



ACTING  
IN.

*Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING  
*Grace.*

*A true success...*

Watering a dead seed planted on a field?

Spiritual inclination in Christ Jesus and

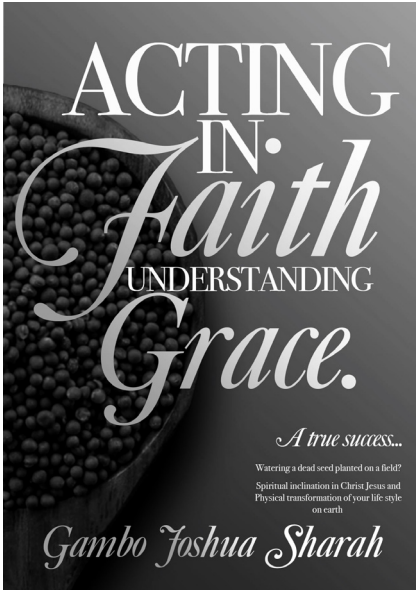
Physical transformation of your life style  
on earth

*Gambo Foshua Sharah*

ACTING  
IN.  
*Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING  
*Grace*

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DEDICATION  
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I with humble Heart dedicate this Book to the Lord God Almighty, My Salvation, Inspiration and Success. To My father Late District Head Joshua A. Sharah, Mother Late Mrs. Kwalassa Joshua Sharah, my first teachers of the Word and Godliness, my Queen Angel Wife, Mrs. Zainab and to my children: FalHyel Joshua, KiHyel David and Mike.

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**PRAY WITH ME**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Glory, Power and Honour belongs to the Lord God Almighty, My Salvation, Inspiration and Success.

My Precious Queen Angel wife, Mrs. Zainab Gambo Sarah and our Sons Prince Angel I and II – FalHyel Joshua Gambo Sarah and KiHyel David Gambo Sarah, You have been my strength, your sacrifices during this work, tremendously aided the success. I love you all unconditionally.

Special gratitude to Rev Nuhu Mamman Guddal, Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State, may God continue to bless and use you tremendously, in Jesus Christ name, amen.

My brothers in the Vineyard of God, serving together and encouraging one another as Sunday Adult Bible Institute Teachers (Eld Solomon Rimamchirika, Eld Paul Ojile and Eld Jonathan Nuhu) of ECWA Goodnews, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, remain blessed for the encouragement and love. I can't drop my pen without acknowledging my friends and fellows in Christ (Special Bazhi) Mr. WakuraHyel Yohana Turaki and his wife, Mrs. Omega WakuraHyel. May God Almighty continue to bless and keep us together.

My Siblings that aided my development in life and education, God's Family of CodeGrace Ministry and friends, May the Good Lord Bless you all accordingly, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

You the reader, for partaking in this study with me under the Holy Spirit the Great Teacher, may God bless you really good according to his promises (Revelation 1:3) in Jesus Christ name, Amen.

## PRAY WITH ME:

I (name):.....  
thank you Lord God Everlasting. Open my  
heart and my mind to the understanding of  
your word. Help me to know and live according  
to your will, in Jesus Christ name, Amen



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# FOREWORD

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This book “Acting in Faith – Understanding Grace” is indeed timely and will really meet the need of Christians who earnestly desire to grow spiritually.

The Church is now under the covenant of Grace. God has planned to redeem man from sin by Grace and He has done it. Faith and obedience are highly required from everyone to obtain the special Grace of God, yet Grace remains unconditional in the sense that it does not depend on any merit of man or woman but that of Christ Jesus. Man needs to act in Faith for him to enjoy the good life of God’s Grace here on earth. Gambo Joshua Sarah – the author, explained this rather big theological term in a very simple and clear way for effective understanding.

I am very proud of this piece of work done by G.J. Sarah. He made it clear that Christ Jesus is the Mediator of the Grace between Man and God. Christ does not only remain at the center of God’s Grace, but also has full power and authority to fulfill the requirement of the law for us and paid the penalty of our sins. “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all men” (I Tim. 2:5-6).

The author noticed with dismay that many Christians who claim to know that they have been saved and secured by the Grace of God, are not acting by faith. Many depend on feelings, emotions, imaginations or what they see with their eyes. Today you hardly find a Christian advertisement for crusade or revival programme without “come and receive your miracle and healing and the likes”. Sarah took His time to explain the main Biblical purpose of miracle to help all the miracle seekers and makers

understand the ways of God.

Understanding why God is silent or will answer prayers different from the way we expect, after praying that we trust it is done in faith, is one important thing that this book explained.

The author is an anointed and inspired man of God, a Bible teacher and student of true Biblical teachings and preaching, trainings and seminars. Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he is used tremendously by God and this piece is one of the many results. This work will be of great asset to Bible Teachers, Pastors and Believers who desire to know the truth and live by the truth.

In this modern day Christianity where confusion has already entered the lives of many so called born again Christians, this book is highly timely and needed.

I therefore counsel the reader to study this book with open Heart and remain blessed.

**Rev. Nuhu Mamman Guddal**

Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State

December, 2018

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## PREFACE

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Acting in Faith – Understanding Grace, is an inspiration received over the years as a result of personal search of the Scriptures for a key to the mind (will and plan) of God’s Pattern of prayer and lifestyle. This search was enacted, knowing full well that I cannot succeed here on earth nor live with God eternally without living a life patterned after the will of God as a Christian. As I grow through Christ Jesus, I see areas where God has given man dominion and clear criteria to succeed yet being latent, resulting in the challenges of growing in faith. One of the obvious challenges is when God has willed to answer prayers in a way that is not expected by the person that prayed. Such challenges are overcome when one understands the mind of God in the situation at hand. This is the work of the Holy Spirit as He leads us.

While working on this book, sometime in the year 2017, I travelled to Uvu my home town and down to Maiduguri, Borno State capital my home state, Nigeria. After driving for two days from Kebbi State, I finally met my family. I visited my Sister in the city of Maiduguri where bomb and gunshots were the common sound at the time. It was a refreshing moment of reunion after two years that could not be completely affected by the crisis caused by the insecurity. Our children were excited and preciously playing around and we were reflecting on the Grace of God upon our large family (Father’s and brethren’s) lives as we remember some passages of the scriptures and our lives that were being preserved. In one of her statements, my Sister said “My entire life, God has given me everything I asked for, but one” and I asked her “what could that be sister?” And she said “I asked God not to take our Mother’s life when she was at the hospital year 2006, yet she died”.

If you were in my shoes, as the last born from our Mother, what answer or response will you give my Sister after hearing this practically and physically true statement? Will you say God has not answered the prayer or He has answered? I remember telling her “you will never know what would have happened with our mother being alive but God knows, so He answered perfectly for our good and for her good by taking her to

rest". The Physical or practical might not always be the best when God is involved in any act of man, but the will of God is always perfect in all circumstances.

I observed as I watched many at times that Christians are asking God questions, while others are blaming God, using commanding words in prayers instead of requesting, and moving from one Church to another, house to house in search of miracles even without understanding God and His ways. Some become demoralized, discouraged and worst of it all they may backslid from the faith. Asking God questions is not wrong but what type of questions and with what motive sales it. Miracle is good and it is the promise of God for us and for our good, but are we seeking according to His will and in a way He taught us? In Mathew 26:39 and John 12:27-28, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane could have held on to miracle, instead, He ultimately asked for the will of God the Father. Here is the understanding; having things done your way is not your success but having things done to the glory of God which in turn makes things fall into one piece for your good and blessing. Remember, Jesus is exalted above all because of this Humility and obedience.

