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**DECEMBER 2017**  
**DIVINE ASSISTANCE**

Greetings, exalted ones!

Yes, you are exalted in Christ because the Scriptures teach us that when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, all that are now in Christ were raised together with Him (Ephesians 2:6). Amen!

**INDIA TESTIMONY**

So, Bruce and I have been back from India for close to a month now and, saints, do we have some things to share with you! Hallelujah!

I received a Word from a friend that we were going on this trip in the fullness of the blessing- and, oh, how that proved to be a Word from God for this mission's trip! All things worked together for our good and we experienced blessing upon blessing and grace upon grace.

We arrived in Hyderabad, a city with a population of close to 10 million, early on the morning of October the 18th. Our time in Hyderabad was splendid and I was invited to teach for three days in the Charis Bible College there.

The first two days (Thursday & Friday), I had the opportunity to teach the full-time students for three hours each day. In these six classes, I ministered on the whole armor of God- breaking down each of the six pieces of armor during these six hours. Then on Saturday, I taught the part time students (most of the full-time students coming back as well) on the subject of the Holy Spirit. For those of you who have been following our ministry for some time now, you know that the Holy Spirit is the most common topic that I teach on overseas. All three of these classes were rich and greatly ministered to the packed room that we had that day. After class, we spent time ministering to the students and had a blessed time, seeing people healed, filled with the Holy Spirit and delivered from demonic spirits! It was a day full of grace and full of favor! All glory to God!

Then on Sunday, I ministered at two churches in the morning before taking a road trip to see and bless some property that their ministry has purchased in a town called Chavala. Both services were really good and seemed to be a continuation of each other - ministering on rejoicing in all things in the first church and then on what we are rejoicing in at the second church. Both were a blessing, and encouraged me personally! Thanks be to God!

All throughout our six days in Hyderabad we met up with various friends at the hotel, in the airport and even on the plane - ministering on multiple levels. That is one thing I always love about these trips I have taken to India - each one has felt like another chapter in the Book of Acts. So, next time - we will be writing Acts chapter 33! LOL!

However, as wonderful as our time in Hyderabad turned out to be, let me go into the glorious details of what transpired at our second stop, the city of Chennai. And church, this part of our trip turned out to be full of God-ordained open doors of favor and blessing. Amen!

On Monday evening we flew out of Hyderabad to the big city of Chennai, a place where I have gone on

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all four of my trips to India. And, saints, our Great God did another one of His "Suddenly's" on this leg of our trip!

We were hosted in Chennai by our good friends, Stanley and Susan George, a precious couple who embodies the popular Indian saying, "a guest is god." They were so gracious to Bruce and I, making us to fulfill Scripture- to become fat and flourishing! LOL! No, that is just one of those honorable customs amongst the people of India- to honor their guests and make sure they eat well. No wonder I love India so much! (So, I wanted to thank you both again, Stanley and Susan, for your gracious hospitality. You guys are a blessing!)

Now as for our time on the road, it all began with us traveling on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday evening to three different churches outside of the city: the first was in the same city of Vellore that we visited last time. Vellore is a good two to two-and-a-half-hour journey one way. We had a good meeting as I taught them on how faith works by love. In other words, if we do not understand God's great love for us, our faith won't work as effectively. Then on Wednesday, we travelled to a remote village just outside of Chennai. I have never seen so many cows in the middle of the road! They were everywhere! Then, we got off the beaten path and went to a small church that seemed to be in the middle of a field. But as bad as they seemed to have it naturally speaking, they were rich in their love for the Lord. We had a blessed time of worship and the Word I brought was powerful! We ministered to the sick afterwards and saw "wonder-filled" results! Many were instantly healed and delivered of demonic oppression! Again, to God be the glory!

Finally, on Sunday evening we ministered at what we call the "Fisherman's Church"- which was a small community of fisherman located by the ocean. In this particular village, it is rare to have a church because of everyone there was raised Hindu. But this one man went there and evangelized this community and now has an alive church of "fishers of men." Amen. God gave me a beautiful message that spoke their language - how Jesus called Peter and his fishermen partners to come follow Him. It was a blessed message on God's desire to see us blessed. Afterwards, they treated us to some good, fresh Indian seafood. Yum!

Then on Thursday through Saturday, we spent our time at the Charis Bible College of Chennai and had a great time with the students:

Like with the full-time students of Hyderabad, I taught the full-time students on Thursday and Friday for six hours on the whole armor of God. These teachings came out really good and the biggest blessing for me was how so many of the former students I have taught there and also former staff members who I have developed friendships came back to sit in on the classes. That really ministered to me that they would put forth the effort to come from great distances to benefit from our ministry.

Then on Saturday, I taught a large batch of part time students (close to 40 between both the first year and second year students) for close to four hours. These classes were extremely powerful as I ministered on the two prayers of the Apostle Paul in His letter to the Ephesians. I taught on these for the first three classes and then, like the full-time students on Friday afternoon, we had a question and answer session where the students could ask me anything they liked. These two sessions were really good as well as the Holy Spirit took control and deposited wisdom and understanding to many of the students. Praise God!

