

LIVING *for* CHRIST



JAN - MAR 2018

AMAZING GRACE

“TREMENDOUS
GLORY & GRACE
FOR IMPLEMENTING
PURPOSE”

THE BATTLE OF THE MIND

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Straight From *my Heart*

As the year 2018 commences with all the grandeur that comes with every New Year, you must step back and lay the necessary foundation that will position you in right standing to receive all that God has made available. To be in that unique position where God can pour out the virtues and blessings of Heaven on you require your active and continuous participation.

This year is one in which there will be a clear difference between those who serve God in Spirit and in Truth and those who do not. There will be a difference in the lives of those who will make a conscious decision to spend time in His presence in prayer and fasting, in supplication and intercession.

The successes of 2018 shall be secured in the place of prayer, brokenness and service to God, the saints must therefore fight the good fight of faith, secure victories just like we have seen in the Word and in the lives of men of like passions.

In this edition, we will be touching on various topics that are pertinent to your walk with God. The mandate of the saints remains the advancement of the Kingdom of God and the enforcement of His will on earth just as it is done in Heaven.

This year promises to be a great year wherein the people of God will encounter a Tremendous Glory and Grace for implementing God's purpose in all ramifications of life – however we must remember the command that says, 'seek ye first the kingdom of God'; Your lifting this year is guaranteed as you bring in lost souls into the kingdom of God and establish them in the truth of the word.

REMEMBER, GOD HAS GOT YOU COVERED!

Michael



AMAZING GRACE

In the words of a very good friend of mine, *the concept of grace is so broad that it demands continuous learning*.

For some time now, I have been led by the Holy Spirit through the school of grace, I have since discovered many truths of the concept of grace.

Truths which has great potential for a deeper and intimate level of a divine experience; for it is by grace that we are able to approach God in any manner or form. Paul was one such man who I daresay deeply understood the depths of the grace of God. From the far extreme case of being the number one enemy of the church to becoming a very prominent apostle – an apostle who delivered the gospel to the Gentiles. It was the grace of God that wrought this in the life of Paul.

Paul understood that to make any success in an intimate communion with God demands unending grace, which is why his epistles (from Romans to Hebrews) always ended with a prayer for grace to be bestowed on the recipients of his letters.

The saint that doesn't progressively grow in grace is one that will not attain to the heights that has been made available in the divine nature.

When you pursue hard after grace, various divine successes are delivered to you effortlessly. I have had this experience variously on many occasions; grace is very key for any divine achievement.

Paul in his letter to the Colossians (chapter 1:6) made a very remarkable statement, 'Indeed in the whole world [that Gospel] is bearing fruit and is growing [by its own inherent power], **even as it has done among yourselves ever since the day** you first heard and came to know and understand the grace of God in truth. [You came to know the grace or undeserved favour of God in reality, deeply and clearly and

thoroughly, becoming accurately and intimately acquainted with it.]

The people of Colosse began to encounter the unabated benefits and fruits of the gospel [which grows and spreads by its own inherent power without any help from the saint] immediately they understood the grace of God!!

Grace represents an unmerited past, present and future pardon/favour granted the recipient by God. It represents an expansion of God's faithfulness to us despite our current shortcomings. Grace represents God's love to His children expressed by His staying hand of mercy, compassion, divine exemption and justification. Grace can be likened literally to the extra time given in a game of soccer wherein it is hoped that one of the teams in contention might put in one surprise goal and thus carry the day, only difference being that in the game of soccer we all know the time afore hand, the winner is not known and the players struggle to do something within that limited time frame to succeed whereas in the field of life God's grace not only guarantees the extension of time, but also guarantees victory for the born again Christian and in addition provides help to the saint (this help includes the opponent scoring an own goal).

Grace enables the born again Christian to tap from the limitless treasures of Heaven, not as a result of any entitlement but as a result the limitless love of Christ as exhibited on Calvary

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RETURN UNTO ME



Where has everyone gone to? The rooms are all empty; the usual noise of the house is absent...now I know. Today is Sunday; they must all have gone to church.

still small voice: Have you not recognised the emptiness in your life? Have you not recognised the futility of your ways?

What is this feeling I have? Am I hearing voices or is it just me?

still small voice: Are you sure your family are in church? What if they don't return? What if they don't return forever? What if I pick them up from there in rapture?

