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Grace Greater Than All Our Sin

#1243-A

Series: The Character of God



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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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Grace Greater than All Our Sin

The songwriter so beautifully penned:

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt*

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace
Freely bestowed on all who believe
You that are longing to see His Face
Will you this moment His grace receive?*

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

How many times we have sung those words. “*Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that is greater than all our sin.*” To a degree, we believe that where our conversion was concerned, *God's grace was sufficient*. We believe that once and for all at Calvary, His mercy forgave us, and His grace enabled us to be *born again*. But somehow, once we have been born into the Kingdom by His blood, we often fail to believe that the same quality of grace that saved us is able to deliver us from bondage to the same enemy who once held us captive for eternity. We acknowledge that “greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world”; but, at least experientially, we live as though He has either fallen asleep, or we have rendered Him helpless by our own failures or unworthiness.

So we walk this earth in constant defeat, all the while proclaiming a God of constant victory. No wonder the world is confused. “Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace...grace that is

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greater than all our sin.” That is the enabling power that now flows through your spiritual veins and gives you the authority to stand victoriously *no matter what Satan sends your way*. Our God is a God *who wins battles, not loses them*; and we are His children. What a pity that we who claim the King’s inheritance so seldom claim the King’s authority, and thus so seldom claim the King’s victory. Now we want to look at another aspect of God’s amazing grace...His grace that is greater than all our sin.

The grace of God! What an awesome expression of who He is. It is the very life of God reduced in some way beyond our understanding into a human package, yet without compromising its divine characteristics. It is His enabling power infused into the lives of those who *in and of themselves are not able*. It was His grace that lifted us up out of the depths of hell itself and placed us on the Rock and put a new song in our hearts. It was His grace that traded our sinfulness for His righteousness and gave us His very own Spirit as the down payment of our inheritance. It was His grace that guaranteed us an eternal home where every trace of sin and death and pain and sorrow will be gone forever. It was all *His grace*. But, Beloved, in addition to that, it is His grace, and His grace alone, that empowers us and enables us to stand against the wiles of the devil; *“and having done all...to stand.”*

That is where we so often fail to appropriate the power that is ours. It’s not hard for us to talk about redeeming grace, and it’s not so hard for us to lay claim to eternal grace. What seems to be more difficult is for us to rightfully lay hold of God’s indwelling grace, that supernatural, free, undeserved, sovereign expression of His power that sustains us when we are tempted, convicts us when we are sinning, and delivers us when we choose to be delivered from the clutches of the evil one. And yet no expression of God’s nature is as visibly evident as His indwelling grace. It is literally the power of God defeating Satan before our very eyes, and that grace is always there for the taking.

Is there a reason we do not take it? Is there a reason we often live in the depths of defeat while we pretend to be worshipping a God of all-power? Let’s take a look at several:

GOD’S CLEANSING GRACE

We do not rightfully appropriate or appreciate God’s cleansing grace. By His cleansing grace we mean that incredible, divine expression of power that, when we confess our sin, not only forgives

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us our sin (mercy), but cleanses us of all unrighteousness. It is, once again, that dual aspect of His love that flows from the heart of God the moment we humble ourselves and make ourselves vulnerable to that love. In one instant of divine power, His mercy overwhelms us with forgiveness, and His grace empowers us to be forgiven. At that instant, in the courts of heaven, something wonderful happens. The Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth, takes a giant eraser and removes from His omniscient storehouse the very remembrance of that sin. He remembers it against us no more. As far as the east is from the west, that far He removes it from Him. It's gone. So His mercy has caused Him to forgive us. Then step two simultaneously takes place. His grace allows us to be forgiven. Internally, we are given, in Christ, the capacity to accept the forgiveness of God and not store up the guilt and the grief and the fear that accompanies being separated from God.

He forgave us. He enabled us to be forgiven, all in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. He has done it all. All we need to do, then, is accept what He has done and live in the sheer beauty of His Holiness as forgiven, cleansed, renewed children of a Righteous God.

That means that at the moment of conversion, God looks down and sees us as though we had not sinned. If, however, the believer cannot accept the forgiveness of God internally because he feels unworthy, or unable to repay God for His mercy, or unable to understand how a Holy God could instantly forgive such grievous offenses, he is, in that moment, sinning against the grace of God. It is true that he is unworthy. That's what grace is. It is true that he cannot pay God back. That's what grace is. It is true that it is beyond comprehension that a holy God could look with favor upon sinful men who have wallowed in the very depths of degradation. But grace is supernatural, so it must be beyond our comprehension or it is not of grace.

