

Young People; Grace Can Enable You to Live Victoriously

by Zac Poonen

Transcript

Dear brothers and sisters, it's a great joy for me to be able to talk to all of you like this from so many different parts of the world. Young people, I want you to remember even though today we see great men of God as older people in their 50s and 60s. When you read the Bible, Jesus chose young people to be his disciples.

Never forget that. Jesus himself was 30 years old. He wasn't 60 when he started his ministry.

And he says, follow me. He came here not only to die for our sins, before he died for our sins, he lived 33 and a half years to be an example. That's very important.

If the only purpose was that Christ should die for our sins, God could have sent him to earth as a full-grown man, like Adam. Adam didn't grow up as a baby. Christ could have come like that and died for our sins.

God could have linked him with humanity in some way. That's not difficult for an almighty God. Why did God allow Jesus to be born as a baby and to grow up as a little boy into teenage years and all the temptations that come to teenagers? One of the greatest truths I discovered in the Bible that changed my life completely, I want to share it with you.

After I was born again, number one, I sought for the baptism or the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And that was many years after I was born again. And after that, another great thing happened in my life.

God opened my eyes to one truth. And that enabled me to live a life of victory, to overcome discouragement, to overcome self-condemnation. And that is the truth written in Hebrews chapter 4 and verse 13.

If you have a Bible, you must remember these two verses always. This is my honest testimony for more than 45 years. These two verses have changed my life.

And when I first understood it, I was only about 35, 36 years old. I may not have waited so long if somebody had talked to me when I was first converted at the age of 19. Some of you are young.

I'll come to that in a moment. What you need to be first be assured of your salvation and then that God is your father. I'll come to that.

But here it says in Hebrews 4.15 concerning the Lord Jesus, we don't have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses. Don't you young people feel sometimes when you're going through some struggles, who is there to sympathize with me? Sympathize with me is a great expression. Many young people are longing that somebody will sympathize with their struggles.

Sometimes their parents cannot. Parents are not converted perhaps or even if parents are converted, they sometimes don't sympathize with the struggles of young people. They have forgotten how they themselves were when they were young people.

Even among other believers and older believers sometimes don't have much time for young people unfortunately. But isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus not only died for your sins but it says he sympathizes with what? With your weakness. Hear that today and never forget it.

You have weakness. All of you young people know what your weaknesses are. You get discouraged.

You're strongly tempted in the sexual area. These are tempt weaknesses. You're insecure.

You don't have enough money to survive. You wonder whether your job will last, whether you'll be dismissed from your job. Insecurity.

The world is full of insecurity and I believe that God has made the world like that so that people will turn to him. You remember when the Israelites were in the wilderness? If you read the story, God, when they were out there in the wilderness, it says there were snakes that came and bit them and God allowed that to make them turn to him. And when they turned to him, God told Moses, make a bronze serpent and put it up on a pole.

That's a picture of Christ hanging on the cross and look at it and all look at it will be healed. And those snake bitten people looked at that bronze serpent on the pole and they were healed. And Jesus quoted that example saying as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so I will be lifted up on a cross.

So God allows difficulties like those snakes in the wilderness to make us look at the cross and see complete deliverance to make it look at Jesus who can sympathize, sympathize, sympathize with your weakness. Remember this all your life. And how does he sympathize? You know, God in heaven can sympathize with us because he's almighty God.

He could have done that from eternity. He could sympathize with Adam. But after Jesus came, when Jesus came, he sympathizes with us in an entirely different way through personal experience.

You know, if you find some mother has just lost her only child, you and I may be able to go and comfort that mother. But another mother who has lost her only child at the same age would be able to comfort that mother much more. Why? More than you and me, even though we may know more of the Bible, because that mother has gone through the same sorrow and trial and temptation that this mother is going through.

There's nothing like experience. We can have a lot of knowledge and verses to encourage others with. But when you've gone through something yourself, you're able to empathize, sympathize with people who are going through that.

When I look at my own life, there are many things God has taken me through after I left the Navy, financial difficulty, struggle, many, many things. Therefore, I can understand people are going through that struggle.

Now, Jesus, it says here, came to earth.

And before he died on the cross, here's what happened to him for 33 and a half years, Hebrews 4:15. He was tempted in every single point as we are. I believe this is the greatest truth that born again, young people need to know.

If you're not born again, then the first thing you need to know is Jesus Christ as your personal savior. I'll come to that in a moment. But here, first of all, if you are born again, Christ has come into your life.

You need to see that Jesus lived on earth with the same temptations that you are tempted with. Immediately, the devil tells you, but he was God. That's why he overcame.

No, he was certainly God. And he was God even when he was on earth. And that's why when people worshiped him, he accepted it.

He could not have accepted it if he was not God. So there's no doubt he was God. But this is a mystery.

The Bible says it's a mystery that God became man. He limited himself. He did not use his divine almighty power to overcome sin.

If he had done that, he could not say to any of us, follow me. Immediately, I could say, Lord, I can't follow you. You are God.

Think of an angel coming down to earth with his wings, trying to teach you to swim in a swimming pool. And he flies across and says, follow me. You can say, hey, angel, I can't follow you.

I don't have wings. Get rid of your wings and take a body like mine. Get into the pool and let gravity pull you down.

Then teach me how to swim. So if Jesus came as almighty God and overcame sin, that would be like the angel swimming across the pool. No, it says here he was tempted in every point exactly as we are.

But he did not sin. I remember when I first understood this about 45 years ago, it changed my life. Till then, I felt I cannot overcome sin.

Sin is too strong. And then, of course, I knew Jesus overcame sin, but I always thought, well, he was God. That's why he overcame.

But when I read this verse, it's the most amazing verse that teaches us what he was like. Tempted exactly like me. So thereafter, once I got this truth, whenever I'm tempted, for example, if I was tempted as a young man to lust in my mind, which is the most common temptation that all young men face, every single young man, if he's a normal young man, faces the temptation to sexual lust in his mind, even if he's pure externally.

You know what I did? I was also tempted. I was young just like you. I said, Lord Jesus, when you were in Nazareth and you were a 19 or 20-year-old, you were tempted with sexual thoughts.

And what did you do to overcome them? I want to follow your footsteps there. I don't want to follow you as a preacher first. Yeah, I learned a lot of things in how Jesus preached.

But I first want to follow how he overcame sexual lust as a young man. And I saw that he loved God with all his heart. And he knew that what God has planned for his life was the best.

And anything outside of that would only be harmful for him. It would ruin him. And above all, it would displease God.

