

Partners In Courage, August 2014

A Mind Set On Grace

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: My newest book, FAITH CONCEPTS OF JESUS is now in print. It should soon be available in E-book form from Amazon.com. Of the twelve faith concepts, I want to remind you of two in particular.

Faith Concept #1: Every problem is a potential miracle because the grace of God mixed into a problem turns it into a blessing or a miracle.

Faith Concept #7: The bigger the problem, the more the grace and the bigger the miracle.

1. WE ARE TO BE THINKING ABOUT GRACE, NOT PROBLEMS.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled, set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Our hope, our minds, are to be set fully on the grace that will be given to us when and as we need it.

**** I'm 64, and have been reading the Bible since I was twelve. So for 52 years I've interpreted this verse to say that we should keep our minds on the grace we'll be given when Jesus is revealed as the Coming King, when we will get resurrected bodies. But the Holy Spirit has further enlightened me. The verse doesn't say, "When Jesus is revealed as the Messiah, or the coming King." It just says that we'll be given grace *whenever* Jesus Christ is revealed. That is important and here's why.

Jesus is both man and God. When He is revealed as God He can be revealed in any of the many names of God. This won't just happen on the last day. Jesus said He would raise up His followers on the "last day" (John 6:40). But we don't want to be thinking that we'll only receive grace on the last day. Jesus is our Savior, our deliverer, our provider, our protector, our Good Shepherd, our High Priest, our intercessor, our advocate—right now, today! Whenever He reveals Himself in any of these roles we receive grace.

Today you may need Jesus to be revealed as your provider. Tomorrow you may need Jesus to be revealed as your guardian and protector. The next day you may need Jesus to be revealed as your healer. The point Peter is making is that we are to keep thinking about the grace that will be mixed in with whatever kinds of problems we have, causing them to work out for our ultimate good. (Romans 8:28)

**** Thus, the world will be filled with two kinds of people. One kind will continually be thinking about problems coming their way and the other kind will continually be thinking about grace that is going to be given to them as Jesus reveals Himself as El Shaddai, the God who is more than enough, the all sufficient one!

**** When she was a little girl, Corry Ten Boom she and her father were going to go somewhere on a train. She didn't have a ticket and asked her Father, "Where is my ticket?" He said, "I have it for you but I'm holding it for you so that you don't lose it. Just when you need it to board the train I will give it to you." So she held his hand and walked on in confidence that when the time came to board the train, the ticket would be there.

Later in life, she explained that we wonder how we will get through certain situations because at present, we don't have enough grace to overcome. But she learned to hold her Heavenly Father's hand and know that He was holding grace in store for her to give it to her at just the right time, when she needed it most.

“He holds victory in store for the upright,” (Proverbs 2:7).

The grace that will give you the victory in any future battle or situation is held by your Father to give to you at the proper time! **THINK ABOUT THAT.** Think about that all the time so that your mind is set fully on the grace to be given to you. Problems are here, and more problems are coming. But the more the problems, the more frequent will be God's outpouring of grace. The bigger the problems are the greater the quantity of grace will be poured out upon us. Proverbs 14:30 **A heart at peace gives life to the body.** It is healthy to think about grace. This brings joy, anticipation, comfort and thanksgiving.

**** I've been looking ahead into the future and what I see coming to America and the world are many great big problems. I began to get headaches very frequently. It was just too much to think about. So I prayed and asked God, “How should I think?” That's when the Holy Spirit brought the verse from Peter's writing to me and interpreted it correctly. I'm going to set my hope, my mental picture, and my thoughts on grace being given to me as Jesus reveals Himself to me DAILY as the one who cares for my every need.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging” (Psalm 46:1-2).

This scripture is further proof that grace won't just be given to us on the last day, otherwise God would not be an ever-present help! The grace we need to mix with any problem so that it will turn into a blessing or miracle is EVER-PRESENT!

