

Grace News Today



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“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

A ccept my heart-felt greetings from all of us here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We beckon you to stand in reverent awe with us as we behold God’s majesty. Amazingly, Grace Evangelistic Ministries is God’s own handiwork! The truth of the matter is that neither Moses nor anyone else has any relevance to the establishment or continuation of G.E.M! Indeed, the testimony of how this ministry developed affirms our declaration beyond any shadow of doubt – that we are here for His purpose, His pleasure, and for His glory! Over the years, we have had the honor of witnessing His faithfulness, and we have testimonies piled up on top of each other with regard to what God has done. We are profoundly grateful to our great and awesome God. His unsurpassed grace toward us remains unchanged!

Our mouths drop open in amazement every time we stop to count our blessings, and we can’t help but mimic King David when he said: “Who [are we], O Lord God, and what is [GEM] that you have brought [us] this far?” (I Chronicles 17:16b). In light of God’s grace gesture, we consider it a magnificent privilege to have the opportunity to serve our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the mission field bringing the good news to perishing souls where the need has reached an all time high. Our Lord’s concern for this precious harvest of lost souls became evident when He uttered these solemn words, “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they [the lost and dying souls] are white [ready] for harvest” (John 4:35b).

The question is, can we obey Him? Do we share our Lord’s concern? Elsewhere He declared, **“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore [by means of intercessory prayer] beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”** (Luke 10:2). What an expression of love and compassion!

It’s sad—really sad and disheartening—that many believers in the Lord Jesus Christ don’t take to heart the cry of those on the death-march to an eternal doom. They are not aware of the enormous blessings they forfeit both in time and in eternity. Neither are they aware that sharing the Lord’s concern for lost souls will never go unrewarded. Ever! “Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together” (John 4:36).

The apostle Paul echoed our Lord when he said, “And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, **‘HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO [SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!]**” (Romans 10:15). Daniel said it like this, “And those who have insight will shine brightly like brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those [including our missionary team, associates and others] who lead the many to righteousness [through the preaching of the gospel shall shine] like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). There you have it on record from the infallible Word of God!

And so we pause to thank God for what He has accomplished for and through us (unworthy servants). We thank Him for many open doors. It would be negligent to not express our gratitude to you for your partnership with us as we endeavor to take the good news coast-to-coast to the lost and dying world. And, we take what Paul said to heart: “[We] thank [our] God in all [our] remembrance of

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you, always offering prayer with joy in [our] every prayer for you all [our partners], in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For [we are] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus....And [our] God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-6; 4:19).

We are immensely grateful to all of you who lift us up before the throne of His grace; and earnestly request that you do not relent in your prayer support.

“Go therefore and [preach the good news to] all nations...and lo, I am with you **always** even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). Underneath are the everlasting arms!

His unworthy servant in the riches of His grace,



Moses C. Onwubiko,
Evangelist; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

“**Y**ou are from God, little children, and have overcome them (Satan and his minions); because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (I John 4:4). That’s the word of encouragement from the apostle John. Simply put, we have the ‘*Lord of the Armies*’ on our side! It’s interesting that believers in the apostle John’s day were not the only ones who hit the panic button. For instance, the prophet Elisha’s servant was struck with fright when he saw the enormity of the Aramean army who came to capture Elisha, his master. Gripped with fear, he hit the panic button! You see, you are not alone.

Elisha tried to calm his attendant with the infallible Word, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ Then Elisha prayed and said, ‘O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ **And the Lord opened the servant’s [inner] eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha.**” (II Kings 6:16-17). Think of it. ‘Horses and chariots of fire’ were sent to protect and grace-out Elisha who, like us, is no more deserving than is an earthworm. What a grace gesture from the ‘*Lord of the Armies*’!

Now just what does the Scripture say about us? We are called the Pupil of God’s eye: “For thus says the Lord of [*the armies*],...for he who touches you [with the intent to harm] you, touches the [pupil] of God’s eye” (Zechariah 2:8). Just the thought of such a thing is horrible! But of course you can’t harm just a pupil without hurting the entire eye. Metaphorically, though, that’s what anyone does whoever ventures to hurt you—who are in union with Christ: “Your life is hidden [in] Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3b). That should be of great comfort to us. I suggest that you read it again several times. Meditate on these phrases: ·**Your life · HIDDEN · IN CHRIST · IN GOD**

Are you fully aware of the positional sanctification that exists for believers in Christ? The elect angels are amazed! Those boxes of doctrinal notebooks piled up haphazardly in our closets must stagger their minds; and yet, we climb the walls when testing hits!