My ears must be playing a fast one on me, let me go visiting, I'll have a drink with friends, have a nice time, no one will ever know.

still small voice: what if as you step out of this house, you step into eternity? Are you prepared for the reality of judgement without the option of pardon? Are you prepared for the eternal suffering that awaits the unsaved soul who perishes without accepting Christ as saviour? With every tick of the clock, eternity draws nearer when my mercy will be withdrawn, when my judgement will be decisive and my sentence irreversible.

Hearken and repent while you still have time and ask of me that I might grant you mercy and pardon and life eternal.

Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men... (2 COR 5:11). 12

“

Beloved, it is Gods will for you to be saved and come to know the living

God. If you haven't made that decision, I invite you to do so today...say this prayer with me,

“LORD I BELIEVE YOU DIED AND ROSE TO SAVE ME FROM THE CLUTCHES OF SIN AND DESTRUCTION, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE MY SAVIOUR AND I ASK YOU INTO MY LIFE THIS MOMENT TO TAKE CONTROL AND MAKE ME YOURS; HELP ME TO LIVE FOR YOU IN ALL THAT I DO FROM NOW, IN JESUS NAME I PRAY.


”

I pulled into the parking lot of my favourite work lunchtime restaurant, Jessie's, and parked my car, and did not get out. This was my second day this week at Jessie's and I could hear in my head the scolding of a co-worker, "we have to break your addiction to Jessie's!" To which I silently replied, "It is not an addiction. It is the one place I feel like I can escape an unbelieving world and find peace in the middle of a crazy day." Today was one of those days, where nothing particularly crazy happened, but the weight of being the only believer in a place of many unbelievers started to weigh me down. Searching and grasping for some type of relief, I went to Jessie's to sit in peace and decided to tap my bible app in hopes of hearing an encouraging word from God. I tapped the Bible app, and lo and behold it read: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his might power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ephesians 6:11-13. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil

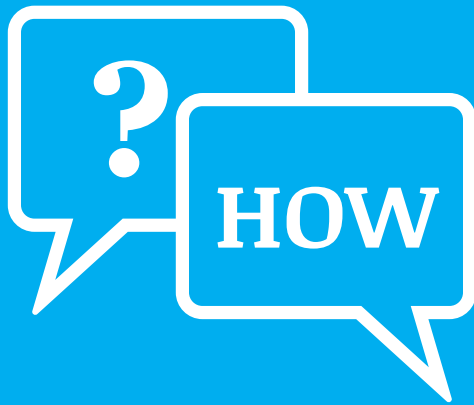
in the heavenly realms. I struggle many times to remember this truth because I often allow persecution to only look one way and persecution comes in many different ways.

Having grown up in Western society, persecution is often painted in a different light, mental as opposed to physical. The rapid spread of technology has furthered helped people across the global witness the effects of physical persecution and cause people to inadvertently take on the view that mental persecution look like a farce. Persecution, nonetheless, comes in different forms and to ignore the other ways that it manifests itself is to leave yourself open to unsuspecting attack. The reality is that while the body is important, the mind likewise, is a powerful thing. Consider POWs. When POWs are tortured, they are not just physically tortured. They are mentally tortured and there is a reason for that. The mental faculties control much of the physical. Think about how many illnesses are aggravated by stress. Think about all the sayings that point

to mind over matter. Think about the directive from Christ that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2) or the directive that we are to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). The mind is a very powerful tool that if left open to attack can lead to major demise. One of the greatest schemes of the enemy is to make us believe that there is no such thing as mental persecution. This is why the word almost gently reminds us that the abnormalities in your day or the constant battle you feel like you are fighting is not "random." In fact, the word specifically informs us that we should not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is happening to us. The struggle that we face daily and sometimes mentally is a struggle that is ongoing in the spiritual realm. It is a struggle that we can only claim victory over by arming ourselves appropriately to battle. This means arming ourselves with the full armor of God; the helmet of salvation, the breast plate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the sword of the Spirit, and the shoes of the peace of the gospel. This also means praying in the Spirit on all occasions (Ephesians 6:18). Finally, this means committing to arm ourselves daily in such a way, physically, mentally, and spiritually that will allow us to simply stand our ground when the day of evil comes. 

