



RECEIVING MERCY AND FINDING GRACE

—LIVING BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE—

THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 LSB)

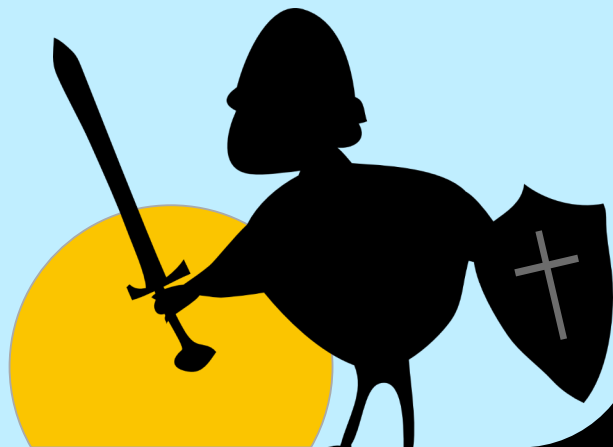


AND HE HAS SAID TO ME, “MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS.”

(2 CORINTHIANS 12:9A LSB)

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

(PHILIPPIANS 4:13 LSB)



WE HAVE ULTIMATE VICTORY IN JESUS ... HERE'S HOW
WE WIN OUR DAILY BATTLES

REVIEW: The living, active, sharp word of God has pierced us to our innermost being and has exposed the wretched man or woman inside.

- (Hebrews 4:12–13 LSB) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account to give.

Having been laid bare in the eyes of God we come to a place of decision. We either believe the good news of God (the gospel) as to our pitiful, naked position and enter his rest ... or we refuse to believe God, further harden our hearts toward God and remain in unbelief.

I. UNBELIEVERS: These people refuse to believe who God says they are—wretched in the sight of God as revealed by the word of God.

- A. The people in this group reject God's version as to who they are—that they are not good.
- (Mark 10:18 LSB) And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”
 - (Genesis 6:5 LSB) Then Yahweh saw that the evil of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- B. Because they reject God's version they never come to realize that they are wretched and naked.
- (Revelation 3:17 LSB) Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and pitiable and poor and blind and naked.

II. BELIEVERS: These people believe God as to their wretched condition and hear God and believe his good news and enter his rest.

The war over sin and death has been won, but we still need the continuing ministry of the sharp, piercing word of God to live before the throne of grace to win the daily battles of life.

TRANSITION: The next three verses (Hebrews 4:14-16) provide a powerful transition for the path of victory for the wretched man (or woman) in group two who has believed and has entered the rest of God.

I. It is essential that we continue to submit to the piercing, uncovering ministry of the word of God throughout our time on earth.

- A. The Holy Spirit will use the word of God to pierce and cut through the lies we believe about ourselves to uncover and lay bare who we are in the eyes of God.
- B. Believing God, or not believing God, is not like flipping a switch.
- C. Believing what God says about our sinful state is crucial to believing in Christ for salvation and living in the victory Christ has won for us.
- D. The person who believes in Christ but does not fully accept what Scripture reveals about his sin and lostness will never have full assurance of salvation.

II. Continuing to submit to the piercing, uncovering ministry of the word is essential for winning our daily battles over sin.

- A. For success in our daily battles with sin we need the ministry of the word to keep our wretchedness front and center.
- B. Our victory in Christ is the basis for victory in our daily battles with sin.
- (1 Corinthians 15:57 LSB) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!
- C. We need to understand the blessing—how the word of God and the work of our great high priest, Jesus Son of God, bring us to the throne of grace.

THE BLESSED LIFE OF THE ONE ...

- 1) who humbles himself before God and his word,
 - 2) who joyfully anticipates the powerful work of the word of God yielding a harvest of righteousness
 - 3) and who (*even in the midst of the sorrowful training process*) fully rests in the work of our great high priest, Jesus Son of God, in the presence of God.
- (Hebrews 12:11 LSB) And all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful, but to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

III. Since we have a great high priest who entered the very presence of God on our behalf, we boldly and assuredly take hold of our confession, 4:14.