So once God has cleansed us from sin and delivered us from the clutches of hell, to fail to believe that we are forgiven is to deny God the privilege of demonstrating His amazing grace. We have that right, but as we do, we lose the freedom that would be ours were we to allow God's grace full reign. Some of the most spiritually impotent saints are those who cannot or will not accept the grace God has given them to experience His mercy. His mercy, you see, has been extended. They have *been forgiven*. But it is

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His grace that allows us to receive that mercy and appropriate it as cleansed ones. Once God has forgiven us, Satan cannot do anything to thwart His divine mercy. It has been granted as a full, complete act of a sovereign God. The grace, however, to receive that mercy experientially becomes Satan's next target. If you have been cleansed by God, but refuse to live in the freedom of it, you are now a free man who has chosen to remain in bondage. Like a prisoner who has prayed for his freedom, been granted mercy, and offered a pardon; if he refuses to walk outside those prison walls and live in the freedom that's now his, he loses the very benefits of his pardon. He is no less free. He is simply *bound by choice*.

That may be where you are today. You may still be chafing under the guilt of sins long since forgiven and forgotten by God. His mercy overwhelmed you and cleansed you, and His grace became available to you so that, in his energy, you could be enabled to accept that mercy and live in the joy of it. God will not force you to do that. It's a choice. If you prefer to live in the prisonhouse of false guilt, He'll let you. But it breaks His heart. Can't you imagine seeing someone you love imprisoned for a crime, knowing you have paid the bail to set him free, and he refused to come out because he felt unworthy? What a waste. Beloved, when Jesus died for you, He died to free you not only from the penalty of sins unforgiven, but from the pressures of sins forgiven. Take a moment right now and thank God that what He has forgiven, He has forgotten. Ask His forgiveness for crucifying Christ afresh by hanging on to the guilt He died for at Calvary.

It even goes beyond that. God's cleansing grace reaches into the realm of the believer's sins which are committed minute by minute and day by day after salvation. That is what I John 1 and 2 are all about. It reads like this:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (I John 1:8-10 NKJV)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

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And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

(I John 2:1,2 NKJV)

The two-sided coin of the grace of God. If you say that you have no sin, you deceive yourself into denying a need for the grace of God. The grace of God is undeserved. If you have no sin, you deserve it; therefore, you can't receive it. But the other side of the coin is when you know you have sinned, but you are unwilling to confess that sin, you frustrate the grace of God by not receiving God's free gift.

If God's supernatural, undeserved, sovereign grace is to flow through you, you must be willing to maintain a right relationship with God by confessing your sins the moment you become aware of them, and as you do, accepting God's free grace...the power to acknowledge that He has forgiven them. Christian groups have done a reasonably good job of imparting the need to spend time alone daily, usually in the morning, with God. Some call it a "quiet time". (Those are the folks without small children). Some call it "time in the Word". That's a misnomer, unless all you do is study. Some call it their "devotional time". It is a vital part of maintaining your relationship with God, and if you don't do it, you're missing one of the great opportunities to introduce enough discipline in your life to free God to work.

But remember, your time with God in the morning is not your meeting with God for the day. It is the beginning of an all day relationship. So often, we pray, ask God for grace, ask forgiveness of sins, make our needs known, and press on into the cruel world that awaits us, with a "So long, God, that was neat, see you again tomorrow" mentality. Your "quiet time" (or whatever you call it) is simply God calling the meeting to order. The meeting never ends. And while it is vital to begin the day with God and realize that "His compassions fail not, they are new every morning," it is just as vital to realize that as you venture out into the world, you will sin countless times against a holy God, either by commission or omission, and the very moment you do, your fellowship is bruised. Don't wait for the next day's meeting to be called to order. Stop whatever you are doing, and ask God to forgive you. No one need know but you. In fact, no one should know but you. But the secret to power in the Christian life is the constant renewal of grace that comes when you confess your sins, and a God who is faithful and just to forgive those sins cleanses you

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of all unrighteousness. However, when we sin, and it is a whole day until we meet with God again, we tend to ignore it or enjoy it until the moment of reckoning comes. If we're really enjoying it, we may just happen to skip our time alone with God for a day or so until we're ready to confess.