Unbelievers may take for granted the Grace he/she has because he/she differentiates not between Grace in Christ Jesus (Eternal Grace) and Grace (Temporal Grace) left for man to live the earthly life at the fall in Genesis 3. Having all the materials, wealth, riches, family and friends make people imagine and be comfortable that they have the complete Grace of God. The questions are; is there really true understanding of Grace and faith? Is the Grace you have now temporal or eternal? Can you differentiate between the grace everyone has and having Grace in Christ Jesus? Why is Grace in Christ Jesus a prerequisite for life eternal? How can one live according to the Grace in Christ Jesus?

God helped me in my quest for a key to the mind (will and plan) of God Pattern of prayer and life by directing me to the scriptures, opening the eyes of my heart to the key inspiration: Understand My Grace, believe and your lifetime actions in faith will be according to my Will (Ephesians 1:1-10). Together as fellow servants of God and brethren in this strange world, through the scripture, let us study this Grace and Faith and how we are to act according to the Will of God for our good, trusting God for the leadership of the Holy Spirit our only and ultimate Teacher.

Humbly, I commend this book to you as Teaching material, personal,

fellowship or group study, as a Christian, discipleship leader, a disciple or any man/woman to learn with me what God is teaching us on Grace and faith that gave us eternal life lost at the fall of Man and right motive and attitude to act in faith, trusting that God will use this Book to bring you right to the step of His Will, to win Souls and for Discipleship and growth of Christian Faith in His Vineyard.

—

**Gambo Joshua Sarah**

CodeGrace Ministry

August, 2018

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



UNDERSTANDING  
**GRACE.**

## ChapterOne

### UNDERSTANDING GRACE

*“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast”. Ephesians 2:8-9*

**K**nowledge of Grace is imperative to Christians as well as the unbelievers for them to be able to understand the difference between the grace they have in sin and believing in the saving Grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Grace is defined in many ways by different scholars. Together, let us study our text trusting God to help us understand Grace holistically.

The scripture, Ephesians 2:8-9, makes it explicitly clear that there is no self nor amount of good works, can avail man the Grace of God that we are saved by and do enjoy, but given by God alone. Despite God knowing that our works can't merit His Grace, He still gives freely. From this scripture, we can at least learn four lessons on Grace, stepping up from the definition:

**The definition of Grace:** “Gift of God, not by works”

The passage above explains that “it is the gift of God, not by works”. Understanding this, I define Grace thus:

*Grace is the totality of life now and eternal, the whole being existence of life that God alone gives irrespective of man's inability to merit it.*

Therefore, the totality of all we live to enjoy is Grace. The most precious gift of God to man is the totality of life that man cannot earn. This explains why the richest man in the world will die and there is nothing he or anyone can do about it. We can agree with the fact that there is no man or works of

man without the man being alive. It is also clear that man cannot give life to himself. We can then conclude that the thing that man wants most and cannot earn by self is life in total (nothing is left out) – Grace.

**Who is Grace?** “*For it is by Grace you have been saved*”

Verse 8a “For it is by grace you have been saved” With this we can see that Grace saves by the saving ability. ***A car battery can only power the engine because it is a power substance that generates power itself.*** If Grace can give life that is lost by man’s disobedience, then grace is life itself. Grace can’t give life if Grace is not life. Grace being life affirms it as a living being capable of giving life. When one is “saved by Grace”, one’s complete existence is sure with no hitch. Who then is this living being that saves?

From time past I have only been seeing and hearing a question what is grace? But the greatest and deepest question that I think we should ask is; ***who is Grace?*** This question can only be asked only after understanding; ***the mystery of been Saved by Grace.*** When we are inspired that being saved has to do with giving life and not limited to breath but totality of it and eternal, we will see Grace as a life and life as a Person not just words put together for human understanding. We will then discover that ***who*** should be the next word to use when asking about Grace and not just what. The answer to who question is the biggest and heaviest picture of Grace.

According to the scripture, who then is Grace since we can agree that Grace is Life?

*<sup>1</sup>“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” ...<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of Grace and truth (John 1:1-4, 14).*

Verse 3 and 4 says “Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men”. This scripture is the explanation of who Jesus Christ is: God, Word and Life. Verse 4 in particular, explains that life is in Him. No wonder verse 3 says through him all things were made; without Him nothing was

made that has been made. To confirm this verse 3, God has given man the knowledge to prove scientifically, that there is life in every living creature. Though all creatures are classified by man into living and non-living things through some certain characteristics for man's easy clarification, it is certain that for anything to be called a creature Jesus is present in it, Grace and the person of God the Son given by God in whom life is and everything was made. Verse 14 concluded by proving that Jesus the Son is the Word, God and Life talked about in verses 1-4. Col 1:16-17 also affirms it. It clearly explains why Jesus is the Grace of God that brings Salvation (life eternal) and why Jesus is the manifestation of God in human form. With this, we are certain that whenever we talk of Grace, it means life, not limited to breath but breath as the heart and the living aspect. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, the only Life capable of giving same (the Son of God) we receive the Grace, the life in totality, eternally through faith (Rom 1:3-5). Let us look at the Old and New Testaments to see Grace in confirmation to our text of understanding Grace:

***Grace in the Old Testament:*** "...so that no one can boast"

The impossibility of man earning Grace with works is that, we cannot even work if the life is not given to us, we can't earn life when we are dead! Today, many things man does and boasts of, even robots that look like man and do a lot than man does or even cannot do manually, is only possible because life is given to man by God, yet, the ***ONE THING THAT MAN CAN NEVER BOAST OF IS THE TOTALITY OF LIFE, BECAUSE NO MAN GIVES.*** That is why the robots can never have life but programs. The passage of the scripture above, John 1:1-4, 14 discloses that God has given life (Jesus) to each and every creature from the time of creation, especially man. The total narration of the creation in Genesis 1 and 2 shows this affirmatively:

*"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7).*

Life – Jesus Christ was given through breath (in Spirit) to man by God (remember John 1:1-4,14 above that explain Jesus is life and all things were created through Him). Since then man had a fullness of life to live. This is why an unbeliever is having the grace of enjoying his life on earth

just as a believer does. Everyone was given this particular grace of living a life from creation through Adam just as we inherited the sin committed. At the fall of man, God only took away the eternity aspect of living, that is the Unique or Eternal Grace (Gen. 3:22-23), allowing every man, believer or unbeliever to enjoy living on earth; General Grace as a sign of His unfailing love, having planned to save man again. Adam and Eve left the Garden with sin in nature but God did not stop them from enjoying life on earth (General Grace that unbelievers or sinners also enjoy today) but they must work to enjoy it (Gen 3:16-19), only that no life eternal (Unique Grace of eternity). So every unbeliever or sinner can enjoy the grace of living on earth as long as he works through the strength given by God at the creation and was never taken away, but will never be saved to enjoy Grace of living eternally until he/she accepts Jesus Christ; the Eternal Grace of God. God created man and gave him both Grace with a sole aim;

*“Everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my Glory: whom I formed and made**” (Isaiah 43:7).*

Grace was given to all men with the aim of glorifying God. God alone controls Grace and He gave man a condition that enables the existence of the unique grace which is unlimited.