2. MORE GRACE WILL BE GIVEN WHEN TIMES ARE SCARRY.

We will receive grace on any day that Jesus is revealed as our provider and as our Good Shepherd. But what about the days when Jesus is revealed as the Judge of the whole world? Jesus said, **“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father”** (John 5:22-23).

Remember that Peter wrote, **“Grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”** *He had heard Jesus in person refer to days when the Son of Man would be “revealed.”*

Luke 17:26-33 **Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the *days* of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.**

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

In a time when cities are destroyed, like Sodom, in a time where millions die, as they did in Noah's flood, when turmoil on earth is so great that you may have to evacuation your home instantly without packing or getting anything out of the house—in those days when Jesus is revealed as the Judge of the Earth—GRACE WILL BE GIVEN TO US APPROPRIATELY.

Our hope, our mental picture, our thoughts are to be set and fixed on the fact that grace will be given to us, especially on the day or days when Jesus is revealed as the Judge of all the Earth.

**** If God will give you grace to go to work on a typical Monday, how much more will God give you grace when Jesus is revealed as the judge of all the Earth? Think about that. Think about the grace that will be given to you when Jesus is revealed, even if He is revealed as the Judge!

3. OUR PRAYERS NEED TO CHANGE.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 **To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

**** *We typically pray, “Lord, take away the problems. Better yet, keep them from coming my way in the first place.” We also pray, “Lord, is there some safe place you could let me live where the problems are very minimal?”*

**** Instead of these very typical prayers, we need to be expressing our need for more grace and asking God for more grace so that the problems will be converted into blessings and miracles and we will be transformed into overcomers—people who are bigger than the problems. We need to desire to bring glory to God in all things, at all times, in all ways. Now if bigger problems can be turned into bigger miracles so that God gets even more glory, our eager and earnest prayers should be for that outpouring of grace so that even the biggest problems are converted to blessings and miracles and God will receive “massive glory.”

**** We misunderstand what God said to Paul. He was not giving him grace to just endure, so that he’d patiently permit the devil pound on him. I used to think that God was saying in effect to Paul, “I’ll let the devil pound on you and then I’ll give you grace to patiently endure it.” God was actually saying, “My grace to you is going to be MORE THAN ENOUGH to convert every problem into a miracle of deliverance. My grace to you is going to be MORE THAN ENOUGH to make you bigger than the problem as an overcomer. My grace is going to be MORE THAN ENOUGH to make the devil’s attacks backfire on him and result in hundreds of people getting saved. My grace is going to be MORE THAN ENOUGH to cause you to sing and rejoice and praise Me for My delivering saving power. My grace is going to be MORE THAN ENOUGH to give you an inner security that the devil cannot shake with his external rattlings and shouts.”

**** *SUFFICIENT means there will be grace left over after the victory is won!* After Jesus took one little boy’s lunch and fed a multitude there were twelve baskets of fragments left over. That’s a picture of what SUFFICIENT GRACE is like. It’s enough with lots left over!

4. LET US BOAST ABOUT HOW MUCH WE NEED GRACE.

Paul’s boasting about his weaknesses meant, in essence, that he was boasting about how much he needed God’s grace. This is very different from worrying—“What shall we eat, what shall we drink? What shall we wear? How will we make it?” *That is thinking independently of God.* Worriers see their lack of ability, but just worry about the shortfall.

**** Christ's power will rest on those who boast about how much they need God's grace. This is so different from worry. Instead of worrying about our lack of power or wisdom we simply boast about our need for God's grace!

**** Here's my example of this kind of boasting. "Lord, I am in great need of Your grace to organize. Without You I'm in chaos. Lord, I'm in great need of Your grace to be courageous. Without You I'd be a coward. "Lord, I'm in great need of Your grace for direction and leading. Without You I'd be in confusion. Lord, I'm so utterly weak and foolish without You. I desperately need the gracious stream of Your wisdom. Lord, I need Your graciousness in my character. Without You I'd be mean and crabby and irritable. I need You so much, and I'm so thankful that You have abundant grace to help me in all these areas."