So I said, Lord, this is the attitude I want to have. I want to know that you have allowed this. That was a great relief to me to know that this is not just my evil.

God could have got rid of this wretched thing called the flesh inside me as soon as I was born again. But he didn't do it. He didn't do it for one reason, because he wants us to fight against it and overcome it.

You know how people go to the gym in order to exercise and build up their muscles? How do they do that? They subject their muscles to some strain by pulling a spring or subjecting their legs to some tension. So without that tension, the muscles will never be built. Spiritual muscles are also built like that.

If you don't place tension and opposition, you'll be a weakling. You'll be a flabby Christian. If you want to be a muscular Christian, you've got to go to the spiritual gym.

The spiritual gym is the place where you're tempted. You open your phone or computer and you're tempted with some filthy thing that's inviting you to go and watch it. That's your gym.

Fight it. Don't yield to it. If you yield to it, you'll be a flabby, weak Christian.

Fight it. And if you don't have the strength to fight it, that's the time you must cry out to the Lord. Lord, help me.

So we read here, Jesus was tempted and without sin. And so the question comes to us, therefore what? So what if Jesus was tempted just like me? It says in the next verse, so what? Okay. Therefore, therefore what? Let us who have this weak flesh, you, that's referring to you, my brother, my sister, you young person, it's referring to you.

You, what should you do in that moment? Remember, Jesus was tempted just like you. Whatever temptation you're facing right now, what you faced yesterday, this morning, any time. Remember, whatever it is, maybe you're facing tension in your place of work or misunderstanding or people calling you bad names.

Remember, Jesus was called the devil. You can't get a worse name than that. He was called the prince of devils.

And yet he was willing to accept whatever happened. And he overcame, because it says here, verse 16, Hebrews 4.16. Look at that verse in your Bible, Hebrews 4.16. Let us therefore draw near to the throne of grace. Let us draw near to the throne of grace so that we can receive mercy.

So the first thing when we come to the throne of grace, we need, every one of us, which Jesus did not need, is mercy. Mercy means, it's an Old Testament word, which means the forgiveness of sins. So whenever you're tempted, what should you do? Draw near to the throne of grace.

Don't feel, oh, I can't draw near to God now because I'm being tempted. That's the very time you need to draw near and say, Lord, please, first of all, forgive all my failures in the past. Sin right up to this moment,

that's mercy.

If you confess your sin, he's faithful and righteous to cleanse you from all sin and the blood of Jesus cleanses you from everything. Stop there. If you don't believe that God has forgiven you, you can't move forward because the guilt of the past will hamper your spiritual growth.

You must be convinced that Christ died for your sins on the cross. Now, only the Holy Spirit can convince you about that. It's written in God's word.

I believed it. I believed it 63 years ago. I've never doubted it since then.

Christ died for my sins. And I also believe what it says in Hebrews 8 verse 12. God says, I will not remember your sins anymore.

My sins are blotted out. If you just turn back for a moment, Hebrews chapter 8. It's a great verse that all of you must remember. Very, very important verse.

This is what it means to know God's mercy. Hebrews 8, 12. I will be, God says, I'll be merciful.

Here's the same word mercy we saw in Hebrews 4. I'll be merciful to their sins. And I will remember their sins no more. It's a promise from God that if you have confessed your sin, you may remember it because it's in our memory.

We can't avoid it. I remember all the things, the rotten things I did in my unconverted days from the time I was a little child. That's in my memory.

But if you ask me, does God hold that against me? Zero. He doesn't hold a single sin against me because he promises here, I will not remember your sins against you. You know, the tremendous comfort it brought to my heart nearly 60 years ago, 60 years ago, that came strongly to my heart.

God will not remember my blunders and stupid things that I did and the sins that I committed, whatever they were. And I want to tell you, my dear young brother, sister, please believe that. That is God's word.

Don't believe your feelings. Don't believe the lies the devil tells you. Tell the devil, you remember when the devil quoted, when the devil tempted Jesus, what Jesus said, three temptations in Matthew chapter four.

Every time Jesus said, it is written, it is written, it is written. That's how Jesus overcame. You cannot overcome in any better way than that.

That's what I also say when the devil tempts me. I say it's written, God will not remember my sins anymore. There was a man of God I heard of who was very discouraged, greatly used by God.

And he was very discouraged because the devil was harassing him and telling him, reminding him of all his past failures. You remember what you did when you were this age, this age, this age, this age. And he listened, listened, listened.

And he told the devil, that's not all Satan. I've done a lot more than that. You make the list complete.

And then right across it, the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed me from all my sin. And he was free. You say the same thing.

Tell the devil, you can make a complete list of my sins. Even the things nobody in the world knows. And right across it, the blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all of it, because I've confessed it all to God.

I haven't come to God pretending I'm a holy person. I've come to God and confessed my sins, all that I can remember. I confess verbally and all the rest.

I say, Lord, you know, I'm a sinner. It's impossible to confess every single sin we committed. But the blood of Jesus cleanses us and we are free.

That is mercy. Back to Hebrews 4 and verse 16. Because Jesus was tempted like us, let us draw near with boldness, confidence, boldness.

It's very, very important. The devil will always make you approach God in timidity because you've sinned. I know I used to come to God like that.

Oh God, can I come near you? Do you believe that he says your past is blotted out? Boldness, boldness, boldness. Learn that word, confidence or boldness. Come to the throne of grace.

It's not a throne of judgment. One day the throne of judgment will be set up when Christ comes again. Today he's inviting you to the throne of grace.

And he says, when you come there, take the mercy which God is offering you. You know, when it says, by grace, are you saved through faith? A very well known verse from Hebrews 2, sorry, Ephesians 2 verse 8. By grace, are you saved through faith? I'll tell you what that means. Here is God's hand coming down.

This is grace from heaven. My hand is faith, taking what God is offering. Do you get it? Here is by grace, through faith, I'm saved.

If it is only by grace, I'm not saved. If it's only through faith, I'm not saved. By grace, God offering me his grace, me reaching out by faith and taking it, I'm saved.

That's Ephesians 2.8. And here also, let us come boldness to the throne of grace. That's God's grace offering you. And you receive it.

Don't just look at it and admire it. You won't get anything by admiring God's mercy. Receive.

Receive means, thank you, Lord. Mercy, that's the first thing you need. Be sure that your past is blotted out.

And I want every one of you who's given your life to Christ to receive that mercy right now. And your entire past life right up to this moment, your life is going to be changed. After this global Zoom meeting, I assure you, if you take my word seriously, if you take God's word seriously, and once you receive mercy, don't stop there.