We lack the time, in this small space, to present the entire doctrine of the essence of God, but let me point you to two of its elements which are pertinent to this Word of Encouragement: His **sovereignty** and His **omnipotence**.

Sovereignty, stated plainly, means: ‘Everyone to your tent; for God has spoken!’ That’s final. No round-table-discussion necessary! He will bring His promise to pass, “So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Omnipotence means *All-Powerful*. God has the power to safeguard His word or promise. Evidently, the halls of Scripture are wallpapered with the manifestation of His awesome power. The Exodus generation is a perfect example of God's omnipotence in action in that He wrought ten, no-nonsense, dynamic miracles that led to the Israelite's deliverance from the world's most powerful nation, Egypt.

Let it be said that the phrase "Your life is hidden [in] Christ in God" actually means that you, as a believer, are home free—you are in a place of the tightest security that Heaven can offer. God the Father is Omnipotent, and so is Jesus Christ. You are hidden within two Omnipotent beings. How secure is that? On the other hand, for Satan to hit you with his missile, it must pierce at least two impenetrable security gates!

NOTHING can rock your boat (not even a gut-wrenching stomach virus) apart from God's Sovereign will and endorsement. Have you been hit with suffering? Has unemployment caused you to tighten your belt? Have you been blind-sided by a so-called, incurable disease? Are you infuriated by unfair treatment and the like? If so, KNOW that the very One who controls history is at work on your behalf right now! Our Sovereign God, not Satan, nor anyone else for that matter, is in control of the outcome of your situation which will reflect His overall plan for your life. Scripture guarantees it! And so, be patient and wait as He mixes all things together for your own good (Job 23:10)!

And so my beloved friend, while you wait, remember that God's Word is applicable for all times: "*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you; surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*" (Isaiah 41:10). "When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. "For **I am the LORD your God**" (Isaiah 43:2, 3a). And so meditate on these two questions: "...Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, we approach Your throne of grace with gratitude, praise and thanksgiving. We praise You for who and what You are, the Great and Awesome God. We express our gratitude to You for Your unspeakable grace gesture toward us. Considering Your grace overture, Your servant John exclaimed, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." We thank You immensely for the efficacious sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross 2,000 years ago. We thank You for Your grace, faithfulness, mercies, loving kindness, and for Your unsurpassed compassion toward us—Your unworthy children. We are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to be alive in this era of human history. Father, we consider it an honor and a privilege.

*Father, we realize that we have failed You in all facets of our lives. We have not taken Your Word seriously as Your unique plan called for us to do. And Your command, "You shall love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" appears to have fallen on deaf ears. We stand guilty in Your courtroom in that we have been so busy with the details of life at the expense of **QUALITY TIME** with You.*

*Indefensibly, our lifestyles are completely antithetical to our Savior's. We have become repugnant and repulsive to the outside world. Oh Heavenly Father, simply put, we have failed You! And so Father, it's my fervent prayer that this doctrinal exposition will **hit** me hard between the eyes. That the information therein will challenge me, and cause me, to **RE-EVALUATE AND RE-EXAMINE** my attitude toward Your Word, that it would result in a total overhaul of my spiritual life. May You challenge every soul who studies this material. Please Father, raise men and women whose spiritual lifestyle would be attractive to the lost and dying world. May we be challenged to lock ourselves up in our private rooms and take a close look at ourselves in the mirror of Your Word. Please grant us more grace to amend our ways. I lift my prayer in the Name of the One who loved us and gave His life as a substitute for us, the King of kings, Lord of lords, even our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Amen.