Paul could DELIGHT in every situation that required more grace because HE KNEW God would mix in the grace so that sufficient amounts would convert every problem into some spiritual victory. He said, "**I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong**" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Paul knew that in weakness he would be given strength. In insults he would be given grace to be loving and forgiving, understanding and infinitely patient. In hardships he knew he would be given grace to have great endurance, contentment, and joy. In persecutions he knew he would be given grace to have unshakable peace and the knowledge of eternal treasures and rewards. In difficulties he knew he'd be given grace to have God's wisdom and the revelation of God's will to produce miraculous faith.

5. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS OR WHEN IT HAPPENS GOD WILL HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH GRACE TO SEE US THROUGH VICTORIOUSLY.

2 Corinthians 9:8 **And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

**** **Notice: IN ALL THINGS:** In hyper-inflation, in the collapse of the dollar, in earthquakes, in supply disruptions, in riots where people want their entitlements, in war, in plagues...

AT ALL TIMES: Even in the worse of times, even the scariest of times, even in the most hopeless of times as far as average people are concerned, **GOD WILL NOT JUST GIVE A FEW DROPS OF GRACE, BUT HE WILL MAKE GRACE ABOUND SO THAT WE ABOUND IN VICTORY AND SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS.** We will abound in every good work!

**** Jesus said, "**I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things (works) than these, because I am going to the Father**" (John 14:12).

**** **THE BODY OF CHRIST** has from time to time done the works of Jesus. But what are "greater works" than the works of Jesus? Someone has said that getting people born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit is a greater work, since Jesus' work before the cross was mainly healing and deliverance. Of course, it is a greater work to get someone born again. But I also believe that if we were to do greater miracles of healing and provision than Jesus did we'd have to have greater problems. Heidi Baker has written that during one great crisis they fed 50,000 people with very meager resources. That's a greater work, because ten times more were fed through the miraculous multiplication of food than the miracle of the loaves and fishes in Jesus' day.

My point: To do a "greater work" would mean there would have to be greater problems, mixed with greater grace. Therefore, we are heading into the time when the greater works than

Jesus will be done through the church because Christ is pouring out grace through the Holy Spirit into His people in *unprecedented* amounts.

It would be good to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:8. **God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** Visualize with your mind an ocean of grace above your head, ready for you to tap into. It will not be like the water pressure in Guatemala City, where the city reservoirs run dry and hotel faucets, showers and toilets can suddenly be out of water because of an insufficient supply.

Paul's word is ABOUND. Grace is going to ABOUND to us and we are going to ABOUND in every good work, as a result.

**** *This is important. Grace is not just for us to use selfishly.* We must be thinking of OTHERS. We must appropriate grace to help and minister to others, so that we are doing the good works of Jesus.

6. GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO FLEE TO SOME SITUATION OR NATION WHERE LESS GRACE IS NEEDED.

**** Just before the cross experience Jesus said, **“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name! (John 12:27)**

Jesus had a choice. He could pray to be saved from His trial, torture and crucifixion or He could pray for grace to turn it into one huge miracle. By saying, **“Father, glorify your name”** He was in effect praying, “Father, don't take Me to where I need less grace. Rather, add so much grace to this big problem that Your name will be massively glorified.”

Though His death and resurrection, Jesus redeemed the church and the church throughout the endless ages will be glorifying God's name.

**** But Jesus also said, **“When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another;”** (Matthew 10:23.) What is the difference here? We don't want to purposefully stay in some place that would FORCE the hand of God to move. That would be tempting God. But if God reveals to us that His will is for us to stay, even in a difficult place, then grace will be given to us to see God's name glorified through that trial.

I've shared Michael Boldea's dream/vision called THE DESERTER in a previous sermon. But I want to include it again, because it is so relevant to our current situation.

