

# God's Grace

by George Verwer

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*God's grace is sufficient for us to face any difficult situation, and we can appropriate it by trusting in God's promise to provide it.*

**Duration:** 59:44

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:33, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

**Topics:** "Gods Grace", "Evangelism Tools"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of using modern equipment and tools in evangelizing the world. He believes that without these tools, the world would not have been reached by the Gospel. The speaker also discusses the prevalence of gossip in spiritual life and the need to rely on God's grace to handle such situations. Additionally, he addresses the issue of leaders breaking confidence and encourages believers to continue using the tools and resources provided by God in the 20th century for evangelism and discipleship.

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## Transcript

Father, we thank you for what you've already said in a very strong way to our hearts this morning. Pray that we may continue on from there, carrying these truths back to our own situation, our own hearts, our own particular struggles. Lord, we thank you that we can face, by your grace, by your grace, life head-on with all that it involves.

Some of the scary experiences, some of the hard experiences. And may we, as a result of these days together, somehow go away a little more mature about what it's all about here on planet Earth. Guide us in our thinking, in our note-taking, in our studies, in our conversations throughout the day.

And Lord, wherever there may be people that listen to this tape, may somehow you minister their hearts as well. In Jesus' name, Amen. Well, we always get lots of sound effects.

I thought picking up a little bit from what Brother Alfie has shared, I would just look at that passage in 2 Corinthians that all of you are familiar with. In praying and preparing for this morning, I felt burdened to really speak a little about the grace of God, the practical grace. And this is just what Alfie has been sharing with us.

How God gives practical grace, or should we say grace for practical, difficult situations. We know those beautiful words in 2 Corinthians 12, where Paul speaks about the messenger of Satan in verse 7, used to humble him. And now he prayed three times that it would go away, and it didn't go.

Instead, God spoke to him and said, verse 9, 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. And then those strange words, really, Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities.

Weaknesses is a better translation. In reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Words that I trust you do turn to frequently. Life for most of us as we move on is going to have some hard experiences. And as we're warned and exhorted in scripture, as much as possible it's good to know the enemy's tactics.

I made just a list of some of the hard experiences that some of the people I have counseled have gone through. Some of them I've gone through myself. I thought you might want to just write some of these things down.

And just rejoice that he giveth grace. We know that hymn we often sing, as the burden grows greater, the grace grows greater. Or as the burden increases, the grace groweth greater.

It's been really amazing to watch so many people in the history of OM just receive grace in the time of need. Really, it's amazing. People like Brother Ray Lynch, who so wanted to get back with his wife and so wanted to get back to his children.

The greatest human desire this man has ever had has never happened. To see God giving the grace these past 20 years since we've been laboring together. God giveth grace.

What are some of those hard experiences? Some of you may be in even now. Great mistake if we presume that leaders are all just ready to go and disciple others. Who's going to disciple the leaders? Who's going to minister to the leaders? Who's going to show the leaders the way of grace, the way of forgiveness? How to wrestle with their emotions? How to deal with their hang-ups? Because in fact, in OM every week, a large percentage of the problems are not the followers, they're the leaders.

Can't blame new recruits, young babes in Christ, for some of the things that happen on OM teams. It's often, far more often, the failure of the leader to appropriate the grace that God wants to give at that moment. Or to appropriate the wisdom, or to learn from God's hand, God's school of experience.

It is true that things that have happened to us in the past often affect present conduct. Things that happened to you back in your family, your own relationship with your father, some of the trials you may have gone through in the past, do affect often present behavior. That doesn't mean that we believe in fatalism, or that we believe in some form of deterministic philosophy, but it means we just realize that's a factor.

Modern psychology is actually telling us now it's less a factor than previous thought. The modern trend in some schools of psychology is that these young people from New York City, from broken homes and delinquent homes, it's all not as simple as we once analyzed. And that some people from broken, terrible homes are just doing fantastic things, even in the secular world.

You used to think, from what psychology was trying to tell us, if you were from a broken home, or your mother had this problem, your father had that problem, you just didn't have a chance. You were just destined to be a juvenile delinquent. We know if that happens in the secular world, how much more it happens when the Holy Spirit invades a situation.