*"You Shall Know
the Truth
and the Truth
Shall Set you
Free" John 8:32*

DOCTRINE OF GRACE

An Overview of God's Word

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION

A **PREREQUISITE FOR STUDYING GOD'S WORD: FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
Therefore, in preparation for this study, you may wish to take a moment to empty your soul of all filthiness by first identifying and then confessing any known sins directly to God so that God the Holy Spirit will not be hindered from illuminating your mind to the truth as we study it. In light of this we read, *“Therefore putting aside all filthiness [I John 1:9], and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your [life]” (James 1:21).*

Since we have passionately admired the Biblical heroes of ancient times—believers like Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Job, King David, Daniel, Ruth, the apostle Paul, and the greatest of all—the God-Man himself—and in order to thoroughly appreciate our ongoing doctrine of grace, it's of paramount importance that we take a detour from the Biblical account we are studying to explore an *Overview of God's Word*. We not only have admired but at times have dared to dream of being on the same footing as these heroes were with God. (If nothing else, we have wondered what it would feel like to be referred to us as “a friend of God.”) Evidently, we can walk in their shoes, spiritually, for we have the potential given to us by God who desires the best for us. He has endowed us with more assets than at any other time in history! That's a Biblical fact!

More Biblical Facts:

- “For the word of God is **QUICK AND POWERFUL**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12 Ryrie Study Bible).
- “Is not My word like a fire?” declares the Lord, ‘and like a hammer which shatters a rock?’” (Jeremiah 23:29).
- “[God's Word] is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you shall prolong your days...” (Deuteronomy 32:47).
- “For he who finds [God's word] **FINDS LIFE AND OBTAINS FAVOR FROM THE LORD**” (Proverbs 8:35).
- “Thy word I have [packed in my soul] that I may not sin against Thee” (Psalm 119:11).

Curiously we might wonder, what made the heroes mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 so great? And as our Overview unfolds, we will probably want to know what's wrong with Christianity today? With these queries in mind, let's review the spiritual resumés of these Old Testament men from the inerrant and infallible Word of God:

- **NOAH—A BIBLICAL HERO:** “By [means of God's Word resident in his soul] Noah, when being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (Hebrews 11:7).
- **ENOCH— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him [alive]” (Genesis 5:24).

- **ABRAHAM— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “By [means of doctrine] Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son. He considered [Greek: logizomai - concluded] that God is ABLE to raise men even from the dead” (Hebrews 11:17, 19a).
- **MOSES— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “By [means of Truth] Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. By [confidence in God’s Word] he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen” (vv. 24-27).
- **JOSEPH— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “And it came about after these events that his master’s wife looked with desire at Joseph, and said, ‘Lie with me.’ But he refused and said to his master’s wife...how then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:7-9).
- **JOB— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Even after my skin is destroyed yet from my flesh I shall see God. [For] He knows [exactly what I am going through], when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold [way better than before!]” (Job 23:12; 13:15a; 19:26; 23:10).
- **RUTH—A BIBLICAL HERO:** “But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you [and your God]; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. ‘Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you ‘and me’” (Ruth 1:16, 17).
- **KING DAVID— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “The [Word] of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul... They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of honeycomb. Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.” “Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, a spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of [the armies], the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear [what gave him such confidence?]; **for the battle is the Lord’s** and He will give you into our hands” (Psalm 19:7; 10-11; I Samuel 17:45-47).
- **DANIEL— A BIBLICAL HERO:** “And when he [Darius the king] had come near the [lions’] den to Daniel. He cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel

‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?’ Then Daniel spoke to the king, ‘O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime’” (Daniel 6:20-22).
- **THE APOSTLE PAUL—A TROPHY OF GRACE:** “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to his death**” (Philippians 3:7-10).
- **THE GOD-MAN—THE ULTIMATE HERO:** “But He [Jesus Christ] answered and said, ‘It is written ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” (Matthew 4:4).
- **THE GOD-MAN—THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN:** “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘ELI ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’ That is, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?’” (Matthew 27:46).

- **THE GOD-MAN—OUR ROLE MODEL:** “Into Your hand I commit My spirit; You have [delivered] Me, O Lord, God of [Truth!]” (Psalm 31:5).

OUR CHARGE:

“Therefore since we have such a great *cloud of witnesses* surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. [Locking] our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of [**GOD’S WORD**], who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and hast sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES:

Why in the world did the Holy Spirit elect to remind us that we are surrounded with Old Testament heroes, especially since we are in the Church Age where we have the revealed mystery doctrine and a brand new way of executing God’s plan?” Is it because we are to make their spiritual heritage our own? Think about it. Also, “Why is the entire 11th chapter of Hebrews dedicated to these heroes?” Well, as the saying goes, *where there’s smoke there’s fire*. So invariably, there must be a reason why God the Holy Spirit took pains to compile this list through the human author.