***** MICHAEL BOLDEA'S DREAM VISION; THE DESERTER.

Michael Boldea had been working for 25 years with his grandfather and then after Dimitru Duduman died, he had carried on the mission of warning America of coming judgment. He was on a trip to Romania and considered just moving back, believing he had fulfilled the mission of warning America. He wanted to get out before the judgment fell. God gave him this spiritual dream/vision.

“That same night I had a dream. I dreamt I was standing at the edge of a cliff, overlooking a valley that stretched out below me. Although it was night, the valley was not dark due to the dozens of fires that were burning all around the valley. Large white tents peppered the valley floor, and men dressed in white were hurriedly preparing. Some were sharpening swords, others were polishing shields, but the selfsame look of purpose and determination was evident in the countenance of every one.

“As I continued watching I was startled when a hand touched my shoulder. I turned and stood face to face with the same man I had seen in my dreams on previous occasions.

‘What do you think they are doing down there?’ He asked pointing toward the valley and the men.

‘It looks like they’re preparing for a war,’ I said, gazing back at the valley.

‘And what do you call a soldier that flees the battlefield on the eve of battle?’

‘A deserter,’ I said.

‘A deserter,’ he echoed. ‘Why would the Father train and equip you for the coming battle only to release you as the battle is about to begin? *You think this is the end but it is not.* The need for light is multiplied as the darkness grows, not diminished; the need for truth becomes more necessary as deception consumes the innocent, not less relevant. In these dark hours the children of light must shine, in these evil days the truth must be proclaimed with boldness. You can choose to flee, but it is not the Father’s will. You can stay and fight, and thus receive your just reward. The world has tainted many who ought to have stayed pure, and many have defiled themselves who ought to have remained undefiled. They have gorged themselves on Nebuchadnezzar’s delicacies, thereby disqualifying themselves from being used in these days. The hosts of heaven stand ready even now to do battle on behalf of the righteous. Do not fear the coming days for they have been foretold. Walk in the authority that has been given you and do your duty as a faithful soldier ought to.’

“As the man finished speaking, I opened my eyes and was surprised to discover I was in my bed.”

**** In another recent sermon I shared Michael Boldea’s dream/vision called THE GUARDIANS. I want to repeat that again. *You see, angels will be delivering God’s grace as never before.*

***** THE GUARDIANS: Michael Boldea awoke to find an angel standing at the foot of his bed. “The Father has sent me to strengthen you,” he began. “You have said in your heart, ‘I know what is to come and do not fear it, but if it be your will, protect the one I love.’ Come, see, and be strengthened,” the man said, extending his right hand. I took his hand and instantly we were on a high plateau that was very large in size. As I looked and my eyes began to adjust to the dusk, I realized we were not alone. A great army was standing at attention, all dressed for battle, swords in hand, each one glowing it seemed from within. There were row, upon row of angels, in armor, in perfect formation. It was a stunning sight to behold. I was speechless as I scanned the great army, extending as far as the eye could see. Suddenly the man standing next to me gave an almost imperceptible nod, and the entire army ascended toward the heavens, like a million fireflies, and began to disperse each one going his own way. Still too stunned to speak I followed the lights with my eyes, until I could see them no more. Before I could ask any questions, the man looked at me and smiled. “They are the guardians,” he said. “They are the protectors of the righteous. Soon all will see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those pure of heart and those in which darkness still resides. Soon it begins.” As he spoke these words, the ground began to shake under my feet, and I heard a powerful explosion to my left, then another to my right. As I woke up, I could feel a searing heat on my face.” (See www.handofhelp.com for all of Michael’s prophetic words)

7. LIVE IN EAGER ANTICIPATION, NOT IN FEARFUL APPREHENSION.

Luke 21:25-28 There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

***** What did Jesus mean, “Your redemption is drawing near”? We are already redeemed. Paul wrote about this in Romans 8:23-24. **Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.**

WE WILL LIVE.....

Not downcast but with heads held high.

