

## Part Three: The Way Out

### Session 16

### Qualifying for Divine Help

*“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.”* **Hebrews 12:15-16**

*“Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* **1 Peter 5:5b**

#### A. What Is Grace?

☉ Grace is “\_\_\_\_\_,” or “help from God.”

☉ II Corinthians 9:8—*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”* See Figure 1.

☉ I Corinthians 15:10—*“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”*

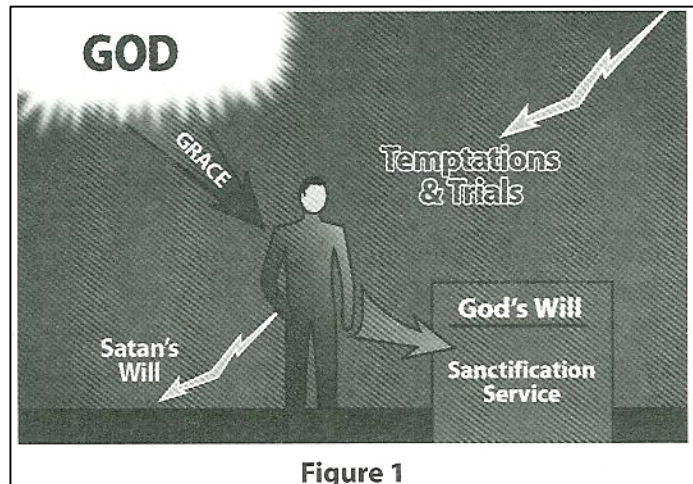


Figure 1

☉ Philippians 2:13—*“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will [creating the desire] and to work [giving you the power] for His good pleasure.”*

#### B. Why Does God Give Grace? (Hebrews 12:15)

1. God gives grace to enable us to resist in times of \_\_\_\_\_.

☉ Romans 5:20b—*“but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,”*

2. God gives grace to enable us to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in times of trouble.

☉ II Corinthians 12:8-9—*“Concerning this [trial] I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And [God] has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”*

#### C. What Happens When We “Fail of the Grace of God”?

1. \_\_\_\_\_—*“that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;”* (Hebrews 12:15).

☉ We are getting bitter anytime we keep telling ourselves, “It’s not \_\_\_\_\_!”

☉ We defile others when we tell them, “It’s not \_\_\_\_\_!”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ failure—*“that there be no immoral...person”* (Heb. 12:16).

☉ Bitter people are easy prey for moral temptation because life does not taste good, and they are looking for satisfaction.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ values—*“or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.”* (Hebrews 12:16).
- A person with \_\_\_\_\_ values will have difficulty making the right decisions.
  - Decisions are made on the basis of a question: “What will I gain; what will I lose?”
  - The apostle John warned us about adopting the values of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ☞ *I John 2:15-17—“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”*
    - ☞ The battle is between...
      - The lust of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the desire to gain pleasure and/or the fear of losing pleasure) and the Scripture’s teaching that we must learn to suffer well for Christ.
      - The lust of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the desire to gain possessions and/or the fear of losing possessions) and the Scripture’s teaching that we must learn to sacrifice well for Christ.
      - The \_\_\_\_\_ of life (the desire to gain power and prestige and/or the fear of losing power and prestige) and the Scripture’s teaching that we must learn to submit to Christ.
  - The apostle Paul’s evaluation of gains and losses is found in **Philippians 3:4-8**.
    - ☞ *“Although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,”*

#### D. How Do We Get Grace from God? (I Peter 5:5)

- God resists the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “Resist” is a military term that means “to surround to conquer.”
  - “\_\_\_\_\_” means “forward, stubborn” and signifies the kind of person who wants to be in control and be the “boss” of his life.
- God gives grace to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “Grace” is “divine enablement”—supernatural desire and power to do right.
  - “Humble” means the believer is willing to “let God be God.”

**CONCLUSION:** Believers who are humbling themselves before God and others will be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and will experience the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to do what is right. They will be filled with joy and peace, not discontentment, anxiety, anger, and despair.