### **Condition for Grace in the Old Testament**

God’s unique Grace given to man enables eternal fellowship with Him in His Glory. The only thing man needed to do was one; **Obey God**. Man was living with God the creator and so they knew and communicated with Him normally in flesh (Gen. 3:8-10). The only condition that was required of man was to listen and do as directed by God the creator who knows why He created man in the first place:

*“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen 2:16-17 NKJ).*

Man was to have pure relationship with God but along the line he falls (Gen 3) by disobeying the direct command of God in Genesis 2 above “...you shall not eat...” disobedient separated man from God’s Grace of

eternal life. Man became dead from the eternal life as God has said in Gen. 2 above "...you shall surely die..." That has caused man to be answerable to death because man disobeyed God, seeking to glorify himself to be like God instead of glorifying God by obeying as the purpose of the creation is meant. In the same vein of love and spirituality, God put in place many laws ultimately the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:1-17) and people that He anointed to bring back man to the pure relationship, yet man remains adamant just like the nature inherited from the Father, Adam. God still allows man to enjoy life but limited to earth be he a sinner or the righteous. God is love (I Jn. 4:16) and Unique Grace was given by God to all men again in the New Testament, life that is eternal without limit to the earth, Christ Jesus the Son of God, to bring back man into the original eternal relationship (Jn. 3:16).

**Grace in the New Testament:** *"...saved through faith and this is not from yourselves"*

Sin (Genesis 3) has detached the spirituality of man that allows him have fellowship with God to eternity and have power over death (Rom 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"). All sinned by inheriting it from the first man and continue in it making it to be by nature of the first man-Adam and by choice of the present man-You. Insofar man is in the flesh and not Spiritually inclined, he is easily carried away by the things he sees physically (just like Adam and Eve saw the fruit pleasant) and cannot worship God to eternity as he was created to – *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him Must Worship in Spirit and Truth"* (John 4:24 NKV). Lovingly, God paid the price of man's disobedience which is death (Rom 6:23, Rom 5:10). God decided that I will manifest my Grace to you in a form that is like you for you to see physically the Grace I have given to you even before you were born and He (Grace) will perfect you to My Glory and show you the way back to Me. He revealed His Grace (Jesus) to man physically that at the acceptance, man will again have eternal life free of charge:

*"For the grace of God has appeared that offers Salvation to all people"* (Titus 2:11)

In this Scripture, the key words/phrase could be:

\*Grace of God – Jesus the Life \*Appeared – visible \*offers Salvation – Life eternal to all people.

This verse in my own words will be “***Jesus the life brings eternal life in human nature to all people***”. In Essence, the eternity part of Old Testament grace given to man was jeopardized by disobedience. The life that unbeliever or a sinner lives today is the remnant (Part that God left) of the original life given to us at creation. ***REMNANT ALWAYS GOES TO WASTE FOREVER IF NOT PROPERLY RECYCLED TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE***. This transformation is what God has given man through Christ Jesus, new life that guarantees life eternal, with only one condition added to the Obedience given in the Old Testament condition.

### **Conditions for Grace in the New Testament**

Man’s denial of the eternal life God has given him by behaving contrary to the condition given didn’t stop God from loving man, He again offered life eternal free and visible (Rom 4:24-25) with the condition “believe” this time you must ***believe*** for you to be able to obey:

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to Salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” – (Rom 1:16 (NKJ).*

With no strings, attached you must believe and obey as long as you live in this body you carry till the time you will be transformed to the other life and body that will last eternally. ***Believing is the spiritual inclination and Obedience is the physical transformation of your life style on earth into the ways of God, shown to us by Jesus Christ our Lord:***

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” – Eph. 4:22-24.*

Believing that Jesus Christ is Lord, is like accepting the Grace of God as a child (Rom 10:9-10, Mark 10:15). Obey, then this new self is in you and life eternal is yours free of charge – Rom 3:24. It is then pertinent for us to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and obey His Ordinances

for us to have eternal life that we lost at the fall of man and we are still living in. Don't be deceived by this present life, because the physical things that Satan tempts man with, has limit as it is no more eternal without Christ Jesus (James 4:14).

Now there is need to understand the condition given to man to live eternally in the New Testament **Believe (Faith)** and **Obey** (John 6:47, 14:23). Now man is to believe simply because man is no more seeing God as it was at the beginning after creation, but God proved His existence through Christ Jesus His Son, for this reason one must believe that yes, He is God that is manifested as my Lord to save me. This will lead us to the next chapter, which is another imperative term we need to understand; **Faith**.

## **Chapter Summary**

The Grace of God (complete life on earth and Eternal life with God) given to man at creation by God's breath was corrupted by man through disobedience, resulting in the termination of the eternity life with God – eternal Grace, subjecting man to death. God in His love, again gave eternity enabling Grace to man free of Charge through Jesus Christ that will raise man from the dead and live eternally, with the requirement of believing and obeying. This is the connection between Old and New Testament Jesus came to repair what man destroyed in the Old Testament even the law - “Ten Commandments” that men abused by lofty holier than thou lifestyle (Matt. 5:17). Jesus is Grace and Grace is the whole being of life that no man can merit but given by God. Because Jesus is Grace – totality of life, He is the only one that can give life and that too eternally (Jn. 14:6). Everything in life that you enjoy and you may pray for since it is part of the totality of life, you can never earn it but God is the only one that can approve and give at His will for your best.

## **Definitions:**

**Grace** is the totality of life now and eternal, the whole being of existence of life that God alone gives, irrespective of man's inability to merit it.

**Faith** is the spiritual inclination to God obtained only by accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**Obedience** is the physical transformation of life style on earth into the way of God, demonstrated by Jesus Christ our Lord.

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



UNDERSTANDING  
**FAITH.**



## Chapter Two

### UNDERSTANDING FAITH

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen” – Hebrews 11:1 NKJ*

**T**o clearly understand the term Faith, I won't talk about it without establishing the fact that Faith and Believe are words that are at times used interchangeably – And without faith it is impossible to please Him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6 RSV). Here faith is the word in the first clause but it is changed to believe in the second clause, yet portraying the same meaning. Faith can be used in place of Believe or belief as well as Believe or belief in place of Faith.

This scripture helps me to understand that in ultimate sense, things hoped for, yet not seen but have evidence are divided into two main bodies – Existence of God which guarantees Eternal life given by God; and God rewards those who seek Him with The totality of life on earth given by God (in the next second, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years). Only God knows, sees and gives these two. Man can only ask God and hope (have assurance) for these two, accepting the fact that it is evident by: Jesus' resurrection that God exists (life eternal); and many lives that God has and is still rewarding by caring for (totality of life on earth). Knowing this, I classify Faith as a term that is one but operate in two forms:

***Faith as a Believe to be saved** eternally (Christianity: God exist as Christ the Evidence and we follow Him) –John 3:16.*

***Faith as a Believe in God Answering Prayers** (God rewards those who seek him by caring for them: Growth/Maturity) – (Math 21:22).*

Often times I hear people converse on faith without having even the glimpse of the thin line that separates the word into two (2) operational modes. **THE**

**FIRST FAITH IS TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AND THE SECOND FAITH IS TO HELP US ENJOY THIS PRESENT LIFE ON EARTH (GROWING IN FAITH) WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.** For you to have Faith, you must have hope which is things not seen (Rom 8:24- 25). Having eternal life and having all things for life are both hope which means both are Faith. You cannot see eternal life, nor see things you will have for life, but hope for and hold unto the assurance of God’s promise that He will do them both. The only thing that differentiates them is the operational form and period, one resulting to another. You can’t have faith that God will be with you and answer your prayers as you live on earth, without; first having faith that He raised Jesus Christ His Son to save you as you will also be resurrected. You must believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior for you to be able to believe in His ability of doing all things for you. Abraham had this kind of faith in God (Rom 4:17-22).

### **Faith as a Belief to be saved Eternally (Christianity)**

Considering the generation that did not see Jesus, His death nor resurrection, No one can see salvation of God, resurrection and living eternally, physically, except we must hope and be assured of His promises. That is trust that God gives it perfectly just as He resurrected His Son Jesus Christ our Lord as evidence. Being saved from the corrupted life that is limited to present time is all God has done to all that believe, through Christ Jesus, to live eternally without limit:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever “believes” in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” – (John 3:16).*

Christianity is not just a name as many view it and others live by it. It is founded on the love of God to Humanity and built with a sole conformity to Godly life through the saving grace of God, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour (I Pet 1:21) - Believing that we will be resurrected just like Him when we live like Him. What does the origin of the name “Christian” tell you?