That is quenching the grace of God. God has arranged free, unmerited cleansing for us at a moment's notice, and we deliberately choose to postpone appropriating that grace, either by specific choice or by willful apostasy. In either case, God is offended and we lose power. Begin practicing the process of immediate confession. If you offend someone, stop what you're doing and deal with it. If you offend God, stop what you're doing and deal with it. Grace greater than all your sin is yours for the taking; but unless you receive it, it's all for nought.

GOD'S DEFENDING GRACE

We must not ignore God's forgiving grace, but there is a second aspect of this miracle that is equally vital and, unfortunately, equally ignored. It is the miracle of God's defending grace. That is the grace given to man to resist the devil in a time of temptation. I Corinthians 10:13 is a familiar passage...so familiar, in fact, that we may overlook using it entirely. It says this:

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make [provide] the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
(I Corinthians 10:13 NKJV)

A way of escape? What could that be? God calls it "grace". It is free, unmerited, sovereign, supernatural divine enablement to recognize the temptation, call upon God for enabling grace, and then rest in His power...not trying to resist Satan ourselves, but rather, by faith, standing in the power of God, knowing that because of the grace of God, Satan has no chance.

Here's how it works. The enemy knows your places of weakness. Yours may be different from mine, but nonetheless, there is no temptation common only to you. God has clearly written in this passage that you are not the only one with that particular bent to sinning. Scripture is also clear about the fact that you are not faithful. If it were up to you and me, like the children of Israel, we would fall prey to the same temptations again and again. And yet Paul just told us that we don't have to

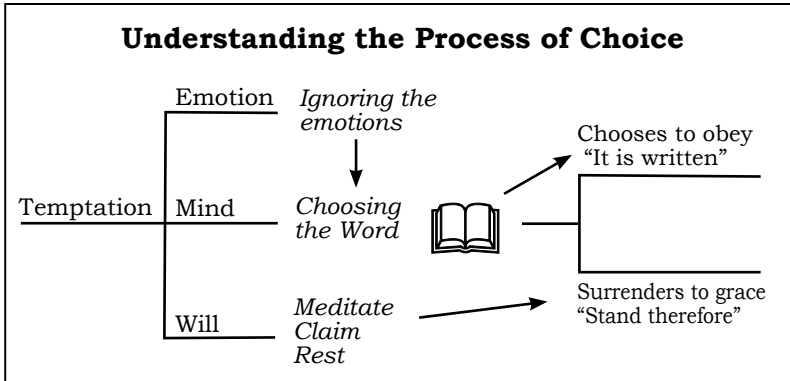
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be. No temptations are exclusive to you, but he has added that God is faithful. Therefore, He has arranged for you a way out...an escape hatch from the clutches of Satan, on every single occasion that you are tempted; and if you choose to take it, you can always be victorious.

God simply “will not allow you to be tempted above that ye are able”. That’s a promise. The way He does that is to guarantee us that He will, with every temptation, provide a way of escape. Now you and I both know that, experientially, if such a way of escape exists, most of us haven’t found it or consistently learned to use it. And so we find our lives again and again crushed by the same moral failures and paralyzed by the same unholy desires. Again and again, we hear people refer to certain sins as “just the way man is”, or we hear them say “we won’t be rid of that one till we get to glory!”

If that’s true, God is a liar. Because He has just said in this passage that every temptation has a way of escape...that God is faithful every time you are tempted to go astray. If God is true, and His Word is true, then “besetting sins” are always by choice. It is not a hereditary problem or simply the curse of mankind. Some problems may be accentuated by hereditary factors, and certainly some are more serious because of influences that ingrained in us patterns to sin. But God has just told us that even those factors are not enough to make us sin. That means that homosexuality, for instance, if it is a sin, (and Jesus clearly said it was) is a choice. Now some, through emotional and physical factors may be more prone to be tempted by that sin, but God has provided, even for them, a way of escape that they may be able to bear it. Now if God is who He says He is, then to blame that sin on “society” is unscriptural. Others may seem to be pathological liars. Indeed, for them it may be as difficult to tell the truth as it is for a homosexual to deny his unholy desires. But God does not lie. Therefore, no matter the problem, there is grace greater than all our sin, and it is available to every believer. You might ask, “What about the person with that great propensity to a particular sin?” Well, God has told us that His strength is made perfect in weakness, so if he has a pattern of sin and it dominates his life, God stands to be greatly glorified when His Spirit in him overcomes it.