What are some of the specific areas in day-by-day living where we must appropriate the grace of the Lord? Number one, when we feel that our own parents don't really love us. When we feel our own parents don't really love us. Some of you may never have had that particular situation.

But some of the people you counsel have, in fact some people run into OM as an escape from difficulties in the home. Now, of course, if it's a converted Hindu, a converted Muslim who's been thrown out of his home, you know, that's understandable. But if it's a brother who's just running away from a Christian home because he doesn't like it, or he's never disciplined himself, or for some other reason, then we're facing a totally different experience.

We need to be able to counsel and train some of these young people to be able to go back home and relate to their own parents and to appropriate the grace of God for that situation. Very seldom is it a black and white case that your parents don't love you. It's more likely that they're not gifted in expressing it.

Or it may be that in a family of ten children, your father and mother ran out of steam. I often thought with three children I was running out of steam, much less a baker's dozen. We fail oftentimes as young, zealous, idealistic OMers to face the fact that our parents are human.

Our parents are human. Of course they're going to fail. Of course they have failed.

You get this idea that when you arrive at the age of 25, you've got everything together. I think I have less together now at 43 than I did at 25, at least in some ways. That's why many men come into a mid-year or mid-life crisis.

As they realize at 40 that they don't have it, they don't have what they were dreaming about at 25 or 19. It's far more embarrassing. When you make mistakes at 19, people overlook it.

Mistakes that I made at that age, many people just, they were impressed by the mistakes. They were encouraged, this is normal, press on. Make the same mistakes now, and you can be in real trouble when you're older.

The second thing is when you try hard to do something, you try very hard, you pray hard, you work hard, and it fails. Fails. That's where you need grace.

You have a great evangelistic campaign, you work very hard on it, and no one comes to Christ. Or maybe some come to Christ, you're all excited, and you tell others wonderful things God has done, you have your follow-up meeting, and no one shows up. Remember the follow-up? I know about the tea already.

You remember the follow-up meetings we had in Bombay after the ship visited? We didn't get overwhelmed by all the new converts from the open-air meetings. Somebody did some research into this. If you want to get a case of the depressions, read some of that research.

We have to know how to appropriate grace when we try hard to do something, and it fails. Beware of the failure syndrome. You think you're failing so much, most people sense they're failing a lot, most people.

There are a few who are caught up in some kind of temporary success ego trip, but it generally doesn't last so long. Then there, when someone, especially a friend, gossips about you. That's always a great experience, isn't it? You ever get that one on your team? Leaders, you find out someone's gossiping against you, find out they've developed a little nickname for you.

You're the kind of leader that tends to bark in the mornings, and wake people up in a way that scares them, and you're a bit demanding on them, bossing them around, and so they give you privately a little nickname. Hitler. One of my first teams, one of the members, thought I was a Hitler.

You know, there is a slight resemblance, you know. The same Aryan strain, and it is a strain at times to be an Aryan, whatever that means. You know, if we're going to grow up, we've got to know how to handle gossip.

If no one's gossiping about you, you're not doing anything. You're probably going to sleep for the last five years. Gossip is as basic to spiritual life in India as microbes in the water.

We can boil the water, I don't know what we're supposed to do with the gossip. We have to learn to appropriate the grace of God for those situations. Fourthly, we won't let your tea get too cold, but we need to get a little bit of this before the break.

Fourthly, when a leader you have confided in, breaks confidence. This happens, unfortunately, more often than we'd like. I guess we fail to realize that leaders are human.

Some of the confidences that get broken in no error are because the person who received the information forgot that it was confidential. I know in my own case, I received so much information, you have no idea of how much information I have to pump into my head. An average of four hours, a little more, reading every single day, taking in information, sorting it out in my little mind, of course filing some of it.

When you're on the road, your files and the materials are not always handy, and sometimes without knowing it, I've said something that was supposed to be confidential. To be quite honest, I find sometimes it's better for me not to say anything about some things that I don't know. Especially you know about the women, which ones are pregnant, and then which ones are pregnant, and you're allowed to tell people about it, and which ones it's a secret.