There's one more thing God wants to give you. Mercy is to deal with your past. Now we need grace to deal with the future.

We may, we'll need mercy in the future also, because we may slip up and we do will slip up till Jesus comes. Less and less, I hope, as we come nearer to the coming of the Lord. But till then, we can receive grace.

Grace is also offered and we take it. We find grace there. When you come to the throne of grace, what do you find there? Plenty of grace.

You know how much grace? My grace is sufficient for you, the Lord says. And what does this grace do? What is the definition of grace in this context? Grace is a very wide word, which means many things. For example, for me to preach God's word to you right now, I need grace.

I've already got mercy for my past failures right up to this moment. I don't believe there's a single sin on my conscience. It's all been blotted out.

I don't believe God holds a single thing in my past life against me up to this moment. But that's not enough. In order to speak to you God's word, I need to come and find grace.

Grace is a tremendous power. Grace is the power of God. It's the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is called the spirit of grace. We haven't understood grace properly. Some people have thought grace is just God giving forgiveness to undeserving people.

That's mercy. For many years, I did not know the difference between mercy and grace. I hope all of you understand today the difference between mercy and grace.

Jesus never needed mercy because he never sinned. We need mercy till Jesus comes. But did Jesus need grace? Turn with me for a moment, Luke's gospel chapter two.

Please turn your Bibles to Luke chapter two. It's talking about Jesus when he was a young man, Luke 240. The child Jesus continued to grow and become strong.

That's referring to his physical strength. He was growing. He was a parent.

Mary brought him back to Nazareth. There he grew strong physically and mentally. He increased in wisdom.

Then in his spirit, he received grace. There's body, soul, and spirit. Man is body, soul, and spirit.

It says in his body, verse 40, Jesus became strong. In his mind, he grew in wisdom. That's the soul.

In his spirit, he received grace. Jesus received grace. The grace of God was upon him.

That's why for 33 and a half years, he never sinned. Remember this verse? Well, you need to grow strong, eat well, be healthy, don't have bad habits, grow in wisdom. As you read God's word, the only way to grow in wisdom is read God's word and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Then third, in your spirit, constantly receive grace. Just like you're careful to take care of your body, you're careful to educate your mind, seek to be strengthened in your spirit. Also, by the Holy Spirit, he gives you grace.

Let me show you in 2 Corinthians chapter 12, what grace does. When Paul was going through a tremendous trial in his life, a physical trial of some type of sickness, God did not remove that sickness. 2 Corinthians 12, some of you who are young people may have some type of ailment in your body, some sickness, or your personality is such that you're very withdrawn, reserved.

You can't do anything about it. That's your temperament. And you feel inferior to some other young men and women in your surroundings who are so smart and capable and are leaders, and you are so timid.

It doesn't matter. One of the most wonderful men of God in the New Testament was Timothy, was a very, very timid person. Paul had to keep on encouraging him even when he was 40 years old.

So don't worry about that. Even sickness, some of you young people may have some sickness, and you've prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed, and it has not been healed. Nevermind.

The main thing is not healing. The main thing is to overcome sin. Sin is a million times worse than sickness.

You must be more eager to overcome sin than to be healed. So let me tell you about Paul. Paul had a, what he called a, verse 7, 2 Corinthians 12, verse 7. In the last part, there was given me a thorn in the flesh.

The thorn in the flesh means a sickness. It was like a messenger of Satan. It was not a messenger of God.

A messenger of Satan. Remember he's writing this under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to torment him. God allowed Satan, just like God allowed Satan to trouble Job with sores and boils on his body.

That's the Old Testament. Here we read, God allowed Satan to afflict the mighty apostle Paul with some sickness. All sickness in the world is because of the curse that came on the ground when Adam sinned, and our body is made from that ground.

That's why we get sick. That's why we die. If the curse was removed from our body, we would not even die.

The fact that all human beings die means that curse which God put on the ground in Genesis 3, when Adam sinned, and Adam was made from the same dust of that ground, our body is made from that dust. That's why sickness will be there until we die. Death itself is the proof that there's a curse on this body, but there's no curse on my spirit or on your spirit, because Christ has delivered us from the curse.

Galatians 3, verse 13, Christ became a curse for us on the cross, Galatians 3, 13, and delivered us from the curse. But the body, the curse is still there. There's no curse on my spirit today, but my mind is affected by my fallen state, and my body is definitely affected because it's dust, and that's why all of our bodies will die if Jesus doesn't come before that.

So here it says Paul, the great apostle, he had a sickness too. He had a body of dust, a body which was from the same dust on the ground that God cursed, and therefore this was something that bothered him. I don't know what it was.

I personally feel it was some eye problem, some pus coming out of his eyes. You read Galatians 4, you read about that. And he prayed and prayed and prayed.

He prayed three times. Lord, verse 8, 2 Corinthians 12, take it away, take it away, take it away. Have you prayed many times to be delivered from some sickness and it has not gone? Can you hear the word of the Lord today? To you, you ask for some physical healing, some type of ailment in your body, some limitation in your body.

You feel you're weak. There's so many things. You don't like your appearance.

You're too short or something like that that makes you feel inferior or worse than that, sick. And you prayed and prayed and you're not healed. He prayed three times, and I believe he would have prayed 300 times if he did not get an answer.

After three times, he got the answer. Well, you're getting an answer today. The Lord said, I'm not going to heal you because, verse 7, I'm using you so mightily.

I'm giving you such revelations in the Holy Spirit. Paul, even you are in danger of becoming proud. Is there any of us who is not in danger of becoming proud? You can be the most spiritual person on this earth.

I would say to you in Jesus' name, you are in danger of becoming proud. I live in that fear every day. That's the honest truth.

Lord, you have blessed me so much in my life. You have blessed my family. You have anointed me.

You have used me, and you've given me such gifts. I am in great danger of becoming proud every day. But by your grace, it will not happen.

Now, I will constantly humble myself. I will go down and down and down before you. I will look at Jesus and not look at other people and compare myself with others.

Why does pride come? Pride comes, listen to this, because you compare yourself with other people and you feel you're better than them. Yes. If a student who gets 25% in mathematics, do you think a person who gets 25% in mathematics in a class can be proud? Yes.

If it is a rotten school where all the others are getting 10 and 5 and 0, the person who comes 25 will come home and say, Mom, I came first in the class. He's proud. All he got was 25%.

How does he become proud when he gets 25%? Because he compares himself with others. Now, that same student is put in another school where everybody's getting 90, 95 and 100. He suddenly becomes humble.

