

## Empowered By Grace

**2 Tim 2:1** Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**Grace** – charis - NT:5485 charis (khar'-ece); from NT:5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): KJV - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

When Paul tells Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, he is referring to the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life. A divine influence upon the heart, which means it's from God, is a powerful divine and godly influence that empowers you to live for God and do His will. When Jesus imparts grace to us, we need to be strong in that grace. We need to realize that God has granted us grace and now I have the strength to conquer, to do His will, to overcome, to be victorious, to be used by God.

**James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

God gives grace to the humble. We are commanded to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt us in due time. We are commanded to walk humbly with our God, to clothe ourselves in humility. When we are humble, God gives us the grace we need. God gives grace by His Word and by His Spirit. When His Spirit moves in us and upon us this is also grace that influences us. We get grace every church service; we get grace every prayer meeting, because we are gaining strength and spiritual influence.

**1 Cor 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

This reading makes "the grace of God" everything, and Paul nothing, in his 'labors' after conversion. [Yet not I, but the grace of God.] It was not through my own power or wisdom that I performed these things, but through the divine influence which accompanied me. By ascribing all that was valuable in him to divine grace: But by the grace of God I am what I am, v. 10. It is God's prerogative to say, I am that I am; it is our privilege to be able to say, "By God's grace we are what we are." We are nothing but what God makes us, nothing in religion but what his grace makes us.

**Acts 4:31-33**, And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. 32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

After the man was healed at the gate called beautiful, they laid hands on the apostles and brought them before the rulers, elders, and scribes. They threatened them and commanded them not to teach in the name of Jesus anymore and let them go. After this persecution, they went back to the disciples and reported all that was said to them. When the disciples heard this, they began to praise the Lord and then they had a powerful prayer meeting. The Bible said the place was shaken and the Holy Ghost was poured out upon them. It brought a great unity among themselves as they had all things common. Great power was given to the apostles and the Bible said great grace was upon them all.

Through the persecution they went through, it brought them together to pray; that prayer meeting brought them into a stronger unity, and then great grace was upon them all. Look at what God is doing here. You are going through a time of a trial of your faith; the enemy trying to persecute you, but it has brought you together to a time of prayer and fasting. The power of God has fallen, and it has brought you together as a church. This is how the grace of God comes. God is pouring out great grace upon you to empower you, empower you to have revival, empower you to have faith, empower you to overcome and be victorious, empower you to grow in the grace of God and be strong and courageous for the Lord and His kingdom.

**Titus 2:11-12**, 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.

The grace of God brings salvation. When salvation is brought, that is revival. When people get salvation, that is revival—you are being empowered by the grace of God to do marvelous things for the Kingdom of God.

**Heb 4:15-16**, For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

God is touched by the feelings of your infirmities. He sees what you are going through, and He feels what you are going through. But in your prayer meetings you are going to the throne of grace. What a beautiful expression. A throne is the seat of a sovereign king; a throne of grace is designed to represent a sovereign king seated to dispense grace to those in need. As you go to the throne of grace, God is empowering you with the grace you need to be a powerful church.

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