

# God's Empowering Grace

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Timothy 2:1.

II. Grace is God's favor through Christ to those people who deserve His wrath. (2 Samuel 12; Ephesians 2:3)

A. God's justice was satisfied by Jesus on the cross.

B. Jesus' perfect life earned us God's favor.

1. This favor is all of God's riches. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 9:8)

2. Part of this favor is the power to live the Christian life. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

a) We get the sense from the New Testament that Timothy may have been timid and that Paul is calling him to be morally courageous for Christ. (1 Corinthians 16; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:12)

b) Paul told Timothy to be strong in God's grace, not in himself. (Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:1)

III. You and I are fully responsible to follow God and fully dependent on God for the power to do so. (Psalm 147:1)

A. God enables us to do all of the work.

B. There are three ways that people live the Christian life.

1. God tells you what to do and you rely on yourself to do it. But we cannot change our hearts.

2. Let Jesus live His life through you and you are passive in the process. This is not Biblical.

3. Take the responsibility for obedience on yourself, but rely on God to enable your obedience. The Holy Spirit provides the power and sometimes even works apart from us in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 13:21; Philippians 2:12-13)

a) We cannot make any progress without the Spirit of God working in us. He gives us both the power and the desire to obey.

b) We also cannot make any progress without working ourselves. (Colossians 1:28-29)

c) Most Christians try to connect to the power of God during their quiet time and live off of that power all day. Wise Christians have learned that they have to stay connected to God all throughout the day.

4. There are several methods that the Holy Spirit uses to work in our lives.

a) Chiefly through the scripture. (Romans 15:4-5)

b) Through prayer. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

c) Through the gospel. (2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:4)

IV. As long as you are operating under the guilt of sin, you cannot receive God's grace to overcome it. You have not yet trusted Him to pardon it. We have to live in the assurance that we have God's favor before we can live godly lives.

**Application questions:**

1. Do you find it difficult to accept that you do not have to earn God's favor? How does knowing that you already have God's favor impact your attitude toward obedience?

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2. Of the three ways that Christians tend to live, which one seems to be your tendency? Why?

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3. How have you seen the Holy Spirit use scripture, prayer, and the gospel to work in your life?

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