How did he suddenly become humble? Exactly the same way. He compared himself with others. So, pride comes by comparing yourself with others.

Humility also comes by comparing yourself with others who are better than you. So, stop comparing yourself with others completely and compare yourself with Jesus. You'll be humble all your life.

You want to know the secret of humility? Comparison. You want to know the reason for pride? Comparison. Why are you proud? Because you're better than the people around you.

At least you think you are. Now, stop that and compare yourself with Jesus. Every situation, whatever you do, you accomplish something.

Compare yourself with Jesus and let me see how much pride will be left in you. It will come down to zero. That is the meaning of let us run this race looking unto Jesus.

Don't look at people. So, even Paul, a man much mightier than you and I spiritually, was in danger of pride and God had to give him a sickness. Every time he was popped up because of the mighty revelations he

had and the mighty way God was using him, writing scripture, planting churches, he would get this pus in his eyes.

Oh Lord. When he stands up to preach, the pus coming down his eyes, you need to keep wiping all that really humbled him. I'll tell you, if you're a preacher and you have to get up and preach and every time pus is coming out of your eyes, you have to keep wiping it.

You read in Galatians 4, in the middle of that chapter, he says how his eyes were such that even the Galatians wanted to give him their eyes to help him to be healed, but that humbled him. And he lived with that till the end of his life. And God said, my grace is, verse 9, is enough for you.

Whatever sickness you have, I want to say to you today in Jesus name. The Lord says to you, my grace is enough for you to overcome that limitation in your body, that sickness in your body, that temperamental weakness, the fact that you are not so attractive, the fact that you are not so confident and bold like some others, your temperament is, many things limit you. God says, nevermind, my grace is sufficient for you.

Will you believe that today? You know, I'll tell you something. I told you earlier, by grace through faith. If faith is not there, the grace is just available.

Nobody gets it. This is the trouble with a lot of Christians. God's grace is always available, but by faith you have to take it.

Here, think of this verse, my grace is sufficient for you. For what? For any situation, whatever your situation, you may be facing 101 things I don't face. My grace is sufficient for you.

Let me tell you, you may think that because I've been preaching for, I've been preaching now for nearly 60 years. You may think, oh, it's very easy for Brother Zach to preach. You don't know.

It is not easy for me to preach. I come to, every time I come to preach, I feel so weak and limited in fear and trembling. And I say, Lord, I have to lean on you.

Even today, after 60 years, I'm like a branch in a tree, absolutely unable to produce fruit. You look at a tree that's been producing apples for 60 years, let's say. You ask that branch, can you produce fruit today without being in the tree? No.

What about your 60 years of experience? Worthless. I'm just as helpless today as I was when I brought, produced the first apple 60 years ago. That's what I say.

If 60 years ago I could, I had to fear and tremble when I preached. It's the same today. I say, Lord, I cannot say anything that will bless others if I don't lean upon you and say, I am a zero.

I cannot produce one fruit the sap must grow from the tree into the branch. That is my honest testimony. I'm not saying that to show you I'm very humble.

I'm not interested in your opinion of my humility. I'm just telling you the truth that this is how I feel to encourage you that even if you follow the Lord for 63 years like me, you will still feel weak. And I pray that you will remain weak all your life and that you will lean upon the Lord, not just remain weak, but say, Lord, because I'm weak, I lean upon you.

Paul says here, the Lord told him, my power is perfected in weakness. This is a great verse for young people. What is the thing most young people feel? I'm weak.

Maybe you're weak intellectually. Maybe you don't come top of the class. Maybe you come at the bottom of the class.

Nevermind. God can use people who come at the bottom of the class. Do you think the apostles were all people who come first in the class? I don't think Peter ever came first in his class.

You know why I say that? You read 2 Peter 3, he says, there are some very clever things that Paul says I can't even understand. Look at the humility of Paul, of Peter. Paul's letters, which some of us can understand, can't you understand some of Paul's writings? But you know what Peter says in 2 Peter 3? He says there are some things that Paul says which are 2 Peter 3, 15 and 16.

This is a bit difficult for me to understand. I'm not so brilliant. That was the man God chose to be the leader of the apostles.

So don't ever think that because you're not intellectually bright or don't come first in the class, God can't use you. Perhaps you're the very one God wants to use. So your weakness, God uses people in their weakness.

So my grace, my power is made perfect in your weakness. Or as one paraphrase says it, listen to this, 2 Corinthians 12 and 9. My power, God says, shows up best in people who recognize they are weak. Remember that.

God says my power will show up best in those people who recognize that they are weak. Why hasn't God's power been shown up mightily in you? I'll tell you why. I don't know you, but I'll tell you the reason.

You don't recognize you're weak. You think you're pretty strong. You think you know the Bible.

And so you think you can live the Christian life. You think you can overcome. From today onwards, say, Lord, whatever I may know, whatever I think I am, I am absolutely weak when it comes to the spiritual life.

In earthly life, I may be very clever in so many things. But in the spiritual life, I'm a zero. I've always thought that God is seeking to bring people down to zero from where they are.

We're all in a great height when we are born again. From there, God seeks his entire life. He tries to bring us down to zero.

And when you hit zero and you remain there, it's difficult to remain there. Sometimes you hit zero and then you try to go up again. You hit zero, my brother, remain there.

That means recognize you are a zero. Very valuable in God's eyes, but incapable of doing anything for him. John, I'll tell you where I get that from.

John 15, Jesus said, same example that I just used with the branch and the tree. John 15, verse 5. John 15, verse 5. And in the vineyard of the branches, if you abide in me, you'll bear much fruit, plenty of fruit. But listen to this.

Apart from me, disconnected from me, you can do zero. Where do I get the zero from? John 15, verse 5. Do you know? I want to ask all of you who are listening to me today. Do you know? Tell me honestly, do you know that you can do zero for God? I know it.

But it took me a long time to know it. The early days, I thought I can know. I can, if I just study the Bible a little more and read some sermons and listen to some messages and I get some points and prepare a nice message, I can do something for God.

All that is good. I'm not saying you should not prepare if you are to preach a message. But I say with all that, then fall down before God and say, Lord, I'm a zero.

I've prepared because I need to prepare to serve you. But I'm still a helpless branch in the tree. Apart from me, you can do zero.

So these are two great truths. It's like a coin. On one side, it is written, without Christ, I can do nothing, nothing, zero.

You know what's written on the other side of the coin? Every coin has got two sides. On the other side is written Philippians 4 and verse 13. The first is John 15, verse 5. Without Christ, I can do nothing.