In either case, it's probably not worth talking about it, because everybody already knows. We are so childish, and so ridiculous, when we go around sharing all these little confidences, especially in a very sort of rushed, quick way. We don't emphasize it enough.

Just sort of, at the end of the conversation, we say, Oh by the way, keep that to yourself. You know, it's very difficult, several weeks later, to know. And sometimes we've had people guarding these confidences, you know, very strictly, very carefully, weeks after a public announcement has been made about it all.

He's still guarding this confidence, Lord help me, guard my tongue, crucify self. It's already been out in the International Weekly. Sometimes it's better to have less confidences, and at least be a little more relaxed about when some of these things leak out.

A little more mature, because people are people. Very weak, very human. Sometimes somebody, under tremendous pressure, uses something that it really had been better not to use, in order to try to convince this guy who's coming down on him, that a particular thing is not so.

And when he uses that, he's using information that he got from someone else, and immediately he's got himself in what we call a pickle, in baseball. I'm sure you don't understand what that is. A difficult situation.

Let me tell you what that is. You need to know what a pickle is. In baseball, I used to play baseball, my favorite sport, until my arm didn't grow.

And I was the pitcher on the small fry team, and then the primary school team. I went to high school, and I just made the team. But mainly I sat on the bench, watching the other people play, because the coach said that my arm was too skinny, and I couldn't throw the ball faster.

But in a pickle, you know, you run to the bases. And if you're on your way running to the base, and the man gets the ball in front of you, not running to first base, but running to second base, they can pass it back and forth, and you can run back and forth until they tag you with the ball. Isn't that right, Gary? Something like that.

Twenty-two years out of baseball land. Anyway, it's a difficult situation. And when we're under pressure as leaders, when we're under pressure as leaders, we need to be careful of what we quote from what other people have said, especially if they've said it to us in confidence.

It's better to lose some ground in that discussion rather than quote things that were given to us in confidence or things that are going to just eventually bring more division. Now, I know that from experience, because I found with my kind of temperament, when I'm really trying to convince somebody of something, boy, I will start to grab for everything I can. And I've had to repent and get correction.

But at that point, you see, we need to learn something that often we don't mean certain things that we say. We're not trying to be malicious. You've just got us in a difficult situation, maybe under pressure, and so we say something.

And here's the mistake. Here's where two wrongs take place instead of one. Then that person, he goes and does the same thing.

And the gossip goes, and the talk goes, and the work of God gets hindered. Learning how to claim grace in that kind of situation. Number five.

Appropriating grace when someone you have won to Christ loved and helped turns back or even against you. I had many of those experiences in the early years of the work when I was so involved in personal evangelism. I don't say this as a boast.

I only say this so that you know where leadership training begins. Because it's so easy to get a wrong idea of a leader. And you think a leader is an administrator sitting behind a desk writing letters.

I dare to say that I doubt there's as many of you in this room that have ever done as much personal work as I have done with individual souls. I personally feel there's probably just a few of you. That was my whole life.

Personal work. Before OM was born, long after it was born. Winning people to Christ.

I was extreme, it's true. People accepted Christ when I witnessed whether they wanted to or not. I took course after course in personal evangelism.

I believe this was the way, before I ever got into literature, I believe that personal soul winning and discipling that brother, loving him, was the way to reach the world for Christ. And one of the things that has so, so upset me at times about certain ministries in OM, even the ship ministry, was the fact that so easy we get into mechanical things. Spreading the gospel and selling books and we miss that personal eyeball to eyeball personal witnessing for Jesus Christ.

Leading men to Christ. And then following them up by letter. When I led people to Christ in the local jail, I went three, four times a week and started discipling them and training them.

We shouldn't even have to talk about follow-up. Follow-up must automatically be there. There can be no evangelism without follow-up.

It's not even evangelism if there's no follow-up. Doesn't mean we have to plant a church. I didn't plant a church in that jail.

It doesn't mean we can always follow-up every single person that we give the gospel to. During that same period, I was giving out tracts, I was doing other things. I couldn't follow-up on all that.

But I can always follow-up on some of it. Well, that would take us into a separate message. But when you get into that kind of work, you're going to have your heart broken.