ARTICLE BY U.U.
(CONTRIBUTOR FROM AZ, USA)

THE BATTLE OF THE MIND



FIRST AND FOREMOST,
YOU NEED TO BE
LIVING RIGHT WITH
GOD AND BE IN RIGHT
STANDING WITH
HIM. **THIS IS THE
FOUNDATION FOR
THE GRACE ENABLED
DIVINE LIFE**

Grace comes as a gift from God through Jesus Christ (Romans 1: 1-5)

Also, 'therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to the grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God' (Romans 5:1-2)

The Word is full of grace and is the medium to obtain and sustain grace. 'And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14)

The more you dwell in the word of God and commune with Jesus, the more grace increases in you! Just like scripture says, 'But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord' (2Cor 3:18). Likewise as we gaze and meditate and abide in the word of God, we increase in the grace of God.

Grace reigns through righteousness 'Law came in, to increase the trespass;

but as where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Righteousness implies being in right standing with God. Therefore grace abounds in the abundance of righteousness.

Humility is a pre-requisite for grace'...clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (1Peter 5:5)

I dare say that this is one of the most important ingredients for sustenance of the grace of God in the life of the saints. For the benefits that the grace of God delivers could very easily be used by the enemy to engender seeds of pride in the life of the believer who hasn't fully crucified the flesh.

That is why the heart that pursues hard after great grace must also pursue hard after humility. I make it a point in my life to fast and pray for the grace to remain humble in the midst of the abundance of the benefits of grace and from experiential knowledge, God will not hesitate to provide the enablement for this to happen.

Grace requires hard work – active participation on the part of the believer and this is provided by grace.

Another paradox of grace is that grace requires hard work on the

part of the believer and at the same time grace provides the believer with the ability for this hard work. In other words, the believer just needs to be fully yielded as a willing vessel.

'But by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me' (1 Cor. 15:10)

In other words, grace does not remove responsibility from the recipient. The presence of grace implies the need for a greater responsibility on the part of the believer to maintain that level of grace and its benefits.



Scriptures also expands on this in Hebrews 4:16 – 'Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

To appropriate grace, we must therefore continuously "draw near" – the nearer you are to the throne of grace the more instant you able to draw from that fountain of grace.



Truth

about GRACE!

■ The paradox of grace is that you may appear strong and powerful on the outside but conflicted on the inside, removing the thorn in the lives of others while having a thorn in yours and trusting the God who enabled you to remove the thorn from others. Paul finished his course with the God who wouldn't remove the thorn because of His grace.

■ You can grow in grace: your level of the divine life is directly proportional to the level of grace that you operate in

■ Grace is a gift and God is the giver of the gift of grace. 'For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is a gift of God not because of works, lest any man should boast' (Ephesians 2:8-9), 'But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God' (Rom 15:15)

■ The presence of grace does not imply the absence of pain, it just means that despite the pains you are able to come through

■ Grace enables you to not look like what you've been through

■ Grace gives you the ability to function despite your feelings

■ Grace is able to take you outside the zone of how you feel – for in order to be a faith practitioner you will have to step outside of the 'feelings zone' and do what God has called you to do

■ BENEFITS

The benefits of grace are limitless; the human mind can barely begin to comprehend what it involves. On numerous occasions I have been overwhelmed by 'this grace of God', the grace of God delivers unimaginable benefits with supernatural effortlessness.

■ Grace is the enabler for justification 'Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus' (Romans 3:24). 'That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life' (Titus 3:7)

The word Justification means 'just as though it had never happened' – in other words grace delivers to us a clean slate at redemption.

GRACE NOT ONLY JUSTIFIES, BUT ALSO QUALIFIES US AS AUTHENTIC HEIRS TO THE THRONE OF GOD; THAT THRONE INCLUDES THE THRONE OF GRACE. SO GRACE SETS US UP FOR MORE GRACE!

■ Grace ensures that we reign in life. 'For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:17) Reigning in life implies possessing and exercising sovereign power over life's issues – it implies the existence of a quality in a person to such a degree that it affects everything about that person. Grace puts you in command of life via the dominion rights from God.

■ Grace provides sufficiency and empowers in times of weakness. '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' (2Cor 12:9). This same grace by the working of the Holy Spirit drives us to the presence of God where we obtain strength; for the enemy can't be defeated when you can't resist, you can't resist when you are weak, when you are weak you can't release strength, you can't release strength when you have no joy (the joy of the Lord is our strength), you can't have joy without His presence (in His presence there is fullness of joy) and it is grace that qualifies us to approach and dwell in His presence

■ Eternal comfort and good hope comes through grace. 'Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and hope through grace' (2Thes 2:16) This is priceless!! GRACE IS THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH VIRTUALLY EVERY VIRTUE OF HEAVEN IS DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS; therefore an understanding and comprehension of the grace of God is a very critical task that must be


undertaken with all seriousness of purpose.