The other side of the coin, it's written in Philippians chapter 4 and verse 13. With Christ, I can do everything. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

That doesn't mean everything in the world. I can't jump eight feet over and win the high jump record. No.

What it means is I can do everything God has planned for my life for me to do. I want to tell you, everything that God has planned for you in your life to do, you can do through Christ. Without him, zero.

If you can learn those two lessons, it's one of the greatest lessons you can learn. Without Christ, I can do nothing. The other side of the coin, don't just say that.

Turn the coin and see the other side. With Christ, I can do everything. So don't just go around saying, without Christ, I can do nothing.

Turn around and say, with Christ, I can do everything. Then only you can overcome. You know what we believe in our heart? Here's a great truth in Romans chapter 10.

Very important. Romans chapter 10. Everything is in scripture.

Scripture has changed my life. Romans chapter 10, verse 9. If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and Jesus is Lord, you'll be saved. You see the two things? You believe in your heart.

Don't leave it there. Confess with your mouth. Because it says in the next verse, with the heart, a person believes, resulting in righteousness.

With the mouth, he confesses, resulting in salvation. You know, electricity flows through two wires. There's a wire through which it flows and there's another wire, which is a dead wire, which has to be connected.

Then only the light, the current flows. When you put on a switch, it's just these two wires touching. If the two wires don't touch, they can be very close and they don't touch, the light is not burning.

The moment you put on a switch, these two wires touch. You know what the two wires are in our life? Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. The two wires touch, you experience salvation or deliverance, the answer to the problem.

So, don't just believe in your heart. Confess it, especially to the devil. I speak to the devil every now and then.

I mean, he doesn't trouble me so much now, but he used to trouble me a lot in the earlier days. And I would tell him, I resist you, Satan, in Jesus' name. My sins are all being blotted out.

You can't harass me anymore. By grace, I can do everything. I can do nothing without Christ.

I can do everything with Christ. I believe it in my heart and I confess with my mouth. Now, if you confess with your mouth without believing in your heart, that's no use.

There's one wire missing. Don't begin with confession. There are some preachers who preach, confess it and it will happen.

Confess it will happen. Garbage. You have to believe in your heart.

There must be a root for that tree to grow. You believe in your heart and your belief must come from God's word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

You can't just confess whatever comes to your mind. What do we see further in Romans chapter 10, that verse I showed you? Romans chapter 10. And it says here, confess with our mouth and we believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead.

We shall be saved. Because it says here, faith comes, verse 17. This is important.

Romans 10, 17. How does faith come? By hearing God speak to us through the word of Christ. The word of Christ is the New Testament.

The word of God is the entire Bible. The word of Christ is the New Testament. And faith comes when you hear God speaking to you through the New Testament.

If you don't read the New Testament, you will not get faith. I'll tell you that. If you're wondering, I don't have faith, brother.

Brother, I don't have faith. Well, do you read the word of God? Do you allow God to speak to you through the word of God and say no? Well, don't ask for faith. There are so many believers I've met who don't have the habit of reading the Bible every day.

As far as I can remember, every single day of my life for 63 years, I've read the Bible, at least one verse, some verses. And if I don't have a Bible with me, then I try to remember what I have read before. Always, every day of my life, I try to think of some verse at least.

Because faith comes only by hearing the word of Christ. So dear brothers and sisters, a very good habit that you can develop when you're young is to remember verses in scripture. That's why I read the Bible so much now that I can go to verses whenever I'm in need.

A verse comes to my mind because I've read it so often. It's just like when Jesus was tempted, a word came into his mind. And the devil said, turn these stones into bread.

Jesus said, a word came into his mind from the Holy Spirit. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And then the devil thought, oh, he's quoting scripture.

Let me also quote scripture to him. The devil quoted scripture to Jesus. Do you know the devil can quote scripture to you? He told Jesus, jump off the roof of the temple because it is written in the Bible, his angels will guard you.

And Jesus said, ah, the Holy Spirit reminded him, it is also written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God. See, one verse of scripture must be balanced with another verse of scripture. Like a bird has got two wings.

If you have only one wing, you go around in circles. So it is written, it is also written. That's why you need to know scripture.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ. I encourage all of you to develop one habit from today. Every day, read scripture at least for five minutes.

I say minimum five minutes, 15 minutes, half an hour, even better. Particularly the New Testament. And meditate, don't just read, meditate.

If you eat food, that's like reading scripture. If the food is digested, that is meditation. Food that you eat that is not digested, you'll vomit, it will not strengthen you.

A lot of people read the Bible, they don't meditate on it. It is like food not digested, it goes out of your mind. In the time of your temptation, you have nothing in your mind.

Because you did not digest the word of God that you took inside you. So let me tell you, start reading the New Testament if you're not in the regular habit. And then when you get time, read the Old Testament.

I used to read large sections of the Old Testament. And then New Testament, I would read small, small passages, and remember them, maybe four or five verses, and meditate on them. Old Testament is like more like a story, I would read large sections.

Develop that habit. Very good. And if one day you don't have time to read large section of the Old Testament, forget it.

But never forget to read a little bit of the New Testament. The word of Christ is from where faith comes. And so much in my life has changed, as faith has come into my heart in different situations.

There's an answer to every situation we face in God's word. For example, I, God called me to leave my naval job, I was working in the Indian Navy. And after a number of years working there, the Lord called me in on the 6th of May 1964, which is nearly 60 years ago, 58 years ago, the Lord told me to leave my job.

I put in my resignation, and naval headquarters in India said no. I was surprised. I said, Lord, how dare the naval headquarters go against what you called me to? Who's more powerful, Almighty God or the naval headquarters? What should I do? I got discouraged.

And the Lord said, what did Moses do? When he said to Pharaoh, I want to go and serve God and Pharaoh said no. Moses went back. So don't get discouraged, go back.

Moses went back again and again and again till the Pharaoh released him. I got my answer from where from the Bible. Now, if I had not read that story in the Old Testament, I would not have known what to do.

Example of how God guides us. So I put in my resignation again. I said, Lord, Jesus has called me to serve him.

I cannot continue in the Indian Navy. They thought that was crazy. No, rejected.

What did Moses do? He went back again. I said, Lord, I had to go back 10 times. I applied a third time.

I didn't have to go back 10 times and the third time, but God moved the people there and I got released. But I had to try for two years. But what my point I'm saying is, that is an answer to every situation you face in the Bible if you read it.

Now, if I had not read the Bible, I would not have known what to do in that situation. So many people say, I pray and God's not guiding me. I'll tell you why he's not guiding you.