Then on Saturday evening, we had a precious get together at Stanley and Susan's place where we just gathered around and worshipped the Lord and then everyone shared what the Lord had been showing them. It was a sweet time in His presence!

Now just when you think things couldn't get any better, Sunday October 29th rolls around:

Now let me give you a little background on a Word I received a couple of weeks before we were to leave. One of the elders at our church came to me and said that they saw some adversity coming against us while we were over there, but it was just opposition of the devil because of the great door and opportunity that was going to open up for me over there. Well, the trip went on and on and, lo and behold, no adversity to speak of. But then on Sunday morning, as we had to rise early to make two services that I was going to be ministering at in one of Chennai's oldest Spirit-filled churches, the adversity showed up: My ride didn't show up and then we had to call a cab, which too was delayed. Of course, when things like this happen, you can experience much "adversity of the soul." By the time the cab got there, we were racing through the city trying to get to this service on time for me to speak, and we were severely pushing it. The service started at 6:50 and by the time we got in the vicinity of the church at 7:30, we were rushed from the cab to another car and ushered quickly through a gate, through a corridor, and "voila" we step into the sanctuary that is a sea of people, probably 6 or 7 thousand people in attendance. Saints, I walked in just as the pastor's wife was getting ready to give the message in my place. Perfect timing!

So, I immediately took the pulpit and ministered in an extremely strong anointing to where the interpreter even told me afterwards that he was feeling the same anointing by simply interpreting the message. Glory to God! I spoke on 2 Corinthians 13:14- *"the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."* I ended up emphasizing grace and love the most during this first service, which the pastor told me later was the Holy Ghost because the majority of those who come to the early service are new converts or unbelievers. Praise God! Then in the second service, I continued on the same verse but spent more time talking about the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen! It too was very powerful! We saw people saved and filled with the Holy Spirit through both of these messages. Amen.

I came to find out just how far these messages will span as this church has close to 30,000 people who attend the church and they have a television ministry that goes into 92 nations. Glory to God! So that means that hundreds of thousands of people will hear the good news of Jesus' grace, God the Father's love and the Holy Spirit's fellowship. Hallelujah!

Both the pastor and his wife were personally blessed by the messages and as we spent time fellowshiping after the service, there was a real connection in the spirit between me and them. It has become apparent that this is going to morph into more and more opportunities to minister to all of those who listen to their services but also to a large group of pastors who they are connected with. One more time - to God be the glory! Amen!

And here is an interesting thing that happened as well: during one of the services, I looked at the back of this huge facility and saw a wide stair case. And when I saw it, it was like I had "déjà vu" (which I don't believe in, but that's the only way I know how to describe it): I had seen that stairway before, and I firmly believe the Lord had given me either a dream or a vision of it years before. Therefore, I knew that this time of ministry was a God-ordained event that He had shown me was going to happen. Praise God!

And time would fail me to tell all the other things that happened during our trip, but I can assure you- the Lord has certainly opened up an effectual door for our ministry in South India, and He has defeated all our adversaries! Amen and glory!

So, I again wanted to thank all of you who both financially and prayerfully supported Bruce and I on this

trip! It is rather obvious that you guys sowed into good ground that will yield an eternal harvest for the glory of God. Amen! Thanks again!

### LESS GRACE VS. MORE GRACE

So, now since we still have a little time, let me give you a quick lesson that the Lord was teaching me while I was in India. This month, I want to talk to you a little about the grace of God. So, let's go over to James chapter four and look at a powerful verse that teaches us an equally powerful truth.

**James 4:6** says - *But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

Wait a minute now! Did James say that the Lord gives *more* grace? Do you mean to tell me that there is more grace to be had for us? Apparently! Now as wonderful and amazing as the grace is that we have already obtained - the grace that saved us, the grace that redeemed us, the grace that filled us - there is apparently more grace available for us to walk in based on this verse and other verses as well (see Acts 4:33, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 13:14 & 2 Timothy 2:1)! The Greek language actually says that there is a *greater* grace that He will give us. Praise God!

So, how many of you would like to experience some more grace in your lives? How many of you think you could stand to experience greater grace in your marriage, in your finances, in your physical health etc.? That's a good place to shout, "Amen!"

Well, here in James 4:6, the Holy Spirit through Pastor James tells us how we can both forfeit more grace and receive greater grace. He does this by recalling a proverb (Proverbs 3:34) that says, "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*"

First of all, when we read that God resists the proud here, that seems kind of harsh, doesn't it? On the surface, it doesn't sound like the gracious, loving God that we have come to know. Why would our loving Father ever resist us? Well, think about it like this: if you had a child who was trying to jump out of a window that you were standing in front of, wouldn't you "resist" them? Wouldn't you stand between them and that window in order to keep them from falling? Sure, you would! And why? Because of your love for them. In other words, you wouldn't want to see them fall out of that window and hurt themselves, right? Well, doesn't the Bible teach us that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall (see Proverbs 16:18)? So, if pride leads to destruction and falling, then why wouldn't our loving Heavenly Father stand in our way when we are entering into pride? When I once I asked the Lord about this, I heard Him say to me: "I am not against my children, but I am against them falling and hurting themselves." Amen.