■ Grace is a mechanism for training. 'For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world' (Titus 2:11) Recall that we have seen that Grace reigns in righteousness. And in the scripture above, we have seen that grace is a mechanism that trains us in righteousness.

The Saint's walk with God is a walk of grace – grace for more grace.

The grace of God appeared for our salvation and goes ahead to train us in righteousness.

Let me summarize by quoting from the words of Peter the Apostle: 'But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen' (2Peter 3:18).

The saints must therefore activate all the scriptural methods to obtain and grow in grace; I daresay again that the saint who will grow in grace will also directly grow in all the attributes of God that He has made available for mankind. 

BELOVED, IF YOU MUST BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ANY PURSUIT, IT MUST BE THE PURSUIT OF GRACE FOR MORE GRACE.
MAY THIS GRACE OF GOD GRANT YOU THE ABILITY TO LIVE NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL!!

WISDOM NUGGETS FOR OUTPOURING

1. Is 2017 really gone? Have you let go of any hurt or disappointment that perhaps came with 2017? Without letting go of the past you replicate the past in the future. List out below those items and issues that you need to leave in 2017.

Now take these items to God in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you disconnect from them, remembering what the Apostle Paul said, 'forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the heavenly prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:13,14)

2. Is 2018 really here? Have you taken all your '2018 plans to God in prayer?' or will you rather just go with the flow of whatever happens within the year? You need to be deliberate and intentional with your visions and purpose for living. List out those key things you want to see happen in your life in 2018 – Spiritual growth? A new business?

Now meditate on these items you have listed out, think them through in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Directions come when you are deliberate with your thoughts. Acknowledge God by taking these plans to God in prayers remembering that, 'in all your ways acknowledge and recognize Him and, and He will make your paths straight and smooth (removing obstacles that block your way). (Proverbs 3:6AMP)

3. 'But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you also (Matthew 6:33AMP). Connecting your visions to the kingdom of God secures the provision of 'all other things'. List out ways that you will be advancing the Kingdom of God through your daily

Now don't stop at making this list, put some action into this, remembering that faith without works is dead.

NIGERIA – LET THE RIGHTEOUS ARISE!

**EVIL
THRIVES
WHEN THE
RIGHTEOUS
DO
NOTHING.**

The times that we live in as a nation are trying times for the unsaved and the unknowledgeable believer; this situation places a burden of intercession on the shoulders of the righteous like never before.

The saints in Nigeria must arise and prayerfully decree God's counsel on our nation.

RIGHTEOUS POINTS OF ACTION

- Decree that the righteousness of God shall rule over our nation
- Decree that the cunning plan of the enemy against our nation will be fully exposed and frustrated at every turn of the way
- Pray for a re-awakening of the church
- Pray for an outbreak of a mighty repentance and revival in the land
- Make a commitment to winning one soul a week and nurture same to maturity



FROM THE PUBLISHER

A while back, a young friend of mine saw her elder siblings file out with their cans to get some water and suddenly she started to cry, when asked what the matter was, she said she wanted to help though she was told that she was still too young, she insisted and from where I stood I wondered what help she would really offer, but then I saw her running after her siblings with her little water bottle.

Though the water that could be contained in the water bottle might be negligible but it wasn't inconsequential. My young friend contributed her own quota to the whole process; this is the way it is with the work of the Gospel. Nothing done is little! One soul won today, another tomorrow will help us win whole nations over. A good deed done, a kindness shown, a fruit of the Spirit manifested will help satisfy the expectations of a groaning creation which have been longing to see us manifest as sons of God. When Nehemiah was rebuilding the ruins of Jerusalem, there were those who engaged in the actual rebuilding of the walls, but then there were also those who were in the camp, whose duty was to ensure that the workers found some water to bathe upon their return from work.

We need to be actively involved in the work of the Kingdom, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, in the bus, everywhere, let us be like my little friend who was eager to contribute her own quota!!

Within this year LivingForChrist will be launching her brand new website. You will be able to view past editions of the magazine in the archives and also the most current edition; in addition there will be a 'LivingForChrist' Moments section where we'll be sharing those precious moments when the people of God have been challenged to Live for Christ, lots of other exciting resources will be available online. We will be launching this new website on the altar of prayer for "Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account" 🙏



– *E.M Bounds*

WE ARE EXCITED AT THE LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT THIS NEW WEBSITE WILL PRESENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