Not faint but full of courage.

Not in terror but full of trust.

Not in apprehension of what is coming upon the world, but in eager anticipation of the grace to be given us, the redemption of our bodies, our full adoption as glorious children of God! Resurrection! The powers of the coming age! We shall judge angels!

8. SO THEN, LET US APPROPRIATE GOD’S GRACE

***** In your house you have a master value that either turns on or turns off the water in the pipes. If the master value is open, the pipes are loaded with water and water pressure, but in order to get it out you still must open up the various faucets—sink, shower, bathtub, washer, dishwasher, etc.

***** Grace is there for us if we will open the faucets of giving, of prayer, of fasting, of serving and witnessing—pouring ourselves out for others, as in Isaiah 58.

A. ASK FOR THE GRACE YOU NEED

***** Here’s an example from the life of the Apostle Paul of one of the ways to appropriate grace: **“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 4:4-7).

***** Paul was telling us how to open the faucet of prayer. We need to be rejoicing that there is grace in the pipeline, with water pressure, so to speak, so that all of us could open the prayer faucets and there would be plenty of grace for all of us. Acts 4:32-33 **All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.**

***** Have you ever lived in a house that had two bathrooms but low water pressure? If your family members were using both showers at once one or both of the showers would lack sufficient water pressure. Then one person had to wait until the other person was finished with his or her shower.

***** God’s grace in the pipeline has abundant water pressure. We can all get answers to prayer at once! This whole idea of being given grace to mix in with every problem in every situation should cause us to rejoice! If we believe it, we will rejoice! If we anticipate it we will rejoice! The rejoicing is like the first turn of the faucet.

Then, we should ask God in prayer and petition for what we need and for what others need. As we thank God for His graciousness and thank God that He has heard us the faucet of prayer will be wide open.

***** Have you ever tried to open a pop bottle or bottle of water but the twist-off lid was especially difficult and you just couldn’t get it open without a pair of pliers? Sometimes we just can’t get the answers to prayer that we need and want. But almost always, if we’ll examine our

prayers, we'll see that we forgot to REJOICE in the beginning and THANK God at the end of the prayer. Rejoice that God is going to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times having all that you need you will abound in every good work. Then ask God. Jesus said, **“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it”** (John 14:13-14).

B. USE THE GRACE YOU ALREADY HAVE TO SERVE AND HELP OTHERS AND MORE WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.

In Acts 4:32-33 abundant grace was on them all. Why? They had all opened the faucets so to speak. By being gracious to each other and sharing everything they had they were doing the opposite of being selfish and hoarding. They were letting go and expecting God's grace to replenish their supply. By sharing so unselfishly they opened the faucets of God's grace.

Paul wrote, **“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers”** (Galatians 6:10). We are going to have greater opportunities to do good than at any time in the world.

We already have some grace. Ephesians 4:7 **But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.** So give this grace to others and more will be given to you. Share physical things, avoid hoarding, and be generous instead of selfish.

Jesus said, **“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”** (Luke 6:38).

Paul wrote, **“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully”** (Romans 12:6-8).

Jesus said, **“Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him”** (Matthew 13:12).

In a time when multitudes will be hoarding, we are to be giving as if there is no end to the supply. If we do, abundant grace will be upon all of us, like the early church. Proverbs 11:24 **One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.**

CLOSING: I'm going to be thinking about grace being given to me. I'm going to be boasting about my need of God's grace so that Christ's power will rest upon me. I'm going to rejoice that grace is going to be given to me as needed in abundant supply. I'm going to live graciously toward others as the Holy Spirit coaches me. I want to give and use the graces (spiritual gifts) that God has placed in me so that He will give me even more.

Isaiah 26:3-4 **You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord is the Rock eternal.**

1 Peter 1:13 **Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

2 Corinthians 9:8 **And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

KEEP YOUR MIND SET ON THE GRACE OF GOD AND LIVE GRACIOUSLY.

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.