No doubt, this great *cloud of witnesses* will stand to condemn us if we fail to glorify God with the spiritual kit He provided us in this Church Age compared with the mediocre assets of the Age of Israel. Here’s how the Lord addressed the responsibilities required of us in this unique age: “And from everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more” (Luke 12:48b).

The heroes of old had so little spiritually; and yet, they glorified God as if they had a lot. We have no excuse! We have a lot more with which to make an impact in the devil’s world than these heroes did! That’s the message the Holy Spirit seeks to convey to us!

“Blessed is the man who listens to [God’s Word], watching daily at [His] gates, waiting at [His] doorposts” (Proverbs 8:34).

As for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are concerned with glorifying the One who gave us everything, especially sacrificing His life for us, we ought not to settle for a miniature spiritual life. Rather, we should endeavor to make it our highest priority to study and *search* the Scripture like the ‘*noble men*’ of Berea (Acts 17:11). As our study progresses, we should pay close attention to the lives of these elite believers who will surely hear these magnificent words one day: *“Well done, good and faithful slave[s]; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master”* (Matthew 25:23).

Being desirous of those words of praise from our one and only Savior, this should be our frequent prayer to God:

That He would grant [us] according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through [doctrine]; and that [we] being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16-19).

And that God will, according to the riches of His grace, enable us to fulfill His plan for our lives, qualifying us to stand on the same winner’s platform as the “*cloud of witnesses*.”

What do these heroes of the Bible have in common? Scripture shows that they knew God; they took His Word at face value; they had total reliance on the immutability of His Word; they knew the power of His Word; they used the Word of God effectively at every twist and turn their lives took. In other words, they applied the Word without reservation!

DO WE TRULY KNOW GOD?

Daniel testified that, "...the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32b Ryrie Study Bible). This phrase should draw our attention to the fact that not everyone really knows the Great and Awesome God. Let's get personal for a moment and rephrase this question, Do **you** truly know God? You might want to stop here and consider your answer because we cannot be winner-believers unless we know the God of the Bible. Simply stated, our understanding of who God is affects every facet of our lives.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?

Is this question redundant? Yes! But it's extremely essential in developing our study. Here's another: Is the God of the Universe real to you? The answer is between you and the Lord, and we need to answer objectively and honestly. Before we can do that, let's take the time to pay heed to God's command: "*Test yourselves to see if you are [measuring up with the truth of God's Word]; examine yourselves!*" (II Corinthians 13:5a).

The truth of the matter is that a life that knows God is a life that makes an impact on the devil's world. When we know God as we ought to, our lives shall be forever changed. Our lives will affect everyone around us—in our family, work place, community.

That's not all! It's a contagious epidemic which will undoubtedly spread beyond our vicinity. For instance, in the apostolic period, twelve men were charged for turning the world upside down (Acts 17:6). But, they were not the only people through whom God manifested Himself. In the book of Hebrews, we are reminded of men like Daniel—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego who knew their God and, consequently, through them the God of the universe was proclaimed to the whole world. To bring our point home, we begin with Daniel chapter three.

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO – HERO BELIEVERS:

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon...Then the herald loudly proclaimed: 'To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute...and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar has set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of furnace of blazing fire'" Dan. 3:1.

That was to the point! And because he was king, it was irrevocable. Nebuchadnezzar has issued a frightening command, and the penalty was plainly stated, and everyone in the kingdom knew the magnitude of Babylonian decree—a matter of life or death.

On the other hand, a Jewish believer who neither knew God, nor his purpose for being here on this planet could have wondered, "What's the big deal? I will just bow down for a moment and then confess the sin later." But not so with the three Jewish believers who knew their God, His purpose for keeping them alive, and their destiny thereafter.

And so we read, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego [respectfully] answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if [according to His will He chooses not to], let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up'" Dan. 3:15-18.

"Had I not felt my Savior close beside me, I would have lost my reason."