So much for the theology. How does it work? This diagram explains just a little about it:



Understanding the process of choice may be the key to unlocking the treasure house of grace that is ours for the taking. Each time a temptation comes into our lives, it is a singular issue. Now, granted, if we have consistently yielded to that temptation before, we have programmed the computer of our minds to bypass the choice mechanism and go straight to the “yield” mode, but that is not God’s way. There is no temptation (singular) but such as is common to man, and every time you are tempted, according to James, “you are drawn away of your own lust and enticed.” So each sin stands on its own. We explain away our yielding to a chocolate delight at the cafeteria as a “propensity” to sweets, but what it was, was a singular choice to sin.

Even if you eat four hundred chocolate desserts a month, and some of you would like to, that last one was as much a deliberate choice as the first one. Sure it was easier to succumb, but the way of escape was still there...or else God has not told you the truth. He is the Truth, so the choice had to be yours.

Here’s what happened. Your eyes saw the creamy texture, the rich chocolate color, and the delectable whipped topping, and sent a signal to the brain which said “I want that”. Your mind sent a signal to the will and said, “Hey, Will, fetch me that pie!” The will ordered the right hand to extend itself just under the glass cover over the dessert section, and it began to s-l-o-w-l-y pull that sin-laden “no-no” in your direction. At that point, Will could have recalled the Scripture that says, “He that controls his own spirit is better than the mighty”, or if he made a covenant with God not to eat that which is sweet, he might have recalled, “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it”. Or he

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might have been reminded of a passage that said, “The fruit of the spirit is self-control.” Suppose it did. Uh-oh. Warfare.

Will is now caught in a battle between what the body wants to do, and what the Spirit is telling the mind to do. And if he has broken that vow numerous times or made a habit out of Hershey’s, chances are that he isn’t strong enough to resist the temptation. So he gives in, and justifies it based on the fact that “the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak.” But wait a minute. He didn’t have to lose that battle. Had he taken that passage of Scripture before God and asked for the grace to obey it, his hand would have supernaturally pulled itself back empty-handed; or maybe it would have moved three inches to the left, where the whipped Jello posed no threat to his current objectives of losing 300 pounds by next month.

That temptation was common to man, otherwise the cafeterias wouldn’t be half filled with desserts, and the last five people in line ahead of you wouldn’t have grabbed caloric masterpieces as though they hadn’t eaten since Christmas. But God is faithful. He can’t let you be tempted without providing a way of escape. He won’t let you be tempted beyond what you are able. That means that even though chocolate is a greater temptation to you than it is to your mate, for instance, God simply orders up more grace for you when chocolate is on the horizon. He knows your level of need where every temptation is concerned and has preset the computer to dispense grace at that level automatically. So to say “I just couldn’t resist, I’ve sinned too long” is an affront to the grace of God.

As the chart shows, the first move is made by the mind in response to the Spirit. It “feels” like eating chocolate, and if the Word had not moved into your mind with a Scripture with which to confront the emotions, you would have been halfway to chocolate heaven before you knew it. That’s why memorizing Scripture is so important. It’s why Jesus turned to Satan three times and answered, “It is written”. He took the Word and used it as His sword against the onslaught of the enemy. So unless you go into the battle with your armor on, you are asking to lose. That’s why I believe it is important, not only to memorize, but to memorize verses that specifically deal with areas in your life that are prone to become battlefields. And if possible, learn them in “threads” or in series, so that one verse recalls another until the enemy flees.

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Some of you may have tried that and still lost the battle. You've quoted the Word even as you have sinned. What happened? You made the right choice, but you didn't exercise the right power. You cannot do it yourself. The Word will arrest Satan, but only God's grace can enable you to resist him. God is faithful, you're not. So only His grace can give you the ability to withstand the evil one. And usually Satan will see to it that we overlook one or the other of the two key ingredients. Either we "pray for strength" and ignore the authority of the Word that acts as the sword of the Spirit, or we quote the Word without invoking God's grace. We try to fight the devil with God's sword and our power. It won't work.