You go into follow-up work, when you go into church planting or establishing anything permanent, you're going to have your heart broken. Just like on our teams. Probably one out of every twelve that have ever come on an OM team was a Judas.

Of some kind. It doesn't mean, you know, he had to steal. There are many kinds of Judases.

It's normal. And we need a lot of wisdom and a lot of discernment. Especially when we gather up recruits back door.

I can't believe that some people get so preoccupied with the numbers. The number of people in your state does not determine your impact for God. Certainly you're not that childish yet.

Certainly you're not that naive. Those of you in this room. It's whether they are a spirit-filled group.

Better to have smaller numbers. That's always been the teaching of OM. That's not new.

We could have been 15,000 strong by now, just mainly emphasized America and mainly emphasized OM and built that sectarian mentality which someone of my type of speaking gift can do if he's not careful. But we've always believed that a minority of spirit-filled, praying, disciplined people can make a greater impact for the Lord. And the strategy we are moving forward in is no real change.

We've been working that way in India all along. It's just that as God works, there have to be times when we stop and we prune a little. There's no great cutback taking place here.

Let's not get carried away with our imagination. Which state have we withdrawn from? Would you tell me? We're going into Tamil Nadu and Andhra without me hardly even knowing about it. We're not cutting back in any big way.

We're doing a little pruning. We're encouraging some people on to new horizons and new dimensions of faith. We're consolidating a little and until the AIC we won't even know what has been done because we haven't done too much here except in a few exceptional cases because so much of this depends on you state leaders and your team leaders whether you're willing to go back of one heart and of one mind and carry out what we believe the Lord has given to us.

Number six, when a friend this is a very practical thing you've loaned him something your bicycle, your cassette recorder in the west it would be more your car, and he goes out and he crashes it. That's a great blessing, isn't it? You've saved for five or six years to buy your bicycle, your car your cassette recorder it would be my little music recorder that I carry around. Boy, I loaned that to someone and they went and broke it.

That would be a test. That's a beautiful opportunity, isn't it? To let love cover and to realize what the scriptures teach about accepting the spoiling of your goods. Our hearts do get attached to things, don't they? They do get attached to things.

Nothing wrong with having things. We can use some of these things that truck, this tape recorder a typewriter, we can use these things for the glory of God. If you don't believe that, then don't use any electricity.

It's all basically the same. Many Christians attack strongly electricity. Still some do, even in the United States.

It's up to the devil. If you use electricity if you use an airplane if you use a bus then how are you going to say we shouldn't use a computer or we shouldn't use a tape recorder? Where do you draw the line? I tell you, it's not easy. It's one of the most difficult areas to find balance.

But I want to tell you if we're not willing to use a little bit of modern equipment whether it's electricity, tape recorder or film projector you know, I think we can forget about evangelizing the world because there are four and a half billion people four and a half thousand million people out there and the multiplication method and the local church you know, they all get revived and everybody rushes out everybody's speaking to one who wins one who wins, one who wins, one well, for two thousand years we've been watching, we've been watching. Maybe that was God's original program but the world has been reached because of men like Billy Graham the world has been reached because of groups like World Vision the world has been reached because of Christian radio and Christian literature without those basic tools not even a fraction of the people in the world today would have been reached. And we should never put personal evangelism in-depth discipleship the simple type of going about things like Sadhu Sindhu Singh did with making use of the tools that God has given to the church in the 20th century whether it be a vehicle a computer, a typewriter or a cassette recorder.

Number seven when you've lost something valuable and after fervent prayer it never shows up you ever lose something really valuable? your whole wallet with money passport, whatever else you pray and pray and pray you've heard these tremendous testimonies I have some of praying back lost things so you pray and pray it never comes back we've had many many things lost in OM I might put a practical exhortation in here you know learn to take care of your things learn to take care of your things especially if you have something like a camera or a cassette recorder I tell you they're just natural targets they're just natural temptations and you know last year again we lost a lot of things being stolen be careful when you're carrying money all the way around we need a lot of care but you know