So, the lesson we should learn from this is - God will actually oppose us when we get into pride, trying to obtain even good things through our own self will and flesh. No, He is not going to let you do it apart from Him - because the moment we start obtaining things apart from His grace through the arm of the flesh, is the moment we are susceptible to being puffed up with pride, and the result being our destruction and fall.

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But there is a positive side to this: just as God resists the proud, He gives more grace to the humble!

Well, using the laws of Scriptural interpretation, if the proud are resisted by God, then what is this grace that the humble receive? It must be the opposite of what it means to be "resisted," right? Well, the word

“resists” literally means to “oppose or rebel.” So, what is the opposite of “opposing” something or “resisting” someone? It would be to support, assist, aid or favor them, right? Therefore, when we look at what this grace is that the humble receive from God, it would obviously be the opposite of divine resistance, which would make it “divine assistance!” In other words, **if pride creates resistance from God, then it is to be understood that humility will create more assistance from God.** Thus, the reason I define grace as “divine assistance.” Amen!

Now understanding that we need God’s assistance is the first step to receiving His assistance. This is the part humility plays in it. Those who are “humble” (from the biblical sense of the word) walk in the reality that God is the source of all their blessing. They know that if it’s good in their life, it is God. They recognize that God is the One assisting them all along the way and give Him the appropriate thanks and praise. I have personally come to find out that when I cry out to the Lord with all my heart for His assistance in my life, He always shows up with the help I need. However, when I am a little less sensitive to my need for His help and don’t ask for it, I have not because I ask not.

So, recognizing our need of His assistance is super important - because the proud don’t think they need God. They don’t see how much of His grace has been present in their lives. Therefore, humbling ourselves under His mighty hand to where He lifts us up first involves us understanding it is His mighty hand that is under us, holding us up right now. Amen!

But then there is the part we have to play of positionally humbling ourselves under His mighty hand. In other words, our position is an important part of being lifted up. You could say it this way: **the key to receiving this grace is being submitted to God in our place.**

Case and point - if we just read one verse down in James chapter 4, you will see a further description of what the Holy Spirit meant by humility in verse 6. He says in verse 7, *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* Furthermore, he says in verse 8, *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...*

So, what we are seeing here is that the humility that gets greater grace is the humility that simply submits to God and that draws near to Him. In other words, it is the humility that knows that we need Him, and that doing things His way is in our best interest. As he also goes on to say, not an arrogance that allows us to think doing things our own way will yield the grace we need, but the humility that allows us to admit when we’ve been wrong and respond like we should when we know it (see verses 8-9).

Therefore, it is clear that the pride that God resists and the humility that He gives more grace to is not what we commonly think of when we think of pride & humility. It is a submission to Him and His ways - both through relationship and by walking in the truth that He has given us. Therefore, the additional grace that we need is found in submitting to God and drawing near to Him. This is the heart of humility.

We also have another portion of Scripture where a lot of this same language is used. It is found in 1 Peter 5:5-6 where Peter said, *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

So, what we see here is the Holy Spirit saying that this greater grace comes through both submitting ourselves to God (James 4:6-8) and submitting ourselves to one another (1 Peter 5:5-6). So, which one is it? Is it the submitting to God or submitting to one another? I “submit” to you that they are one in the same.

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You see, there are many Christians out there who say they are submitting themselves to God, yet you do not see them submitting themselves to anyone in their life. While it is certainly true that there is a big difference between God and man, if the Lord has placed you somewhere like in a job, church or relationship, then He has called you to submit yourself in that place that He has placed you. And the truth is- we are fooling ourselves if we believe we are submitting ourselves to God but won't submit to those He has placed under the authority of. That's the gospel truth, my friends.

Now I understand that people do not like to hear this because they have either been abused by authority figures in their life or they are simply just rebellious, but this is where our trust in God comes into play. If we trust Him, then we must trust that He will take care of us where He has us. And if we trust that He will take care of us where He has us, then we will submit to those He has over us. Amen?

Is this scary? Sure, it is. Can we be taken advantage of? Perhaps. But we must learn to trust that God has a working order for things in our lives, and part of that working order are those He has connected us to.

Therefore, we see here how we can receive this "greater grace" that both James & Peter are referring to: it is through our humility. In other words, **greater grace in our lives comes through greater humility in our hearts – a humility that submits to God and to those God has placed under the authority of.**

### SUMMARY

So, in conclusion, grace is that assistance that we receive from God. And this assistance can affect every area of our lives - spiritually and naturally. Yes, there is greater assistance that we can get from God, but this divine help is received through our humility. In other words, **we get as much assistance from God as our humility can receive.** Amen.

Friends, the humble get the grace! So, we can begin this journey towards true humility by letting the Lord know on a regular basis how much we need Him in our lives and living that way by submitting to Him and doing things His way. This is how we access more of His assistance. Amen.

So, until next month... Have a very, Merry Christmas!

Victoriously,