Mary Slessor 1848 – 1915

FEAR EXTINGUISHED WITH DOCTRINE IN THE SOUL:

“**A**nd do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Amazingly, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego applied this truth two thousand years before the Lord’s incarnation. These men were not afraid of death; obedience to God’s Word was more real to them than their own life which is “...like a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

They knew that death was imminent for everyone, and that it was just a matter of time before God’s death train would arrive to carry them home, so be it! Nonetheless they were determined to go on record as men who died in defiance rather than succumb to idolatry.

It’s quite likely they were meditating on the prophet Isaiah’s message to Israel: “But now thus says, the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you’” (Isaiah 43:1, 2).

Just think about it for a moment. Here were three men who knew that their defiance against the king’s decree meant instant death in the fiery furnace; and yet, they adamantly refused to compromise the worship of their God. Can you imagine what must have been going on in their souls at that time!?”

How would you react if a bunch of heavily armed militants were to burst into the midst of your congregation and demand that everyone denounce the Lord or face a firing squad? Would you deny the Lord?

Their action compels us to believe that they had their eyes on the Lord and the eternal state, rather than this temporary one. This was also true of Job who in the midst of his suffering lamented, “And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.”

His absolute confidence of an everlasting and joyous life with God reached its climax in his expression, “Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God” (Job 19:25, 26). What a hero of faith!

HEROES OF THE FAITH IN THE FURNACE:

“Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.” Yes, they were thrown into a furnace, but their God who controls the outcome of every move man makes did not let them down. All along, He was monitoring and working behind the scenes. That should be a solace to us, that our Father is always superintending our affairs from a close range.

But that’s not all! God showed up at the right time—never too soon—never too late—just at the right time—His perfect timing!

What an Awesome God! “Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his officials, ‘Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?’.... Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm...Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God.’”

What a remarkable scene for the king!

“Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered his servants who [anchored] their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.’”

To be continued in Volume 40, where we will note the amazing decree of Nebuchadnezzar. We will also learn why we are here; God's purpose for us.

MISSIONARY REPORTS

G.E.M. AFRICA

Nairobi, Kenya

Maurice Mwale reports:

Thirst for the truth in Uganda...

Grace and peace to you and the entire royal family of GEM around the globe in the name of God our father and Christ Jesus our LORD and Redeemer. In February, I was invited to teach in a leader's conference at a small trading center near Jinja, Uganda. I took a few books by Rev. Moses (actually my personal copies).

At the end of the four days, many pastors and church leaders wanted to know how they could get those teachings in books and/or tapes. I not only gave out all my copies but also gave them your address for further inquiries. They also ordered books from R.B. Thieme Jr. Bible Ministries. The order forms I took were few, so most of them just listed their names and the books they needed.

I have been receiving weekly inquiries from Uganda, anxiously anticipating receipt of doctrinal materials. There is so much thirst for truth in that area that the pastors' representatives will be traveling all the way to Nairobi in the month of May to discuss with me the possibility of having another conference before the close of this year.



G.E.M. ASIA

Lahore, Pakistan

Pastor Azam Anthony reports:

Muslims respond to "Riding the Death Train" in Bazaars and Markets...

Greetings in the name of Jesus. All our church members—myself and my people miss Moses a lot. Indeed, he is a chosen vessel for the Lord. Often people ask me "When is brother Moses coming back?" I gave "Riding the Death Train," reprinted in Urdu, to many outreach ministries. They are using it in open air meetings and personal evangelism. When they can, they give this booklet in bazaars and markets, advising recipients to please read it carefully.

I have some beautiful testimonies saying that because of RTDT, many people are taking an interest in the Bible and love to read the Bible to find out the truth. We are waiting for Brother Moses in Pakistan. We want him to come and share the love of God and word of God with us.



India

Dr. Rao reports:

Sight being restored...

Greetings to you, dearest of God, in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. At last I am back home. The doctors said that the operation went well and the surgery is yielding good results.

Recovery of my sight will be progressive, and it will take three more weeks to assess the results and get the final prognosis. The eye pressure is under control as well as my blood sugar and even my blood pressure.