*21“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. 22Then news of these*



*things came to the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. <sup>24</sup>For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. <sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek for Saul. <sup>26</sup>And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christian in Antioch” – (Acts 11:21-26 NKJ).*

The life and works of the disciples were known to all just as Jesus lived and did. At the time of the disciples living the lifestyle of Jesus Christ our Lord, people had to give them name according to who they belonged to, behaved like and imitated. So the name Christian was given to them. Their life resembled that of Christ our Lord. This is the renewing of our mind in conformity to God, “obeying after Believing”. The question now is that: Is your Christianity by name, by birth, by home, by Church, by living with Christians or it is because you are truly living the life that Jesus Christ expects you to live here on earth as He has shown to us? Faith of being saved is operating in individuals without any collective agreement that other group members’ salvation will be given to another. You must believe as individual and be saved as individual. It also operates both now and to eternity. From the day you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you receive life eternal and you will live to eternity as long as you keep the faith to the end of this limited life (growing in faith, second faith that has to do with obeying God).

### **Faith as a Believe in God is able and His Answering Prayers (Growth/Maturity)**

This faith is where you need to replace your fears and worries in life with confidence in God’s ability to do what you are hoping for (Hebrews 11:1a). After that you live your life holding unto the assurances of God’s promises you have discovered in His word (the Scripture) that He will do what your physical eyes cannot see day by day until it is manifested (Hebrews 11:1b). It simply means whenever you discover a problem or need, tell God about the problem or need and then replace the worries concerning the problem

or need with confidence in God's ability to solve it and the assurance of His promises to do what is far beyond the limit your eyes can see.

You as an individual can never see how God will respond to your prayers before He does, but you can confidently without doubt hope that God will respond perfectly for your good as He has done to people of the past and still doing to many today as evidence. This Faith is the action and growing part of the faith as Christian. It operates only in this life we live – God gives and requires us to have it in this life for our own good, opening the door to all that concerns this life (II Peter 1:3) “according to His will.” Faith empowers us and conveys us into the presence of God with boldness without hindrances. Whatever is asked through Christ Jesus with believe that God will do it, shall be fulfilled:

*“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer”.*  
– (Math 21:22 NKJ).

Now that you are saved by having faith in the resurrected Jesus the salvation of man by God, the only requirement for your prayers to be answered, taking you right through the door of the blessings God has in store for you and grow in faith, is having Faith in God, that He will do it for you the best way and not just your way. ***PRAYING IN FAITH IS ASKING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, CONCERNING YOUR SITUATION, TRUSTING HIS ANSWER IS THE BEST FOR YOU.*** It is about having a total confidence in God and His perfect will and answer for what you hope for. Wait for the answer as you hope (Rom 8:24-25).

Jesus said “your faith has healed you” (Luke 18:42). He healed people yet He said this to them. It is for us to learn that it is not by man but God according to the faith we have in Him. This is a personal thing. It is not about who is praying for you but about you yourself. It is your faith in God that solves your problems but not the faith of that Pope, Reverend, Bishop, Pastor, Father, General Overseer, Apostle, Prophet or Prophetess. Going to this set of people should be for the reason of them helping you understand how you can grow in faith that will help you receive God's answer as they join you in faith and intercede but not them solving your problems or making God to solve your problems. ***PLUGGING ELECTRONICS INTO POWER SOCKET CAN'T GIVE YOU ELECTRICITY BUT POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY RELEASING THE POWER TO THE***

**POWER SOCKET.** Yes, God in the Scriptures has directed people like Paul to go to Ananias (Acts 22:6-16) and many others to go for prayers, He may still do it, but until you hear from Him just like Paul did, have encounter with him just like Paul did, be careful not to waste your opportunity by wrong motive. It is also true that the scripture says, call the church Elders for prayers (James 5:14), it is also clear that the scripture does not say they will power the solution. These God anointed Men are channels just like the wires and sockets and never the power. The moment you believe in them and not in God, you have already put in action, wrong faith. God is everywhere and He is always able. He is not limited to Space, Place, Time nor persons. Where you go, who you see and the time have nothing to do with God answering your prayers except you hear Him telling you clearly in any form He chooses to. Do not be deceived by going to places that you will at the end hate yourself and terribly lose the eternal life. How many people have changed Church assemblies in search of miracles and you see them receiving the true miracle? How many of them ended up staying in the first Church assembly they went before? Why do you think they didn't receive the miracle as well as stay in the first place they went to? It is simple: their faith is not in God but in people or places. Their imagination could be what convicted them that there is miracle in the Church and when they are faced with the reality, they discover it is not there. With impenitent heart they move to another church assembly instead of repenting and turn to God, Him only completely.

### ***Chapter Summary***

Faith is one; believing in Jesus as Lord and Saviour (Belief), yet the practical aspect is the second form of faith we must have: doing the will of God as we believe that all we ask of Him in the name of Jesus, the best will be given to us (Believe). This is the growing in faith that the scripture is teaching us. We must confidently hope for salvation of God in Christ Jesus the Risen Lord and confidently hope that He is the source of everything we have and need as we practice and live in His ways. We have the evidence through His resurrection and His past and present deeds which is assurance to us of His promises that he can and will do it for us all we ask according to His will.

#### ***Definition:***

**Faith:** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the

evidence of things not seen”–(Hebrews 11:1 NKJ.)

**My Definition:** Faith is replacing your worries of life and needs with confidence in God’s ability and holding to His assured promises based on the evidence of resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and care for his people.

*Forms of faith*

**Faith** is a Belief to be saved eternally  
(Christianity) – John 3:16.

**Faith** is a Believe in God Answering  
Prayers (Growth/Maturity) – (Math 21:22.)

The first one begets the second.

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



THE MYSTERY OF  
**GRACE**  
AND  
**FAITH.**

## Chapter *Three*

### THE MYSTERY OF GRACE AND FAITH

*“The Grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly,  
along with faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” – 1Tim 1:14.*

#### **Faith a Subset of Grace**

If grace is not available, there won't be evidence of God's availability (birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as the miracles and wonders he performed) to believe or have faith in. The Grace carry along the Faith and Love of God to all people as Apostle Paul has experienced and used it to encourage Timothy and the Church today in the passage above. After man has failed God, it is the presence of Grace that brought Faith to man that man is saved eternally and will be well cared for by God.

Grace was poured out abundant. Meaning it carries things that are available to and enough for all.  
Other things carried along are Faith and Love  
Grace, Faith and Love are in Christ Jesus. This is clearly saying that Jesus is the power house for all, He is the Grace.

Without Jesus there won't be Faith in God and love of God to man in this dispensation of Grace. This is simply because the faith is in Jesus the salvation of God to all mankind.

The implication of this subset is that, no Jesus; no life eternal and no answer to prayers that is certain in the dispensation of Grace (John 6:47, 14:13-14, 15:5). You have faith because of the Grace of God, (Jesus) is abundant. Grace is a gift that only God gives and faith is a part (I Cor 12:7-11).

#### **God and Man – Grace and Faith**

This is another important aspect of grace and faith that we should very well

understand.

***God acts by Grace***, a totality of life, nothing is left out, perfect to everyone and for every situation eternally, whilst ***Man acts in faith***, only for a particular situation he trusts God for, life on earth and eternal.

Grace is the act of God to man, whilst

Faith is the response of man to God.