If you are trying to see strongholds broken down that have held you captive for a long time, it is especially important that as you yield to the Word, you surrender to God's marvelous grace and quietly say to God, "I choose to obey, but I can't... I hereby come boldly to the throne of grace and ask for the enabling power to overcome the devil." You don't need to rebuke the devil. That's not your job. Ask God to. Otherwise, after a few times, you'll forget that the power comes from God alone.

So the cleansing grace of God allows us to accept forgiveness, and the delivering grace of God frees us to resist temptation, but there is one other aspect of God's grace concerning our sins that must be addressed before we are through. Paul devoted a lot of Romans 5 and 6 to making sure we understood. It is God's intended grace.

God's intended grace simply means that God, in His sovereign plan, never intended grace to be taken lightly. Therefore, whenever the believer does so, God does not intend to pour out His grace. We can say all the right prayers and do all the right things, but if we take His grace for granted, we lose it. If we assume it to be deserved or presume upon it because of God's past expressions of grace, He does not intend to empower or enable us any longer until we return to our knees in humility and realize that when grace becomes "expected", it ceases to be grace.

Paul wrote about it this way:

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we

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shall be saved from wrath through Him.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:6,8-10,21 NKJV)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1,2 NKJV)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! (Romans 6:12-15 NKJV)

Paul is arguing about God's intended grace. He said it was grace that saved us. "When we were without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly...while we were yet sinners...". There you have the four-fold diamond of grace. It is free, unmerited, supernatural, and sovereign. Then He introduces the subject of the grace-life. He says, "If when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." The same grace that redeemed us by the death of Christ, now delivers us daily by the life of Christ. So just as sin reigned prior to our salvation, now grace should reign in life by Christ.

Paul then addresses the key issue. If, then, the death of Christ has freed us from the penalty of sin, and the life of Christ has freed us from the power of sin, why don't we just relax and sin and enjoy it? After all, the law is no longer our schoolmaster, punishing us each time there is a tiny infraction against God's statutes. Where the law once reigned, now grace rules. So if there is always forgiveness with God and always grace to enable us, why not simply sin and then confess it? After all, we'd have the

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best of both worlds...the fun of sinning without the consequences. You might call it a satanic attempt to thwart the grace-life by over compensating for the Truth.

Paul answers in two words. "God forbid". That means in no uncertain terms, God cannot tolerate that...(and won't). So the grace of God, that free, unmerited, sovereign, supernatural enabling power imputed to the believer so that Christ alive in the Christian can live the Christian life, cannot be presumed upon...not ever. And if you even subconsciously assume that because God's grace has enabled you in the past to overcome or gain victory that He is obligated to do so again, you trample underfoot the awesome grace of God. You are taking sin lightly because of grace, and to take sin lightly implies that God owes you forgiveness and mercy and grace, and thus makes God's free gift like a coupon you clip from the paper, rather than a precious, priceless expression of love from a Holy God to a sinful saint. God will have none of it. But somehow, we cannot grasp that fact.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
(Romans 6:1,2 NKJV)

Paul is arguing, if you're dead and Christ is alive in you and Christ cannot tolerate sin, then how can you take His body which He now inhabits and pretend that sin does not alienate Him? And if you use the excuse that grace will overflow wherever sin contaminates, then you are saying, "I'll go contract an incurable disease because I have a closet full of medicine." You wouldn't do that. You wouldn't intentionally allow yourself to be exposed to that which you know destroys you, just to prove the medicine works.

Paul said, "Don't let sin have any foothold in your body, causing you to be controlled by its desires. Instead, every time you are tempted to yield your bodies to do that which Satan calls you, yield yourself to God instead." Ask God for His amazing grace. As you do, God will give you the power you need to overcome, provided that you are not presumptuously demanding it or ungratefully expecting it.

Don't take God's intended grace lightly. Not ever. If God chooses to empower you, it is because you have humbled yourself, and knowing you do not deserve God's grace, you have meekly

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asked God to do in you what you cannot. That's how His death saved you. That's how His life sustains you. Dare God to do it, or demand that he do it, and it ceases to be undeserved, sovereign, supernatural, or free. And in that case, it is no longer grace, and you no longer need even ask.