when it happens God wants you to know how to rejoice and appropriate grace for that practical nitty gritty situation and to understand that prayer doesn't manipulate God we often learn through an experience when we don't see the answer as Tozer said we learn more through that than we do when we see great answers to prayer number eight when you felt you had a victory over a particular sin and then you fall again you've even testified about that deliverance how the Lord gave you deliverance and how you learn through meditating on the word through walking in the light with others through claiming the power of the blood you've learned victory over that and then it happens again and again that's where I've seen young, immature Christians really blown away they can handle the first failure and

the second failure it's the 15th failure it's the 25th failure that they just finally said Christianity doesn't work for I'm no good we are in a great warfare of battles life consists of thousands of battles we're in perpetual struggle the word says the flesh wrestles against the spirit the spirit against the flesh the two are contrary and I believe in this great war with thousands of battles we're going to lose quite a few I've lost quite a few maybe little ones unnoticed by others for me they were pretty big at that time because I was sure I had finally licked that thing finally licked that bad temper maybe went I think I must have went once per year without a single Bavarian temper flip out oh your debility I haven't still you know I've lost a few of those and then boom in a particular

moment it happened and I thought you know God where's all this grace and victory and power you know I've had people pray over me I'm the kind that tries anything man you want to pray over me stand on my head I'll do it when I was 13 I used to have an act in the Boy Scouts one of them was standing on my head flipping over double flips all kinds of things people came out and watched this guy with a flat head you know I'm willing to take chances but you know that doesn't bring spiritual life it doesn't bring spiritual life it may help in some cases and then number 9 when one of you truly one you truly love gets ill you pray hard so do others and the friend dies happens happens all the time Dennis Clark was the greatest healing ministry in England on a tour of Australia suddenly finds out he

has leukemia comes back to the hospital people are praying his wife is praying we need this man the founder of Intercessors for England many people are praying I get word it looks like he's really healed really coming back praise the Lord I arrive back in England after my Middle East trip the last one he's dead first thing I do is go to his funeral there with his children there with his wife relatively middle aged man you know all of us have to die and when it's God's time for a man to die all the prayer of all of God's people will not make the difference it's perfectly normal to pray God doesn't mind He knows you're a human being God's not going to come down and hit you don't pray for Him I'm going to have to take Him He'll let you pray but you must be willing to learn through that

experience not my will but Thy will will die such a fear of death among often God's people failure to realize the privilege glory of a splendor going to heaven something I've only slightly comprehended myself but when it is a loved one it is someone close nothing wrong with tears and nothing wrong with sorrow we again are human beings you have to preach that the husband the widow standing there in the front row what do you do look at her and say praise the Lord sister hallelujah Jesus is alive let's sing a little gospel most times I go back from Asia I have a crisis when I get back there most times I went back from another trip out here in Asia and my friend the man who helped start O.M. in England he was he suddenly had a heart attack and he was gone there I was in the funeral with his

young wife she's never recovered from that she's I think backslidden never recovered that was his second wife his first wife was a very godly woman was on O.M. in the early years she also suddenly died partly

through probably malpractice in the surgery and oh I heard this anointed man of God I will tell you you may not think the Anglican church is the most roaring thing in planet earth but there are some of the most anointed men I've ever heard are in the Anglican church and this godly bishop gave this message at that funeral he said more than 15 minutes than I can say 45 and now you're in the place of sorrow in the life of the belief it's good to know that isn't it and then number 10 just two points and we'll go for tea when you have wrong feelings towards someone you work to get victory

and fail finding it even harder to love that person that's a perpetual battle and I think in this area again we fail to really accept our humanity and to realize we're going to have different vibrations about different people we're going to have different emotions about different people and many of our relationships we will have to continue to work on we will have to continue to bring our whole spiritual being under the crucifying surgical hand of our savior so don't be surprised and claim the grace that God can give in some of these sticky difficult relationships which seem to be an ongoing battle and then lastly when someone openly belittles you someone openly rejects you someone openly shows that you are wrong publicly you ever have the public exposure experience you know leaders don't

don't don't publicly expose your team members in front of other team members that is not the way to do it don't publicly rebuke somebody because you think he spent an extra rupee on something you deal with that privately as much as possible all that kind of thing is done privately now there are cases where maybe in the midst of the team meeting someone does and says something really off and you have to at least say something publicly maybe to bring the situation into balance as much as possible you need to confront people very compassionately and I want to tell you one of the greatest mistakes leaders make is their inability to confront people in a way that the person does not feel belittled or reduced to something less than human and I will tell you don't let any kind of pride get into