This is why obedience is the key for the growth of faith. When you believe, you have to obey the word of the God you believe. Act only in faith and nothing else for this is what He requires from you.

### **Man and Grace**

Man is the highest of God's creation and is given grace over everything, totality of life now and life eternal:

*26 "Then God said let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping that creeps on the earth.*

*27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"*

*– (Gen 1:26-27 NKJ.)*

It is important that we see this love that God has given to us over all the creatures, and appreciate it as we live in this temporary world. This love is climaxed with the Grace given to man at the creation in Gen 2:7 and renewed through Jesus' death and resurrection, life eternal (enjoy life on earth and life after now) – John 3:16, 5:24, 10:10. Both in the Old and New Testaments, Grace is given and revealed. You are the one in charge, accept it and be saved or deny it again and you will last forever in hell.

As long as man is alive, Grace is with him. Many times in our lives and even in the scripture some questions that are raised are; why is the wicked prospering? Why are the unbelievers living long? When we come to answer it we care little about God's mind and reason (will). This is what the scripture says:

*“Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God” – (Eccl 8:12-13 NKJ).*

The important thing for you when you are righteous is to continue to stand right with God and never to bother about the wicked for it shall be well with you no matter what. Grace is given to the wicked to live not because they are wicked, but for them to see, appreciate God and turn to Him, because God takes no pleasure in the death of a sinner but his repentance (*Ezek. 18:23, 31-32*).

In this Mystery of Grace and Faith lies the limitation of faith to Grace and how perfect is God’s plan and answers to man’s prayer. It shows the flaw of man in the presence of God even when man have faith. Since God has no limit in His action concerning your life, His work for you will only be the perfect one unless He permissively allow you and others to learn from the mistakes of desiring what is not perfect for you. Remember the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis chapters 6-21; God permissively allowed Sarah and Abraham when they went ahead to have a child (Ishmael) in their own way instead of waiting for His perfect will (Isaac). Both Sarah and Abraham and even we today I believe, have learnt a great deal from that mistake. The same child Sarah yearned for without waiting for God, she complained of that he must be sent away. Abraham had to send his son, his blood away and we also can see the consequences that we live with today to help us know God’s way is always the best. You can also remember the story of King Hezekiah (2 Kings Chapter 20). I believe God have seen Hezekiah’s future that will affect his households and the entire Israelites and so God decided to take him to rest. It was time for Hezekiah to die but humanly he wanted addition of years. Hezekiah asked in faith as we use to do, he desired for God to add years to his years. It was granted to him but he misused it. God lovingly added for him 15 years. In these 15 years he went astray from the Lord. His first action after being healed, led to captivity to Babylon (II Kings 20:12-19, Isaiah 20:12-19). In life, ask of God what will be for your advantage spiritually and not humanly because you will never know God’s reason for your situation unless you are directed by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). The things you ask for spiritually will turn the physical things that are pieces fall in pleasant line and one piece.

Jesus seeing people worrying about life, what to eat, wear, or even body etc, Jesus taught the people in the new testament that our father in heaven knows that we need all these things but what he want from us first is to seek Him and His righteousness then He will add unto us all these things that we need (Matt. 6:25-34). We pray as if we command God most at times not just because we have faith but because we have set our heart on those things we want to get and even the life we think we want to protect, forgetting that God knows all and he only desire that we seek Him and His righteousness instead and He will do all those things even without us knowing that he is doing them.

### ***Chapter Summary***

Grace comes abundantly with faith and love. There will be no faith without Jesus Christ. God works with Grace while we as humans work with faith as a response to accepting His salvation, leadership and providence. The mystery here is that: Faith is available only with Grace and so, Faith responds to Grace and not the other way round – Man’s will respond to God’s will (*For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose – Philippians 2:13*). Man act in faith to access the presence and promises of God while God act in Grace to perfectly give man the best and not just what man is asking. This is the understanding that will change our life and motive of prayer and behaviour in life as well as the desired success.

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



**REASONS  
FOR  
MIRACLE.**

## Chapter Four

### REASONS FOR MIRACLE

*<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name? <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” – Math 7:21-23 NKJV.*

**S**uccessful Living in this world need the understanding of why miracle? This is to avoid misconception that will lead to doom. Practicing faith rightly is the only way to helping us not to disobey God, because He is giving us His perfect will whenever we ask Him in faith. It is also the only way for you to enjoy this world perfectly as God wants you to. Practice has to do with trying to get a thing right in action as it should be. Same is applied to faith. When you have the first (saved through Believing in Jesus), the next thing will be practicing it in day to day life – the second Faith (Believing as a Key to answered prayers) but not making answers to prayer your priority, leading you to forget the will of God. Let us study how peoples’ wrong practice of faith is judged by Jesus our Lord God.

What have gone wrong in Mathew 7:21-23, if the people did all these miracles in the name of Jesus our Lord for Him to say “I never knew you; depart from Me.”? Practice (evildoing); yes, the practice was wrong “you who practice lawlessness!” Without true understanding, one will digress from the right way of practicing faith to practicing lawlessness simply because man always strives for what he can see or get physically. Lawlessness here could mean practicing all the miracles, act of faith without following the rules attached to them. This wrong practice of faith called lawlessness here makes the miracle maker/worker an ‘evildoer’ as New International Version of the Bible will call it. One will not understand the Man in his true nature. He will always go for immediate solution and so he views being saved as what will not be received now until the end of time on earth. This will cause man to think that, now he is saved he must

enjoy this life on earth that can be enjoyed now regardless of Grace (will of God) since it is promised by God that His children will have all they asked for (some will go back a little to Math 7:7, John 15:7) but forgetting that remain/abide in my word simply means to keep/obey every word of God and not just part that suit you. This could lead to wrong practice just as many people of this generation have already become victims and have placed miracle above all the other great and awesome works of God that man cannot see nor comprehend, due to wrong understanding of practicing prayer in faith, because they are only after what they want and not because they respect and know the value of the will of God. This is the genesis why people pray today as if they can command God. God can never be ordered around. ***NO LOVING FATHER CAN BE COMMANDED BY HIS SON OR DAUGHTER THAT HE MUST DO WHAT HE/SHE WANTS AT THE TIME HE/SHE ASKS, ESPECIALLY IF WHAT THE CHILD IS ASKING FOR IS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO HAVE AT THE TIME.*** A loving father gives to his child what is best at the right time and place.

Peoples' perspectives of miracles have changed their understanding of God's activities and reasons for miracle. It is observed that for many people today, a crusade without visible miracle is not a successful meeting; a Church without physical miracle is a dead one. This has caused many people today to forget the fundamental reason for Church and crusades which is to save the unsaved (Gospel of Jesus Christ). This is leading the Church Leaders, Preachers, Evangelist, music Ministers and many others astray as they point people to themselves instead of directing them to Christ Jesus the salvation of God to all men. Idolatry has become the order of the day – ignorantly worshipping Church, leaders, Teachers, Prophets, Apostles, Pastors or General Overseers instead of God. Yes it is good you honour your leaders but it most stop there. That's the limit of the honour. It should not escalate to worship because only God deserve the worship. God is not limited to a Leader, Church or whatever men for signs and wonders but at the right time and place He gives the best for His children regardless of their inability, as long as they obey Him by Trusting and waiting, having faith in His best answers.

### **The Primary reasons for miracle**

Some people that attend crusades and change Churches for signs and wonders, when you converse with them, the only reason they will give you may be that God has promised it to His children as long as they have faith.

