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## God's Enduring Grace

Every one of us comes to a place where we realize we can't do it on our own. The smarter ones realize it quicker in life. Nonetheless, when we face circumstances that are greater than our ability to overcome, that is the time that we usually turn to God. Before we gained knowledge of who we were in Christ, we would look up into the heavens and cry out to God with a loud voice, saying, "HELP!" The world only have themselves to turn to, but we have a wonderful Father who is always for us.

I used to think that I needed to grab God's attention when hard times hit, because in my view, it was obvious that He wasn't paying attention to me, otherwise I would not be going through something so tough. Isaiah 65:24 tells us, *"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear."* God is not ignoring us in the hard times. On the contrary, He is right there with us and for us, and He has provided hope for victory in every battle. In the middle of hard times, the answer may seem impossible for us, but it's not!!

It took many personal conversations with My Heavenly Father before He could convince me that His Word was true. I have to say that I never doubted the Word of God as being the absolute Truth of God. However, for me personally, I doubted myself. See, I know me. I know my weaknesses and my private struggles, and I also knew that I couldn't hide them from God. Believing that God loves us to the depths of making all things possible is one of the biggest obstacles facing the church today

Like many christians, I would always approach God with the best things in my life, and hope that the ugly things in my life wouldn't disqualify me in His eyes. But still, I was always expecting Him to give up on me. Hebrews 13:5-8 says to us *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

After approaching God over and over, and each time expecting rejection but only finding love, I began to accept what is true for me just as much as for every child of God. It is impossible for God to leave me. I even stopped trying to hide my struggles from Him as I ran into His presence. I found in Him a love and care for me that I didn't know was even possible, and it is that love that continues to fuel my belief that all things really are possible for me. That verse in the Bible is not only for great people, and for perfect people, but it is also for broken people, and for struggling people.

The very heart of faith is that we can now believe for miracles, power and even prosperity because of how amazing Jesus is, and not on how amazing we are. One of the biggest mistakes we make as believers is approaching God based on our self. When we are strong, we approach Him as, "Look at how good I am doing so now will you answer my prayer?" When we are weak, we approach Him with, "I know it doesn't look good, God. Please don't look at how I am struggling and if I'm lucky you might answer my prayer." Both of these approaches are wrong, and based on our good or on our bad works, and are a type of pride. I just love how patient He is with us, and how willing He is to prove His love towards us as His children.

I'll never forget the time I was ministering in Mexico at a little church, when a sweet little grandma was at the altar on her knees crying out to God. I didn't need to know Spanish to understand her deep desire for an answer to her prayer, but I could also hear in her cries that she was begging God to please notice her in her struggles. My heart broke that she didn't realize how much God wanted to touch her. I grabbed her up and began to talk to her in English before I realized that I need to wait for the interpreter to come and help. I shared with her that Jesus had already paid the price in full for her miracle. She no longer needed to convince God of her worth.

It tells us in Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*" I would remind you and myself of this same thing. When times seem the most difficult and desperate, it's in these times that we can freely run to Him without an offering of good works, and without justifying our struggles. Simply run to Him, because He is always waiting for us, and He will never turn us away! He knows you, He loves you, and He believes in you.

## **ALAN TAYLOR MINISTRIES**

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