You don't read his Bible, you read the word he's given you. So please get into that habit. Faith comes by hearing.

So I want to come back to Hebrews 4, which we were reading. Verse 16, let us draw near with boldness. Very important because your sins are forgiven.

In your time of need. It says in the last part, to get help in my time of need. What is the context? Always read the Bible in context.

The context is, verse 15, tempted in all things. Jesus was tempted in all things. Therefore, verse 16, in our time of need means in when we are tempted in all things.

That's the meaning of that verse. Jesus was tempted in all things and he did not sin. Therefore, when we are tempted in all things, let us also go, let us draw near to the throne of grace.

So that, first of all, getting mercy with Jesus did not mean because he never sinned, but we need it. But then find grace to help me in my time of need. My time of need is when I'm tempted.

What should I do when I'm tempted? I'll tell you what I did. I said that to you before. Lord Jesus, you were tempted exactly like me in this temptation.

What did you do? You asked the Father for grace. I showed you in Luke chapter 2, verse 40, grace. Jesus received grace.

He asked for grace and he got it. If he did not ask, he wouldn't have got it. It says, let us also find grace.

The throne of grace, there's an abundance of grace for everybody. And what did we read in 2 Corinthians 12? My grace is sufficient for you and in our time of need. Turn back to 2 Corinthians 12.

2 Corinthians 12, here is a definition of grace. 2 Corinthians 12, verse 9. The Lord said to Paul, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness. Are you weak, Paul? Fine.

My grace is my power. So here is a definition of grace. God's power.

Did you know grace is God's power? I'll tell you, 99% of Christianity believes grace is God's unmerited favor. Unmerited favor. Do you think that non-Christian out there is not getting God's unmerited favor? His health is God's unmerited favor.

The food he eats is God's unmerited favor. Everything he gets on earth is God's unmerited favor. The oxygen he breathes is God's unmerited favor.

You don't have to be a Christian to get God's unmerited favor. Not at all. The heathen get plenty of God's unmerited favor.

Oxygen to breathe, food to eat, and health in their body. But here, grace is God's power to overcome sin, not God's unmerited favor. God's unmerited favor, all human beings get.

The only place where God's unmerited favor is not there is hell. Everybody on earth, the worst terrorists in the world, gets God's unmerited favor. He gets oxygen to breathe.

But grace is God's power. Please change your wrong definitions that preachers have taught you. My grace is sufficient for you for my power.

And I'll tell you, it is not just power, it is power that is for weak people, for you, for me. Strong people don't need power. But the weaker you are, the more you say, give me power.

I've seen often in India, the poor beggars who come to the gate. It often used to be in my gate. They knock at the door at the gate.

Sir, please give me some money. Okay, if I go and give them a few rupees, they'll be back tomorrow. Sir, they'll go to the homes where they get something.

So they come, sir. And if I ask them, I don't ask them. But if I ask them, where's the money I gave you yesterday? Sir, that was finished yesterday.

I need more for today. Okay, he'll be back tomorrow. And I ask him, where's the money I gave you yesterday? That's finished yesterday, sir.

I learned something from that. I have to go to God every day. For grace every day.

Just like that beggar. You know, if I can go to God like that every day. Listen, let me show you a verse in Proverbs 8.34. Please remember, Proverbs is a great book.

So Proverbs chapter 8. Here's a verse related to grace. How to get grace from God. Proverbs 8.34. Now remember the story of the beggar who comes to my gate.

Spiritually, we are beggars. We don't have anything. We don't have any wealth to live this Christian life.

Today, after 63 years of being a Christian, I say I've got zero strength to live for God. Zero strength to preach God's word. I need to go to the throne of grace every single day and many times a day.

And I do. Blessed is the man who listens to me. Proverbs 8.34. Watching daily at my gates.

Remember the beggar? I told you. Every day. You ask him, what happened to what I gave you yesterday? Sir, that's finished yesterday.

Lord, yesterday's grace was for yesterday. I'm coming back again. Watching how often? Daily.

Blessed is that man. Blessed is that woman. Now I want you to look at that verse and ask yourself, according to this verse, are you a blessed man or woman? I'm not asking how much of the Bible you know.

I'm not asking you how much you overcome sin. I'm asking you one thing. Do you go to God's gates daily? Like a beggar.

Is that difficult? Lord, I need help today. I need to overcome sin. I've got to write an examination.

Even for your earthly things, he'll help you. Your examinations, he'll help you. Lord, I'm going for a job interview.

Please help me. You think he won't help you? Yes, if that is the job for you, he'll help you. If that is not the job for you, you won't get it.

Thank God because he's got something better for you. Lord, I'm considering this person for marriage. If it is God's will, he'll help you.

If it's not God's will, it won't work out. It's a wonderful thing to go daily like it says here. Blessed is that man.

Blessed is that woman who comes daily to my gates and watching. See that beggar keeps on knocking till I come to the gate. Supposing I'm delayed with something inside.

He'll keep knocking because I'm the person who gives him some money. Maybe he doesn't get money from the other houses. So he keeps on knocking, knocking, knocking till I come to the gate.

Do you knock like that at God's gate? Lord, I'm desperate. See that beggar is desperate. He wants to survive.

He wants to get some food. That's why he keeps waiting. Why do you go away so soon after praying to God? I'm not asking you to be on your knees.

You can be at God's gate even if you're driving a car. You can be at God's gate even if you're walking down the street. You can be at God's gate in the middle of your work, in your heart.

Lord, I'm busy doing my work. I need your help. Watching daily at my gates, waiting, waiting, waiting at my doorpost.

What will happen? Verse 35. He'll find life and he'll find favor from the Lord. Favor is an Old Testament word.

In the New Testament, we say grace. How do we get it? Watch daily at my gates. You will get life, spiritual life, the life of Christ, and you will get grace from the Lord.

If you don't do that, the alternative is verse 36, you'll sin. It's a wonderful passage, Proverbs 8, 34-36. And so, dear brothers, I want to say a word here before I go further.

To those who are not absolutely sure that Christ has accepted you, you've become a child of God. I want to ask you, are you absolutely sure that your sins are forgiven? That you have become a child of God? Can you just say a word to those who are not sure of that? And we begin with John chapter 1 and verse 12. John chapter 1, verse 12.

As many as received Jesus Christ, to them God gave the right. It's a right. It's like if the government gives you a right, you can go and claim it to become the children of God.

Even to those who believe in his name. Believe means faith is to commit yourself. I told you what faith is.

Here's grace. Faith is receiving. Believing in the New Testament always means receiving, not intellectual believing.

