

WHERE GRACE ABOUNDS

Heb 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

We are told in this verse what to do when we tempted. In context the writer of Hebrews was talking about temptation and how Jesus was victorious in all his temptations. We are told to come to the throne of grace when we are tempted. If we do this in faith we will obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Please note the difference between mercy and grace. Mercy is not getting what you deserve and grace is getting what you do not deserve. Mercy is obtained but grace is found. When we are the cause of our trial that we are in we can obtain mercy from God by asking for it. However, this verse does not say we need to ask God for grace. Why is this? It is because God has already given us His grace is Christ! That is why Paul told Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Grace needs to be found. This begs the question, "If grace must be found, then where can I find grace?" The scripture does not leave us to guess the answer to this question. We can know where grace is because the Word tells us!

Rom 5:20 *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,***

In this verse we see where grace is found. This verse says WHERE sin abounds, THERE grace abounds more! Where is grace to be found? It is found at the very spot where sin is operating in us! This means that at the very spot in our being that sin is rising up in manifestation of some form of sin, right at that spot grace can be found to overcome that sin and manifest Jesus! The power of grace is much greater than the power of sin!

I think we get off base when we only see the definition of grace as being unmerited favor. This is true but this is only one side of grace. Grace is like a coin that has two sides to it. There is a cross side to grace and a resurrection side to grace. The cross brings unmerited favor. The cross is where our sins were atoned for and we were given a right standing with God. We are accepted by God through the finished work of Christ. Most Christians think of this kind of grace when grace is mentioned. However, there is another side to grace. This grace comes through the resurrection. Through the resurrection of Christ we receive

the new birth, the Holy Spirit, and the power of God! Resurrection grace is the power, strength, and ability of God to do what you could never do in our natural self. Romans 5:20 is really speaking of resurrection grace instead of cross grace. Romans 5:20 is saying that where sin abounds in us [this manifests in addictions], that right in that place grace is available to abound in a much greater way to help us walk free from sin!

Many have sought to find out where sin is coming from in their life. They examine their past and their soul to find out where sin is coming from. It is good to know what lies we believe but sometimes we just do not know where sin is arising in us from. Whether we know or don't know where it is coming from we know that grace will abound right there to cause us to experience victory over it! He says where sin abounds, THERE grace will much more abound. I don't always know where sin is abounding in me, but I can claim that where it is coming from, right there in that spot in me, grace will super abound in me to cause me to walk in victory! Hallelujah! Do you see that?

Grace must be received by faith. That is why we don't always experience the power, strength, and ability of God to overcome sin in our life. It is not just automatic or every Christian would be walking in victory. Also, many fail to win the victory over sin because they fight sin with their will-power. We can never win against sin by our soul- will-power. Sin is a spiritual force that can only be overcome with a greater spiritual force. That greater spiritual force is God's grace in Christ Jesus! Instead of using our will-power to overcome sin we need to use our will to release our faith and receive grace where sin abounds in us. We release our faith by our words and actions. Faith also must be present tense. If it is future tense it is not faith, but hope. We receive grace by faith! We must believe we receive grace right now as our present possession before we feel anything!

So how do we practically apply this? When a temptation arises in you, and you know what that means for you, then you need to receive grace at the very place sin is rising up. Do not try to fight the temptation with your will-power because you will lose in the end. You will overcome by faith! You need to believe the promise that where sin abounds in you, there grace much more abounds. You need to confess with your mouth that you have grace now operating in you at the very spot that sin is trying to operate in you and that grace is much stronger than

that sin. Do not wait to feel God's power. You must believe and speak it as being yours before you feel anything and then you will experience it! If you do this you will experience God's power, strength, and ability work in you. You will find grace to walk in victory over sin. This is true of whatever sin you have been experiencing and it does not matter how long that sin has been in your life or how strong it has been. Grace is much stronger than sin. Praise God!