your leadership before God you are still a sinner and if you go to correct someone you go with a spirit of humility lest you fall lest you do the same thing and someone has to come along like Ray and Alfie and correct you on the same point I have found in LM that sometimes leaders demand from their followers what they are not willing to give to those over them and that sometimes a state leader or a national leader is willing and wanting very strong control over his little troops but he doesn't want very much control over him and if you try to correct him on something suddenly you find you got an argument we need to understand how important it is to not only teach people how to submit but to learn a little about submission ourselves and then at the same time understand when things do go

wrong when you are belittled when you are misunderstood when you are rejected there is still grace there is still grace supernatural grace that can take you down the road leaping and praising the living God even if it's after a few tears oh I've shed a few tears and I hope I hope you know how to weep let's pray Father we thank you for your mercy to us ministering to us this morning we thank you Lord that you give grace to many different experiences of life little things big things misunderstandings criticisms gossip things being lost things being broken Lord I know that I am going to have to put this all in practice grace to get on airplanes grace to go back to all kinds of unpredictable situations Lord we know we know at times it will not be easy we are all vulnerable we are all

vulnerable and we believe Lord you can give grace for your strength is made perfect in weakness your grace is sufficient we stand on your promises we believe your word that is the answer that is the foundation of this work and our lives and there we stand by your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen Can you hear now to the second message on this particular morning I hear an interesting quotation

I think the Lord gave me this quotation when I was in Bombay many years ago it is from that book The Psychology of Jesus and Mental Health by Raymond Kramer it shows how God uses circumstances to bring us to the end of ourselves and to really teach us what life is about the Archangel is trying to maneuver us by pain and sleeplessness into a crisis experience so we will have to face reality but

we thwart the purpose of pain by taking an aspirin or a sleeping pill thus we avoid the pain and refuse to get at the real cause of our trouble the Archangel scratches his head wondering what next he can do to push us into a corner he tries a financial crisis but Aunt Mary pays the bill and again we refuse to accept the crisis the crisis experience has an opportunity to face ourselves now I don't read that because I'm against taking aspirin but there is something about us that so loves to get away from the pain so loves to get away from the crisis so loves to and I think in OM India we at times have been trying to run away rather than face the issues God has allowed this tremendous suffering to take place in Bombay and I believe it's helping us God's got us in a corner to make some

changes that need to be made that this work be pure and that we be more united and that we be willing for some pruning and we just praise the Lord for it let me give you another quotation I hope all of you men in training women in training have a quotation book I don't know if I have mine with me right now because I often take things out of it and just bring yes I do this is my quotation book it's getting old because they don't know how to use other people's spiritual truths and because not too many OMers are coming up with too many jewels themselves and your preaching will be a lot stronger as you use the word of God and also you use powerful antidotes stories in presenting the gospel let me give you this little quotation General Montgomery was one of the great generals in Britain

supposedly he was a Christian we don't know he gave seven ingredients to military leadership now we're in God's army some of the things in the military are of no value to us every comparison in scripture we need to know where it ends the comparison of us being soldiers you know we need to know where it ends because otherwise we get into a lot of gospel tin soldiering which is of little value but here's seven ingredients military leadership number one he should be able to sit back and avoid getting immersed in detail now in Christian leadership where we're also humble servants we've got to have discernment as to when to get immersed in detail even the simplest thing for the sake of Jesus in our simple walk with Christ and when in our leadership of the work we have to pull back so that

we're able to really make objective sane well thought through well prayed through decisions okay number two he must not be petty petty petty p-e-t-t-y we're getting English lessons here it's quite funny to walk past the school here and hear this lady teaching English go listen to her quite interesting petty means you're bothered over small things someone borrowed your pen and they forgot to return it and you're in a big flap you're in a big huff about that pen you're working on a message against a pen taken getting upset over little things especially when it has to do with your own something touching your own ego god doesn't want us to be petty not I can say about that number three he

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