- (Hebrews 4:14 LSB) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us take hold of our confession.
- A. Our great high priest passed through the heavens.
- B. This means he passed beyond all creation to the highest of high places into the presence of God.
- C. Our great high priest is the sacrifice upon which our holy, righteous standing before God is based.
- (Hebrews 10:11–12 LSB) And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.
- D. He represents us before God based on who he is and what he has done which is why we have such confidence to take hold of our confession.
- i. The necessary sacrifice: Jesus the Son of God gave his life for us.
 - ii. Our great high priest: Jesus the Son of God represents us before God.
 - iii. The right hand of God: Jesus the Son of God took his place of sovereign authority .
- E. So take hold of that—Jesus the Son of God is our confession ... “we preach Christ crucified” ...

Confession ... ὁμολογία [homologia] ... profession, confession; i.e. what one professes, confesses. The body of truth that a person professes and/or confesses to be what he believes; the doctrines (teachings, beliefs) that a person holds to be true, such as the gospel.

F. We hold fast to his gospel.

- (1 Corinthians 2:2 LSB) For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
- (1 Corinthians 15:1–2 LSB) Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news, unless you believed for nothing.

- (Hebrews 3:1 LSB) Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus.
 - (Hebrews 3:6 LSB) But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope.
 - (Hebrews 3:14 LSB) For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.
 - (Hebrews 10:23 LSB) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
- G. Holding fast maintains and grows our confidence in our confession—the gospel—we realize that there is neither nothing else nor nothing more needed.

My Faith Has Found A Resting Place

My faith has found a resting place, Not in device or creed, I trust the ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.

I need no other argument, I need no other plea, It is enough that Jesus died, And that He died for me.

Enough for me that Jesus saves, This ends my fear and doubt, A sinful soul I come to Him, He'll never cast me out. *(Lidie Hornsby Edmunds)*

- (1 Timothy 6:12 LSB) Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
- (2 Corinthians 9:13a LSB) Because of the proven character given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ.

IV. Our high priest perfectly and compassionately represents us in the presence of God as one who is well aware of the conflict with sin, 4:15.

- (Hebrews 4:15 LSB) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things like we are, yet without sin.
- (1 John 2:1 LSB) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

V. Therefore believing in the promised, continuing, effective work of God through the Spirit and the word we draw near with confidence to the throne of grace to find the help we need, 4:16.

- (Hebrews 4:16 LSB) **Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

A. There is one throne of God—one place of highest authority from which God sovereignly rules over all creation for all eternity.

- (Ephesians 1:20–21 LSB) Which He worked in Christ, by raising Him from the dead and **seating Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named,** not only in this age but also in the one to come.

B. The throne of God is the throne of grace for those who believe the good news and enter his rest.

C. The same throne is a throne of judgment to the unsaved—those to whom God swears will not enter his rest because of a heart of unbelief.

D. The throne of God is never the throne of judgment for those who believe—who are in Christ Jesus.

- (Romans 8:1 LSB) **Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

E. The throne of grace—the throne of God—is the seat of God’s riches, power and authority.

F. We are to draw near to the throne of grace with the confident expectation that we will receive mercy.

G. It is important to note that as we approach the throne of grace we first receive mercy, then we find grace to help in time of need.

H. The sharp, piercing word of God faithfully humbles us and prepares us to receive mercy.

I. Upon receiving mercy we then find grace to help in our time of need.

J. Here is the grace we find at the throne of grace to help us in our time of need which is always.

- (John 1:16–17 LSB) **For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.** 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- (2 Corinthians 9:8 LSB) **And God is able to make every grace abound to you, so that in everything at every time having every sufficiency,** you may have an abundance for every good deed.
- (Ephesians 2:4–5 LSB) **But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.**
- (1 Peter 5:5b LSB) And all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**
- (2 Timothy 1:9 LSB) **Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.**
- (Romans 11:5–6 ESV) **So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.** 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; **otherwise grace would no longer be grace.**

K. God’s saving work in our lives has zero chance of failure—God will finish what he has begun.

- (Philippians 1:6 LSB) For I am confident of this very thing, **that He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.
- (Philippians 2:13 LSB) **For it is God who is at work in you,** both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:24 LSB) **Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.**