Thanks...Thanks...Thanks...from the bottom of my heart for all the fervent prayers at His Throne of Grace. By His grace I am recovering, and sight in my left eye will surely be healed. The doctors want me to take rest and have permitted me limited exposure to office work but barred travel till May 6th when they will take the final count. Then they will assess the situation and permit me to travel and continue my ministerial activities as usual. Please continue to pray for me.

All my family send our love and thanks, and we continue to pray for you all. Be blessed. We praise Him for his divine healing.



G.E.M. EUROPE

London, England

Elijah Dennis Ejila reports:

Gospel Broadcast to an Area of 5 Million...

I give thanks to God for raising up prayer partners, ministry associates, and supporters around the world for GEM. Thank you all for standing in prayer with us. On April 30, we presented the London Grace Seminar. I taught the "Essence of God" which was a big eye opener

to many. All this time they have been relating to God as if He is a mere human being and as if subject to the same emotion that we all share. The man who paid for the seminar was so blessed that He asked me if we could do this each month.

The Lord opened a new door for me to preach the gospel on the radio. A man donated some of his time which was usually devoted to music. The gospel message was broadcast to an area of over 5 million Londoners. The presenter asked me to continue teaching every other Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m. Please pray that souls will be saved through these broadcasts. God knows what He is doing. He alone can tell what will happen tomorrow. We just want to be obedient servants who do His will at the right place and at the right time.

MISSION TRIPS: All Mission trips were postponed but two trips are penciled in for 2005. Mission trips are dependent upon Moses full restoration to health and logistical support. Moses is gaining strength day by day. We are grateful for your prayers and hope for his speedy recovery so he may return to the mission field.

LETTERS TO G.E.M.

Dear Rev. Moses,

Our church is growing from strength-to-strength only by His grace. We have paid for our rent for this year, isn't that great for a local church just with a membership of less than 60?! We have paid our rent and the day-to-day running expenses of the church. The congregation has also decided to support our pastor. God is really doing a marvelous thing for us.

Every week, people come eagerly to learn the word of God. We are really grateful to God for giving us the privilege of coming in contact with this Grace message and a pastor who is functioning under his spiritual gift of a pastor-teacher.

We also thank God for bringing us in contact with you, your ministry, and other Grace churches in the States that are supporting us with doctrinal materials. May He continue to perfect His work in us. Greetings to Sister Gloria and all the GEM family.

In His matchless grace,
Aisha (from Tayo's Church in The Gambia)



Dear Sister in Christ, Debby

We have had an overwhelming response for Rev. Moses crusades. People are calling us on the phone and some are asking us directly and others send messages through pastors.

The response is very great. It seems that the people of India have lost something this March for not having the crusade with Rev. Moses like we did last year. We have no answer for them. Rev. Moses, if you, in any way, can arrange for a crusade or for a three-day pastor's conference in the month of May, please let us know. If not, please come as soon as you can after the month of May. The grace gospel has power in the lives of the people.

So please, let us know about this as soon as possible. We are praying everyday, not only us but also all the pastors and the churches of the Christian Friends Gospel Association, for Rev. Moses and for all the brethren of GEM. We hope he will be feeling well. Keep praying for us. Eager to hear from you soon. God bless you amen.

In his glorious service,
Emmanuel & Jessie
Kakinada, India



Dear Friend in the Lord:

Greetings in the name of our God who has given us His word, that we may study it and know Him according to His truth. I pray that Brother Moses is feeling better and ask God to continually manifest His blessings upon him. I have been studying his books, and they are truly God inspired. I am learning a lot and some of what I have already learned is being confirmed. I am truly grateful to God for choosing you for this ministry and for your willingness to allow Him to work through you. I would like to order more of Moses books to share with others who are also seeking the truth of God as outlined by Him in His word. I am really striving to share the truth of God as outlined by Him in His word, with as many people as I can and would truly appreciate any and all study materials that you send me.

VC
Freeport, Grand Bahamas



Dear Moses

Glory be to God for the privilege given to us to be living souls today. I was blissful when I received the materials sent to me through your ministry. Hence, I am using this letter to show the gratitude of my heart. Almighty God will bless your ministry and uphold you till the end. He will continue using you for His glory.

Thanks.

