY GRACE YE ARE SAVED;)**

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 **FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD:**

9 **NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.**

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Daniel 4:28–35

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 **THE KING SPAKE, AND SAID, IS NOT THIS GREAT BABYLON, THAT I HAVE BUILT FOR THE HOUSE OF THE KINGDOM BY THE MIGHT OF MY POWER, AND FOR THE HONOUR OF MY MAJESTY?**

31 WHILE THE WORD WAS IN THE KING'S MOUTH, THERE FELL A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, O KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, TO THEE IT IS SPOKEN; THE KINGDOM IS DEPARTED FROM THEE.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

34 AND AT THE END OF THE DAYS I NEBUCHADNEZZAR LIFTED UP MINE EYES UNTO HEAVEN, AND MINE UNDERSTANDING RETURNED UNTO ME, AND I BLESSED THE MOST HIGH, AND I PRAISED AND HONOURED HIM THAT LIVETH FOR EVER, WHOSE DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, AND HIS KINGDOM IS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Acts 9:1–6

1 And Saul, **YET BREATHING OUT THREATENINGS AND SLAUGHTER AGAINST THE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD**, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 **AND AS HE JOURNEYED**, he came near Damascus: and **SUDDENLY THERE SHINED ROUND ABOUT HIM A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN:**

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 **AND HE TREMBLING AND ASTONISHED SAID, LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

MAN'S UNIQUE DECISION

Grace does not dictate nor coerce a decision. To receive God's love, forgiveness and salvation must be our voluntary and intentional decision. We must own the decision, or else it's not genuine and it will not last.

Matthew 20:25–28

25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **YE KNOW THAT THE PRINCES OF THE GENTILES EXERCISE DOMINION OVER THEM, AND THEY THAT ARE GREAT EXERCISE AUTHORITY UPON THEM.**

26 **BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU: BUT WHOSOEVER WILL BE GREAT AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR MINISTER;**

27 **AND WHOSOEVER WILL BE CHIEF AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR SERVANT:**

28 **EVEN AS THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY.**

1 John 4:18–19

18 **THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR: BECAUSE FEAR HATH**
TORMENT. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 **WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US**.

Matthew 16:13–18

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **WHOM DO**
MEN SAY THAT I THE SON OF MAN AM?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, **BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM?**

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, **THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD**.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BAR-JONA: FOR FLESH AND**
BLOOD HATH NOT REVEALED IT UNTO THEE, BUT MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND**
THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

John 6:60–69

60 **MANY THEREFORE OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHEN THEY HAD HEARD THIS, SAID, THIS IS AN HARD**
SAYING; WHO CAN HEAR IT?

61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

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

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, **THAT NO MAN CAN COME UNTO ME, EXCEPT IT WERE**
GIVEN UNTO HIM OF MY FATHER.

66 **FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM**.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?**

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, **LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF**
ETERNAL LIFE.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Luke 18:18–27

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 **NOW WHEN JESUS HEARD THESE THINGS, HE SAID UNTO HIM, YET LACKEST THOU ONE THING: SELL ALL THAT THOU HAST, AND DISTRIBUTE UNTO THE POOR, AND THOU SHALT HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN: AND COME, FOLLOW ME.**

23 AND WHEN HE HEARD THIS, HE WAS VERY SORROWFUL: FOR HE WAS VERY RICH.

24 **AND WHEN JESUS SAW THAT HE WAS VERY SORROWFUL, HE SAID, HOW HARDLY SHALL THEY THAT HAVE RICHES ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

John 8:1–11

1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM FIRST CAST A STONE AT HER.**

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 **AND THEY WHICH HEARD IT, BEING CONVICTED BY THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE, WENT OUT ONE BY ONE,** beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE: GO, AND SIN NO MORE.**

Galatians 2:11–14

11 **BUT WHEN PETER WAS COME TO ANTIOCH, I WITHSTOOD HIM TO THE FACE, BECAUSE HE WAS TO BE BLAMED.**

12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14 **BUT WHEN I SAW THAT THEY WALKED NOT UPRIGHTLY ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, I SAID UNTO PETER BEFORE THEM ALL, IF THOU, BEING A JEW, LIVEST AFTER THE MANNER**

OF GENTILES, AND NOT AS DO THE JEWS, WHY COMPELLEST THOU THE GENTILES TO LIVE AS DO THE JEWS?

FROM SACRIFICE TO FREEDOM

Grace turns the sacrifice of self-denial and death to self into the glorious deliverance and liberty of life in Christ. Grace turns suffering into salvation. For the unbeliever, suffering is empty misery.

Matthew 16:21–26

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.**

25 **FOR WHOSOEVER WILL SAVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT: AND WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT.**

26 **FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?**

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 **FOR THIS THING I BESOUGHT THE LORD THRICE, THAT IT MIGHT DEPART FROM ME.**

9 **AND HE SAID UNTO ME, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE: FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS. MOST GLADLY THEREFORE WILL I RATHER GLORY IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.**

10 **THEREFORE I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES, IN REPROACHES, IN NECESSITIES, IN PERSECUTIONS, IN DISTRESSES FOR CHRIST'S SAKE: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG.**

Titus 2:11–14

11 **FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED TO ALL MEN,**

12 **TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD;**

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 **WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.**