It's not I believe in my mind 2 plus 2 is 4. I believe Christ died for my sins. Worthless. That is intellectual belief.

Spiritual belief is always receiving. Believing is receiving. Grace from heaven, receiving is faith.

Never forget this illustration. By grace you're saved through faith. Without faith, the grace is just hanging there.

Faith is not intellectual belief. No. Christ died for my sins.

No use. Receive it. Mercy.

Forgiveness. God says, I will not remember your sins anymore. Thank you.

Receive it. So even to them that believe in him like that and such people are born not to physical birth or the will of the flesh, but God gives them a birth. You become born of God.

What do you have to do? Receive. Verse 12. Receive Christ.

You know, God, Jesus says in Revelation 3.20, I stand at the door and knock. He's knocking at the door of your heart. But the door lock is on the inside.

Say, Lord Jesus, come in. It is that simple. When somebody knocks at the door of your house and you know in advance he's come with a very expensive gift to give you, you'll be waiting at the door for him to come.

And as soon as you hear the door knock, you'll open. Why haven't you opened the door for Jesus Christ to come and give you something more than a million rupees or a million dollars? Eternal life. Fellowship with God.

Overcoming sin. Walking with God. Overcoming every problem in life with the power of God.

Why don't you receive him? It's not a thief. Who are the people who keep Jesus outside? They think he's a thief. They think he's come to rob all my joy.

Rubbish. I have more joy today than I ever had in my unconverted days. The joy in our unconverted days is from sinful pleasure.

Is there a pleasure in sexual sin? Yes. Is there a pleasure, I suppose, a murderer finds pleasure in murder? Is there a pleasure that the thief finds in stealing? Yes. It's a sinful pleasure.

Stealing, murdering, adultery. There is a sinful pleasure in it. It makes a man miserable afterwards.

There is a greater pleasure in fellowship with God. I can tell you that from my life. As I became far removed from sin in my life, in thoughts, words, deeds, attitudes to people, motives, as I cleansed myself by the power of the Holy Spirit, joy filled my heart.

Pleasure. There's a pleasure that comes from fellowship with God. So, Jesus is knocking at your door.

Opening the door means, say, Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I don't want to justify myself. There can be 101 reasons you can say why you did this and why you did that.

Stop justifying yourself. God will not accept you if you keep justifying yourself. Judge yourself.

Lord, I'm a sinner. I can't confess all the sins I committed, but the ones I do know, serious ones, I did this, I did this. You probably remember five or ten serious sins.

Confess them. Millions of others, you can't confess. You've got to say, I'm a sinner.

But I believe you died for all my sins on the cross. And most important, you rose up from the dead on the third day, which is the proof that God accepted your sacrifice for my sin. Now, Lord Jesus, you're living.

Come into my heart through your spirit. Come inside and dwell within me. That's opening the door.

He will come right in. And I'll tell you my experience. I was born into a Christian family.

My father was born again before I was born. And so he used to take me to good Christian churches and Sunday school and all that. And I had the habit of reading the Bible from a young age and praying the Lord's Prayer, our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, every morning when I got up.

But I was not born again. But I read the Bible. And I think the first time in my life in some meeting, maybe when I was 13 years old or something, I don't remember.

I must have said, Lord Jesus, come into my heart. And in the next six years, I think I must have asked Jesus to come to my heart 100 times at least. At different meetings and different times.

Because I'm not sure has he come or not. Lord come in. Not sure.

Next day, my life because I was not a murderer or a thief or committing gross sins like that. You know, people who commit gross sins, the change is very radical. But people who are brought up like most of us in God fearing family, we haven't committed gross sins.

So that doesn't seem to be much radical change in my life after we've accepted Christ the next day, we're just about the same. Lord, I don't know whether you've come or not. It went on like that for six years.

One day when I was 19 and a half, sitting in a naval base at coaching where I was working in India. I was reading my usual Bible reading and that day, in the wonderful sovereignty of God, I was reading John chapter six. I think God had mercy on me.

He saw me tossed about, tossed about, tossed about and allowed me to come to John chapter six that day. It was in July 1959. And as I read John chapter six, I came to this amazing verse.

John 6:37, the last part of it. John 6:37, the one who comes to me, I will certainly not cast out. And somehow it hit me.

Jesus says, if I come to him, he will certainly definitely 100% not reject me or cast me out. And I said, Lord Jesus, I've come to you at least 100 times. And he said, I did not cast you out.

Lord, I believe it today. To use a naval term in my ship, I dropped an anchor that day. And my ship has never drifted for 63 years.

I dropped my anchor on that verse. I put my foot on that verse and any of you who are struggling with whether Jesus accepted you or not, go to that verse. This is solid ground.

Drop your anchor there. Put your foot on that. It'll never shake.

It's an unshakable foundation. Jesus says, if you come to me, I will not reject you. You say, but I'm a sinner.

Doesn't matter. You know the story of the prodigal son who had wasted the father's money, messed up his life, ruined himself, disobeyed the father, did all types of wrong things for many years. And he comes back.

He had prepared a big lecture to give to his father. Father, I've done this, this, this. Please make me like a servant.

But all he said was, I've sinned against you. The father said, stop. That's all I need to hear.

Come in. He wants to be a servant. And the father said, you're not going to be a servant.

You're going to be my son. And he has a feast. Jesus said, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents when he turns around.

I want to tell you what repentance is. Repentance is turning around. We are all facing the world and the devil.

And we turn around and go the other way. You're facing sin and the devil. And you turn around and say, Lord, I'm going to go after you now.

I'm going to go in this direction towards God. That is repentance. Repentance is not just saying, I'm sorry.

That's also there. Feeling sorry, that's also there. But it's a turning around.

I was going in the wrong direction. Now I'm turning around. Have you turned around? I'm not saying you reach the final finishing line.

No. Turning around means, Lord, now my back is to sin. I'm facing you.

I've got a long way to go to overcome sin. But I'm facing in the right direction. Then believe that what God's word says, he has accepted you.

And ask the Holy Spirit to make that real in your heart. And when it happens, the Holy Spirit will begin to tell you now you can call God your father. Look up to heaven and say, Daddy.

God becomes your father. Don't say God, Lord, you can say that. But my favorite word when I speak to God in private is Daddy, Heavenly Father.

What do you call your earthly father? Appa, Daddy, Papa, whatever you call. Use the same word for God. I used to call my earthly father Daddy.

That's why I call my Heavenly Father Dad. Or Dad. Whichever is your favorite word with which you call your earthly father, call God by the same name.