So they must enjoy it since they have faith. Some may go to the extent of referring you to the scriptures like; (Math 21:22) and others. Yes, it is true and is happening but only if what you are asking is according to the perfect and sometime permissive will of God. Talking about perfect will of God and reason, here it is:

*<sup>1</sup> “As he went along, He saw a blind man from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’” <sup>3</sup> “neither this man nor his parents sinned,’said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:1-5)*

This blind man did not even ask but he received his sight simply because it is the will of God. In the above text, Jesus has given us undiluted Primary reasons for miracle:

**To glorify God:** In verse 3 “Jesus answered; neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”The revelation of the works of God shows His sovereignty and Lordship of every situation. This glorifies God and not any man, not even Jesus at that time nor the blind man. Same is applied for a man that God has anointed to perform miracles and or experience miracles.

**For Gospel:** Jesus in verse 4 and 5, after presenting the first reason said “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” This gives us the second primary reason for miracle: Gospel- it is for people to be saved through seeing God’s work through and in us. People will believe that, yes in Jesus I will be saved and also live on earth. This will serve as an evidence of God’s ability to those that need to believe/have faith (Hebrews 11:1).

Glorifying God and peoples’ salvation are the two primary reasons for miracles. It is not for any man to show that he has faith, boast in it or expect

that God must do it as he asked or at the time he wants because he has faith. This self-notion or motives impedes the flow of Grace in the life of a believer.

### **The Secondary Reason for miracle**

The secondary reason for miracle is for us to have the best God has prepared for us as we live this life on earth:

*6“When He has said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay”.<sup>7</sup>And He said to him, “go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing” – (John 9:6-7NKJ).*

In this passage we can see clearly the secondary reason for miracle: Enjoy the Sovereign and Providential power of God on earth: The blind man in verse 7 was healed and he started seeing. Now that the works of God is revealed in him, what is left is for him to enjoy God’s miraculous healing. Enjoyment of his sight is the last aspect in the miracle; it did not come before Jesus did the work of God, but after the work was done and revealed, after people have seen the power of God.

Jesus our Lord explained reasons for miracle step by step; first, the primary reasons then the secondary reason. If you follow this closely, you will find out that the lesson is, before you act or go for miracle the right way, you must first understand and accept the primary reasons for it (right motive – God’s glory and man’s salvation) before self-enjoyment of the miracle. You surely pray for miracle because you need it, but your motive must be founded on the will of God. The scripture explained that we ask and not receive because we ask with wrong motives that we may spend what we get on our pleasure (James 4:3). *THE PRIMARY REASON FOR MIRACLE THEREFORE, ARE GOD MUST BE GLORIFIED AND PEOPLE BE SAVED. THEN YOU WILL ENJOY THE MIRACLE AS THE SECONDARY REASON. it is in the glory of God that we enjoy who and what we are today.*

### **Chapter Summary**

Knowing that God has promised you signs and wonders is not just enough reason for you to seek for them at all cost regardless of God’s will. You have to be careful while seeking for miracle, with the understanding that

first; God must be glorified and Gospel preached through it, secondly; you will enjoy the works of God in your life as you live even here on earth. Having a wrong reason for miracle will make you vulnerable to deceit by Satan, putting some wrong thought/idea in you that, you have no faith or worst of it all thinking that God is wicked or He is failing you. This has not been, it is not and will never be true. We don't receive answers to our prayers when our motives for the need is not founded on God's will. We can focus our need for miracle on God by truly doing His will, living a true Holy life. For this reason, the Holy Spirit will direct our prayers, explaining to us the mind and direction of God in and for our lives.

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



**ACTING  
IN  
FAITH.**

## Chapter Five

### ACTING IN FAITH

*<sup>14</sup>“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>if one of you says to them, ‘go in peace; keep warm and well fed, ‘but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it. <sup>17</sup> in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”– James 2:14-17.*

#### **In Faith, prayers are answered**

**F**or every good thing, prosperity and productivity, faith is necessary. Now that we are saved by faith, we need to grow in faith by our actions in order for our faith to be profitable and productive. Most at times the passage above is only related directly to people as the parable given with brother and sister. Do not forget that whatever good you do to a sister or a brother is part of action that connotes you doing the will of God. Do also understand that your action of living a righteous life and leaving all you have asked in faith for God’s perfect will is an action connoting you doing the will of God. So faith with action is not just helping others or preaching but it also involves your actions on how God wills to answer your prayers and or choose to do things. Not submitting to God’s choice of answer to your prayers in faith is like telling God ‘do this to me but it must be done my way’ meaning your faith in God is without action of accepting his perfect will answer.

Faith in Christ Jesus have to manifest through action, doing what is right including prayers and not just saying it, as explained by the parable of verse 15 and 16 of James 2. Applying faith in our daily lives grants us Godly life style. Faith in God is a quality or element that is required to be met by us to understand and access the will of God for us on earth as well as keeping to His will no matter how difficult it may seem to us as humans. This time faith is both believing and acting rightly as we can see in verse 17 “in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. “*THE ESSENTIAL PART OF FAITH HERE IS “KNOWING AND BELIEVING*

**“THAT WHEN YOU PRAY, EVEN IF THE DIRECT ANSWERS TO YOUR POINT DID NOT COME, GOD HAS ANSWERED BY DOING THE BEST FOR YOU”** Since God has prepared all we need for life and godliness (II Peter 1:3), as long as we have faith and ask for them, we will receive them because they are what He wants us to have. Nothing is impossible with faith because faith always acts and asks according to the will of God and not according to will of men (Math 19:26). When brethren ask for help from you it is the same as praying to you as well as you praying to God. God expects you to act by providing the asked portion perfectly (with all purity) as He also provide for you perfectly when you ask. God expects a believer to act because He surely answers perfectly whenever we act or pray in faith. He is telling us what He does. We ask and act outside the will of God sometimes because we fail in faith, allowing the flesh in us to take over our spirituality. We get emotional when praying instead of being spiritual. Our faith at times is imaginary and not spiritual. This imaginary faith could deceive man, leading to wrong motive and wrong response to God.

### **Why silence after praying in faith?**

The perfect will of God, is greater and even better than any prayer that man will make for his expectations. The prayers that will be answered the way you want or expect will only be the one that is according to the will of God. That is to say; if you ask for healing in faith and the person is not healed or eventually passed away, God is simply saying “this is my perfect will for him for his or peoples’ good and not what you are asking.” If you ask God for riches in faith and you are not seeing the answer as expected, God is saying “I have a perfect plan for you”. This doesn’t mean you have no faith, but Grace has taken over since faith is limited to man. You will only ask what you feel you need as a human being but God knows perfectly what you need. Don’t allow this faith to be based on your wisdom but on the power of God (So that your faith might not rest in human wisdom but in God’s power – I Cor. 2:5). Because God is love and a perfect father, whenever your prayer is limited to your understanding and not the power or will of God, in His love, God will answer it in perfection instead of just answering you limitedly as asked. This is why He is the best Father, Protector and Provider, giving the best to His children without compromise.

***Grace is ultimate*** This is what He did to Apostle Paul, who said:

*7“or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9But he said to me, ‘my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,’ therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weakness so that Christ’s power may rest on me” (II Corinth 12:7-9).*

You might have quoted this passage of the Scriptures severally, but do you really get your head around it before you present it or you only stop at “grace is sufficient” because at the time, you want the grace of God or you are trying to be defensive to your dilemma? Paul was a man of faith; one of the people that had a direct encounter with Jesus even after He was raised and ascended to heaven. Through faith, he performed a lot of signs and wonders. At his time of need, He prayed to God three times for healing (vs. 8), yet God did not answer him the way he expected by healing him but God told him His perfect will is the best for him than the healing he desired (vs. 9).

***God’s glory and your good:*** You can also notice similar situation in the life of Prophet Elisha. He was a man full of the Spirit of God. He did many signs and wonders. Even on his dying bed, he prophesied to Joash king of Israel that he will defeat Syria three times and it happened after his death (II Kings 13:14-21). He raised the dead (II Kings 4:32-36) yet he himself died of sickness when Grace took over faith by God the giver.