Yours in Christ
A.P.O.
Baptist College of Theology
Isokun, Nigeria



Dear Sir:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I read your “Eternal Security of the Believer.” It has some good messages in it. At the end of the book, it says you have other publications, so could you send me “Comfort in Suffering,” “Riding the Death Train,” and “God’s Plan After Salvation?” I am sure it would be a blessing to read them all. I have been in prison since 1992, and I still have a life sentence to do. If I didn’t have Jesus Christ in my life, I would not be able to make it from day to day. But by the Grace of God He has given me peace, joy, and love.

I love to read my Bible, it tells me all the promises God has for me in this life and eternity. Isn’t God great!! The Holy Spirit comforts me day by day. I live by faith and the grace of God. Sir, I am sorry I don’t have any money to send you but I will pray for God to bless you spiritually and financially. Thank you for your time. God Bless you and thank you.

D.S.
from prison
U.S.A.
GEM Group!

Greetings from Texas: Patriot Church and Albert Hill P/T. We appreciate your faithfulness to the one who gives you His strength to fulfill your duties.

We are grateful to God for His grace and healing of his servant Moses and we are thrilled by his message in the Grace News Today. The encouragement saturates our souls to be reminded of God’s grace and love to strengthen us daily through his Word. We pray daily for you and your work here and abroad, individually as well as collectively on our church prayer list. May we all be constant in our faith, and led by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our purpose in the devil’s world.

Grace and Peace from our Father through our Lord, Jesus Christ
P. & A. M.



Dear GEM

May God continue to open doors that no man can shut! Your ministry is in our prayers, and we thank God every day for His grace and unconditional love, that sustains us all.

USA

Missionaries Remembered

from Days gone By

Mary Slessor, missionary to Africa, demonstrated courage in the face of savage cannibals, disease, and the hardships of daily living. Empowered by divine viewpoint, she held her ground. In one particular incident, she refused, in the face of danger to herself, to allow the tribal chief to slaughter a dozen natives whom he thought to be responsible for one of his son's deaths. He ended up sacrificing a cow instead!!! Where did Mary get her courage? From the same source that we have available to us every waking moment of our lives.

“Had I not felt my Savior close beside me, I would have lost my reason.”

Mary Slessor 1848 – 1915

The White Queen of Calabar

Corrie Ten Boom, missionary during the Nazi occupation, was often heard saying, “God has no problems only plans.” (Quoted from her book, *Not I but Christ*).

Corey also reaches out to us over the years with this illustration: “Sometimes, I show my hands to make this clear. I put the fingers of my left hand over the thumb and then my right hand over my left. You are, I am, the thumb. Jesus is like the fingers covering it; the right hand is God. But to be hidden with Jesus in God is much more wonderful than this illustrates”

Corrie Ten Boom, 1892 – 1983

Editor's note: We hope to be able to bring you some doctrinal thoughts as experienced by missionaries from days gone by who are now in Heaven enjoying the riches of His Grace from the first row!

SPIRITUAL HUNGER IN AFRICA & ASIA

There is a tremendous hunger in Africa and Asia, not for food as such, but for the truth. Would you make it a burden to pray routinely that God would graciously provide enough doctrinal material for those who are starving for sound Bible teaching? And, that this ministry would never lack in quenching their spiritual thirst to know and have rapport with the Living God!

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

THANKSGIVING:

- For many open doors around the world.
- For the strides made in Moses' recovery.
- For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls history.

PETITION TO OUR FATHER FOR:

- President Bush (for wisdom and guidance).
- Israel's protection and the U.S. Military.
- The U.S. (For a great revival, peace, and freedom from terrorism).
- The restoration of Moses' health.
- Protection of tape ministries, G.E.M. personnel, and foreign translations.
- Doctrinal pastors and their tape ministries.
- Health of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- G.E.M. supporters who are sick or terminally ill.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will equip them in every way).
- Open doors in the year 2005.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God-assembled team.
- That God will use the Tsunami disaster to glorify Himself. That victims will seek God and subsequently hear the grace gospel and be saved.

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue of Grace News Today with no obligation, please contact us:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries

P. O. Box 17246
Nashville, TN 37217-7246
or call us at (615) 365-0015

To receive updates and prayer requests:

E-MAIL CAFE: debby@debbyhagar.com
Or visit us on the internet: www.gracemissions.org

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him: If you continue in My Word, you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. John 8:31 & 32

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