Thus Paul has brought us full cycle where grace and sin are concerned. He has told us that if we are unwilling to live in the freedom that comes from accepting the fact that the sins of the past are gone forever, we'll never fully grasp the grace-life. If we're still trying to pay for something God has already freely given us, we do not understand grace. We did not deserve forgiveness, but that's why it took mercy to cleanse us and grace to allow us to be cleansed. But it's done. It's over. God has completed what we couldn't. He washed our sins away. And each time we confess our sins, He does so once again in such a way that we are actually cleansed of all unrighteousness. Amazing grace. Grace greater than all our sins.

Secondly, if as we sin after having been cleansed, we do not immediately claim God's love and allow His mercy to forgive us and His grace to renew us, we live the bulk of our lives in between seasons of fellowship, when God desires that the fellowship be continual. We don't need to walk around, even for one second, with something between us and God, because God's amazing grace has made provision for instant renewal. And that grace is greater than all our sin.

Thirdly, God's grace, which is greater than all our sin, is available to keep us from sinning, moment by moment, day by day. The key is our learning to understand the principle of how our will must listen to the Word, and not to the emotions or the appetites. Having laid the Word on our hearts, we are to claim it the very moment temptation comes. Knowing that we have no might against this enemy, we quietly claim the Word, and we humbly appropriate God's amazing grace. We say, Lord, Your Word says...I hereby ask for grace to stand in it. Amen." The Word rebukes the devil, and God's grace enables us to stand against his onslaught, "and having done all...to stand." It's called God's amazing grace, and it is greater than all our sin.

Finally, Paul has assured us that this great grace must never be taken for granted. Should we begin to believe that we can continue in sin and just assume that grace will continue

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to cover for us at some point because God has protected us, or has forgiven us, or not disciplined us, simply because we are no longer under the law; but rather under grace, God's grace will depart, and we will suddenly be engulfed with the consequences of all our sinning. God's intended grace is without merit; and the moment we presume upon it, we assume God owes it to us, which makes it neither free nor undeserved nor sovereign nor supernatural. In other words it is no longer...grace.

Oh, the miracle of the grace of God. It protects us, defends us, enables us to receive forgiveness, cleanses us so we can begin again, gives us power to resist the devil, and gives us eyes to behold our God. But the moment we begin to intentionally sin or sin without conviction, we are saying to God... "Away with thy grace, O God, give me what I deserve!" And, oh, Beloved, He will.

God's grace! What a miracle it is! What a blessing it is! What a promise it is! What a relief it is! What a testimony it is of the love our precious God has for us!

The enemy will try to tell you that you cannot be forgiven. He's a liar. God's grace is greater than all our sin. He will tell us we cannot help but yield to temptation. That's a lie. God's grace is greater than all our sin. He will whisper that it is simply "the way we are" or "the way we were raised", but that's a lie. There is no temptation taken us but such as is common to man, but God is faithful; He will never let us be tempted beyond our ability to bear it, because our ability to bear it is limited only to what Christ in us can handle. So always there is a way of escape. Always. Through His amazing grace.

THERE IS A WAY OUT

There is a way out, Beloved...
A victory that really will last,
A power to constantly overcome
And freedom from sins of the past.

There is a way out, Beloved...
A release of the grace that's within,
The free, unmerited, grace of God
That is greater than all our sin.

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Let's pray,

Father,

There is so much about it we don't fathom. All of it points to a God of such love that our minds can't even grasp that such a love could be. Even having experienced the love of Christ at Calvary our minds are simply boggled at the thought that minute by minute Your very life is available to us. And yet, Father, we know from life and from experience that Your Word is true.

Why we live in defeat when we own victory we cannot explain. But as we leave this place today, Father, may there be a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit in our lives, a fresh knowledge of Your cleansing, a fresh awareness of Your presence, and the total willingness on our part, as You enable us to let You be God in the days to come.

We are not the ones who can, Lord, but then You didn't ask us to be. We belong to a God Who Is. Be Yourself in us this week we pray.

In Jesus' name, amen.

A Challenge to Further Study

Make the song "Grace, Grace, God's Grace" part of your worship experience this week. When you come to the last line "Grace greater than all our sin", praise God for the following:

- a- That all your sins that have been confessed to God have been forgiven and forgotten, and God has given you the grace to do the same.
- b- That you can have immediate forgiveness when you sin, because of His amazing grace.
- c- That there is grace sufficient to deliver you every time the enemy throws a fiery dart your way.
- d- That His grace is so precious you must never presume upon it.

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