If Christ has come into your heart, you're a child of God. And from today, don't doubt it. Ask the Holy Spirit to make it real in your life.

Lord, I'm your child. I want to live for you. And you've heard today how God wants you to lead step by step by step by step.

Let me show you, share you something finally before we finish. Turn with me to this wonderful work, a couple of verses. First of all, in Psalm 139.

Psalm 139. Please turn here. Here's something the Bible tells us was true about you when you were in your mother's womb.

Okay. When you were in your mother's womb, before you were fully formed. Psalm 139, verse 16.

First of all, verse 13. Psalm 139, verse 13. You formed my inward parts.

You wove me in my mother's womb. Okay. Then verse 16.

Your eyes saw my unformed, that embryo, that fetus, that unformed baby in your mother's womb that you were. And in that condition before you were born, when you were one month in your mother's womb, eight months before you were born, in God's mind, in your book means in God's mind, all the days that were planned for me were written down before I was even born. Before my first day on earth started.

In God's mind, when it says God's book, it means God's mind. He had written down your name and all the days right up to the day you are to leave this earth, whether it is at Christ's coming or through death, every day is recorded in that book. Where you should be born, who your parents should be, and where you'll be studying and all those things.

And how one day you accept Christ. And everything is planned for your life right up till the day you die. I believe that.

I'm 82 and a half years old now. And long ago, before I was born, God had written down my entire plan of my life. And you know what my desire is? Lord, I want to fulfill that plan.

Because that plan is the best plan. I cannot make a better plan than God can make for me. No, that's the best plan where I will accomplish the most for God on this earth.

Not that which makes my life most comfortable. No. It may be difficult that I go, but that will be God's plan.

So that's the first verse I wanted to show you. And the second one is Jeremiah and chapter 29 about God's plan. Jeremiah chapter 29 and verse 11.

I know the plans, God says, that I have made for you. They are plans for your welfare, for your good, and for no calamity or harm to come to you. To give you a future and a hope.

Do you want a plan for your future? To give you hope for the future? To give you a very blessed future? God says, I've made a plan for you. You humble yourself and go to God and say, Lord Jesus, I'll pray to the Father, Heavenly Father, Dad, please show me every day what your plan for my life is. When God took the out of Egypt, he did not give them a route back to the land of Canaan.

He gave them a pillar of cloud, which is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Day by day by day, that pillar of cloud led them. God will not show you your whole future.

He's made plans for your welfare to give you a wonderful future, but he'll show it to you day by day by day by day. Just like the pillar of cloud, the Holy Spirit has come to lead you day by day. And so it says here, your plans are for your welfare to give you a wonderful future.

Say, Lord, I want to fulfill that in my life. And when Jesus finished his life, you know what he said? John 17. John chapter 17 and verse 4. This is the last day.

Just before he went to the cross, Jesus said this to the Father in prayer. John chapter 17 verse 4. Father, he said, I have glorified you on earth. How? By finishing the work you gave me to do.

He did not have to live 100 years, 33 and a half years. He finished the work God gave him to do. God has a particular plan for your life.

It may be 33 years or 90 years or 100 years. That's up to God. But you must finish that work.

That is the only way you can glorify God. Jesus said, I glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. If I don't finish the work God gave me to do, I can't glorify God on earth.

That's my passion. Even today I say, Lord, I still have not finished all that you planned for me. That's why I'm still alive.

I don't know how much longer you have for me. I've got no idea. But I have one passion.

I have no desire to live long. But I have a desire to finish the work God planned for me, whether that's 100 years or any number of years. I want to finish and I can't finish it unless I do it day by day.

My dear brothers and sisters, isn't it wonderful? You have a Father in heaven who's made a plan for your entire life, the best possible plan. That plan may not be to make you a millionaire or to make you a most famous person or to make you win some Olympic medal. No, it is to glorify God on earth.

That is God's plan for you. There's nothing greater than that, better than winning an Olympic medal or better than becoming a billionaire to finish God's plan on earth. And think of young men in the Old Testament like Joseph.

Read the story of Joseph, Daniel. What wonderful examples, how they're faithful to the Lord till the end and above all, Jesus. I often meditate on how Jesus as a young boy, it says he obeyed his parents.

Honor your father and mother in anything they tell you, obey them unless it is something to disobey God's word. Because God is above your father. And if your father tells you to bow down to an idol or do something against God's word, you say, dad, I love you very much.

But God does not allow me to bow down to an idol. If he asks you to tell a lie, no. If he asks you to write a false statement in order to get admission to a college, you say, no, dad, I don't want to get admission to college by telling a lie.

If I speak the truth, God will help me to get into the right college. If I tell a lie, I may get into the wrong college. That's not where I want to go.

My life will be messed up. If you've done such things in the past, you say, what shall I do now? Just ask the Lord to forgive you. Say, Lord, I'm sorry.

I told a lie somewhere. I cheated someone. Please forgive me.

And if money I've taken from someone, I want to give it back as soon as possible. I want to set it right. But I want to fulfill your plan for my life.

You'll have a wonderful life from today onwards. Young people, look at Jesus. He honored Joseph and Mary who were appointed as earthly parents.

It says he listened to them. That's why God blessed him. So may God bless all of you.

Thank you for listening. Please remember one thing we can thank God for is YouTube. Why? Because there's a recording of my message there.

And if you write to this address, which you'll see at the end, you can contact them and find where that recording is. And you can listen to this message again and again and again. That's why I say thank God for YouTube also.

And there are 2000 sermons of mine there. You can listen to all of them. They are in many languages.

They are in Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi. And if you go to our CFC website, cfcindia.com, there are 50 languages in which there are messages. Worldwide languages.

We want to spread the gospel all over the world. 50 languages. You can choose yours.

I'm sure yours is one of them. God bless you. Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Let us have a spirit of reverence, thankfulness to God for what he has spoken to you. And you can say in your own words to God silently. First of all, thank him.

Develop the habit of thanking him for his care for you, his goodness to you. Thank you, Father, for this day, for helping us to hear your word. Please imprint these words in our minds by the Holy Spirit.

And I pray nobody will go away condemned. Everybody will go away rejoicing. And those who are not sure of their salvation, they are sure today, those who never accepted Christ till now, give them an assurance that you accepted them, forgiven them, that today was their date of new birth, born again.

And pray to those who are discouraged, go away encouraged. And every single person who is here, everyone who's listening to this, all the maybe thousands of people who are listening, help them all to be blessed. Commit them all to you.

In Jesus name. Amen.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/pDajy3Bih-0.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/young-people-grace-can-enable-you-to-live-victoriously/>

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