*20Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders use to enter the country every spring. 21once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; and they threw the man’s body into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet (II Kings 13:20-21).*

It is on record (v21) that Elisha is the only one that at the touch of his dry bones, a dead man came back to life. His faith allowed him to perform miracles in several ways but when it was time for Grace to take over, faith had to stop right. He could not perform miracle of stopping himself from falling sick and dying or resurrecting himself. I don’t know if you noticed that he did not struggle to heal himself or prevent himself from dying.

Remember, Elisha saw his master Elijah taken to heaven, he could have prayed to be taken to heaven too, but no. In fact, he didn't even try to because he understood Grace (life the perfect will of God) over Faith that is working for only man. Time was ripe for Grace to be taken from him so faith is no more operational without Grace. It was God's perfect will for him at this time. If he didn't die how will the people see the glory of God that was revealed through his dry bones that resurrected a dead man? How could he go to heaven to enjoy what God has for him to eternity after serving faithfully? You know the answer "no way".

It is expedient to understand that in practicing faith, one must first keep in mind the saved aspect and that even in faith; the answer to prayer still depends on God's approval – Grace, to the Glory of God and your benefits. God gives His Grace to whoever He chooses and not to people that think they deserve it or will command Him because they have faith. You have to always keep in mind that praying in faith is the key that unlocks the blessings (will) of God to you and not to unlock troubles in your life. Because you ask in faith, God will not then answer you the way you want if it's not the best for you according to His Will. We should be grateful for that and not grumble or be discouraged.

***Mercy and compassion of God:*** You can see in the life of Moses on the way to the Promised Land. When Moses prayed that he wanted to see God, God answered him by showing him what is best for him and not what he desired because it would take him losing his life. Moses Prayed:

*18“Then Moses said, ‘now show me your glory.’<sup>19</sup>And the Lord said, ‘I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’<sup>20</sup>But, He said, ‘You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.’(Ex 33:18-20)*

Moses asking to see God's glory, simply means see God completely, face of God inclusive. This was how God answered "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 'You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.'"If I may put it in other word "I will be gracious and merciful to you, you won't see me the way you asked for but you will see my goodness and Lordship so

that you won't die." You can understand from here that if God was to show his glory to Moses with God's face included, Moses would have died there and then and other faithful service he rendered to God after this incident wouldn't have been here to encourage us today and he would have missed the reward. But God answered Moses perfectly to allow him gain more reward with faithful service left for him to render. It is always important to know and accept that *GOD'S SILENCE AND CHANGED ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS MEANS THE BEST FOR US AND NOT EVIL, NOR BECAUSE HE IS A FAILING GOD*. This reiterates that when it comes to the Grace-life (not limited to breath) that God has given to man, man has no say in it but God alone. There are things that are beyond your ability even in faith; that's where Grace of God climaxed because God's Grace will give you the perfect one rather than just what you asked for. Though God can allow some things you pray for to come to pass for a lesson it does not mean it is His perfect will or your use of commanding words that granted it.

### **Responding to Silence or different answer to prayers**

Looking at some of the healings that Jesus performed, something must have happened in the spiritual realm before Jesus will say "your faith has healed you." Work is always done by God before man receives the goodness of it. Faith must be confirmed by Grace. The first thing that warrants signs and wonders is grace, for God to be glorified. Your prayer in Faith must key into Grace for it to be the perfect will of God or it will only be His permissive will whenever He allows it to come to pass, to serve as lesson to us and for His Glory.

When praying in faith, we should learn to listen to what God is saying concerning the situation we trust Him for, in order not to misinterpret His answer that we will receive. If you believe, have faith, and then obedience is needed to understand the will of God in what you trust Him for. Obeying is living according to His word while waiting for His answer that is perfect rather than waiting for your kind of answer that may be just a figment of imagination. This is what Jesus did in Luke 22:42, Math 26:39, fully knowing that God has the power to take away the cup, because of Obedience, He requested God to do His Will at the end of it all, accepting that God's will is the best. Anytime you are able to do this, you will see the following in reality:

- You will deeply hear God speak and you will know that He is giving you the best, even when it seems He is silent;
- You will always see the best He has for you at the end of a long time of waiting;
- God will glory in you and you will enjoy His blessings.

Learn to always respond to God's answer to your prayers by patiently waiting, obeying His ways, accepting His ways and your life will be perfected in God and on earth.

### ***Chapter Summary***

God answers all prayers in faith, but according to His Grace (His will or permitting us in a situation where He wants us to learn from). We may at a time feel He is silent; He really is not but greatly working for our best interest. Believe in Jesus and be saved and when praying in faith, you must learn to ask and not command God. Learn to keep trusting that His Grace is sufficient. Learn to accept the outcome of your prayers in faith, believe His will is perfect for you even in a situation where you pray in faith and you did not see the answer coming as expected. He knows and will give you that which is best for you than you or anyone else could comprehend or give.

ACTING IN *Faith*  
UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*



**HINDRANCES TO  
GROWING  
IN FAITH.**

## Chapter Six

### HINDRANCES TO GROWING IN FAITH

*<sup>5</sup>The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith' <sup>6</sup>He reply 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it will obey you <sup>7</sup>Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field "Come along now and sit down to eat"? <sup>8</sup>Won't he rather say, "Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink"? <sup>9</sup>Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty" – Luke 17:5-10.*

**I**n real life situations, believers behave at some point in life like the Apostles. According to this account of Luke, Jesus taught the disciples concerning sin, faith and their duties as believers. When Jesus finished teaching them about sin committed by another man to a believer and the duty of a believer which is forgiving the one that committed sin even many times (17:1-4), the disciples might have seen their faith not to the level Jesus Christ was teaching and so they asked “Increase our faith”. The similar account in Mathew (17:14-20) and Mark (9:14-29), explained that the disciples privately asked Jesus “why couldn’t we drive it away” this was the demons possessed boy that the father brought to the disciples and the disciples could not heal the boy, that the father of the boy had to come to Jesus and reported same. To the disciples their faith is not enough or has not grown yet to the level of the faith Jesus was describing (using the account of Luke 17). But to Jesus Christ, it is way beyond growth or how much of faith they have. Follow with me to learn from the answer Jesus gave to the question or need “Increase our faith”, starting from Luke 17:6-10.

**Lack of Faith** – *‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed,...(Luke 17:6)*

This was the first answer Jesus gave to disciples who want their faith to be increased. Jesus might be saying the same to you right now. This answer if I may say in my words simply means you don’t even have the faith to

begin with, so increase is not in the equation yet. You will understand this well when you study Jesus' description of mustard seed in Mark 4:30-32 "...Mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth". This means faith is not about growing from the beginning for it to work but it is about having it so little that is not up to a known or popular measurement even amongst the other peoples' faith.

Lesson, instead of worrying about how your faith can grow, the first thing to do is to have the faith of any size, even if it is the smallest one that can't be noticed. Do you really trust God that much that He can and will do whatever you ask of Him?

For God to respond to your prayers and act, it only takes having the faith and not necessarily growing in faith. Do you have the faith in God to begin with? or you are just *watering and weeding a dead seed planted on a field – faith that is not even there to begin with*. If there is no faith to begin with, then there will be no way you can have a growing faith from nowhere. Remember what Jesus said in Mark 4:32 concerning how the mustard seed grow and then becomes "...largest of all garden plant..."

After receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour and you have confessed your sins, Can you now pause here with me and evaluate your life to see if you have been wasting time on trying to grow your faith while you have not yet transform your faith in Christ for salvation to faith in God through the name of Jesus that He can and will do what you ask of Him just like he has saved you? Have you been for ages watering a ground for germination with a dead seed planted on the field? If that is the case, God is saying, as my child, believe in Me just as little as no man can notice, that I can and will do what you will ask of me then you will see even creatures obeying your voice (Luke 17:6).

**Lack of total submission to serving God** – *"Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink"*? (Luke 17:7-8).

You might have read this passage severally. Have you ever asked yourself what really is the connection between someone who want his faith to be increased, with a story of a master and his servant? This was the question I asked, and this was the response I received "the first thing you will do for

your faith to grow after having it, is to submit totally to serving God as a servant without thinking of self but the pleasure of the Master”. You may be a believer today and you have faith in God’s ability to do all things. But when you pray for a miracle or serve God with a self motive, your faith in God instead of growing to be the largest like the mustard seed, it will be diminishing to nothing.

Lack of total submission to serving God for His pleasure is one of the major reason why peoples’ faith is not visible or manifesting the greatness of God. The passage above is saying that we are expected to serve God our master without thinking of self or grumbling but following every single command He gives us. Just like the servant that will come from the field tired, hungry and thirsty from the scourging sun yet, will prepare his masters’ table, continue to wait until the master is pleased before he can eat and drink.

The whole of your strength from spirit to the body must be presented to God as pleasing sacrifice for your faith to grow. You are now becoming matured in faith, where winds of the evil one will not have any effect in your life. The stress, the pains, the persecutions, the lack, the flesh desires will not stop you from serving God the more, then you are on the steps to climax the maturity of your faith.

**Serving God with self expectations** – *“Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? (Luke 17:9).*

This is how Jesus continued with the parable of the master and his servant. The master is not supposed to thank the servant for doing what he was told to do. This simply means a servant is to serve without self expectation of even thank you. When a servant is serving with expectation of even thank you, for doing what he is told to do then the servant is not worthy of being a servant. Have you at any stage of your life as a believer agreed that no matter your status or position both in Church and otherwise, you are a servant of God? If your answer to this question is no, then you are not worthy to serve God just yet. But if the answer is yes, glory to God and congratulations to you. Then, as a servant, serve God without self expectation of even thank you and your faith will grow.

The apostles in Mathew 17:16-17 might have expected that the demons in the boy will just disappear at their prayer, after all they are doing it for God.

May be what they needed to do was just say the word of God in faith after obeying all God's commands, and not expecting the demons to obey them because they have been with Jesus for a very long time. The faith you have as mustard seed needed to perform that miracle you trust God for will be taken away from you if you are not using it appropriately. And when you expect God to thank you for doing his work of faith, you are using the faith inappropriately. This will hinder your growth in faith.

**Taking the glory of your services or success** – *So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty” (Luke 17:10).*

How interesting, Jesus concluded the discussion with the final response of a believer whenever the faith he has like a mustard seed has yielded result. When you pray in faith or acted in faith and God honour His word resulting to miracles and wonders, you should learn not to take even an pinch of the glory but say “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty” this saying from your heart to your mouth is giving God all the glory as His servant. This will climaxed your growth in faith.

Maturity in faith means that you have reached a stage in your life that you hear God's will concerning every situation either through the scripture, Holy Spirit or God's voice of various kinds, and you will recognize, then follow it accordingly without increasing or decreasing nor taking the glory attached to the result in any way.

Remember Prophet Moses, the Bible testified that there was no man as humble as he was on earth and God testified none like him among the prophets because he is faithful and so God speak with him face to face (Numbers 12: 3-8). At Marah God showed Moses piece of wood, he threw into water and the water was purified for people to drink in Exod. 15:25. God also made him to strike the rock at Rephidim and there was water for people to drink (Exod. 17:1-7). The same Moses God asked to speak to a rock on a different occasion for the same purpose of water: God said “... speak to the rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water...”(Numbers 20:8), but Moses stroke the rock instead “...and Moses said to them, ‘Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?’ Then Moses raised his staff and stroke the rock twice with his staff...” (Numbers 20:10-11). All Moses needed to do was speak to the rock and the rock will bring water for the Israelite just like he has done before – obeying God strictly, but he went

ahead in anger and added what God did not say. I want you to carefully read and listen to God's statement in response to not trusting Him to do exactly what He says:

*But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them' – Numbers 20:12.*

Faith or trust in God is crowned with hearing God and obeying what he has said exactly. I don't know if you have noticed that the water actually came out of the rock but Moses and Aaron lose the blessings attached to trusting God at that moment which is entering the promised land (Deut. 3:26-28).

Many believers may perform miracles today, teach or preach and many souls will be saved but the blessings attached with the work they did is taken away from them. Simply because they did not obey God exactly as he said they should. Two things I took note of in Moses action: one, he Struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock; two, he used "we" in place of God even though the statement was not necessary as God have already said speak to the rock. When you are doing exactly what you are told to do as a servant, you have no reason whatsoever to add yourself into the glory of the work (I, WE should be off the heart and mouth). The occasions you will use "I" or "We" should be without self motive. There also should not be any personal character such as anger which may lead you to adding or subtracting from what you are asked to do. There should always be one response as group of servants "*We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty*" and as individual, "I am unworthy servant; I have only done my duty". Know that Prophet Moses was and died as man of Faith but the time he did not apply obedience in one occasion, God said "...Because you did not trust in me enough..." meaning his faith in God at that time was affected by anger and so he acted wrongly. As man of faith as you are, obedience to God will help you not to miss out even when people are blessed by God through you. It will help you act right in faith.

### ***Chapter Summary***

When you receive Christ Jesus as Lord, you are saved (Belief). A step forward is learn to live a life of a Christian (just, like Christ lived) and one of

the greatest step is to have faith that God can and will answer your prayers always and do even more than what you ask because you will ask according to His will and no longer according to the desires of flesh (Believing in God answering prayers and will keep you protected and provided for). This second faith will remain stagnant when you don't submit totally to God, by serving God with self expectation and or taking any portion of the glory of your service or success. This faith can grow if you submit to God totally, serve him without expectation as a good servant and give him all the glory for the success of your services of any form even as you do exactly what he says without adding or turning to the left nor to the right. Joshua 1:7-8

## CONCLUSION

The Grace to live on earth originated and is still in Christ Jesus but God had allowed everyone have it at the fall of man to enable sinners repent and accept Jesus (Ezek 18:23, 31-32). On the other side of the coin, the Grace for life eternal is only found in Jesus but this one is only given to those who believe in Him as Lord and Saviour, for He came to restore the right of this Grace you lost at the fall of man which still lives in the flesh that you inherited from Adam. Any unbeliever must have the Grace in Christ Jesus by Believing in Jesus for his/her Grace to be complete as it was given to man at the creation before his fall.

As a believer, to Act in faith as you live on earth, you must understand that Grace supersedes all you could think of, including your faith and understand that Grace is perfect and sufficient at all times (II Corinth 12:7-9) and Cling to it. You can cling to Grace by continuously believing in Jesus for salvation and perfect answer to your prayers and obeying his commands which include accepting whichever way He chooses to answer your prayers (Obedience to His Law of life and waiting). Have faith that God will answer you and He is able always.

Having faith like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds on earth as at the time of Jesus, is the beginning of your faith growing, serving God with total submission, without self expectation and without taking the glory of your services or success but doing exactly what he says you should do will grow your faith right to the climax.

We will end thus:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13- 14).

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself.

Do what it says. (James 1:22).

—  
PRAY WITH ME  
—

My Father in Heaven, I believe in Your Son Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, thank you for your Grace through Christ Jesus. Thank you for your word, thank you for answering my prayers perfectly for my good even when I don't understand. Help me to understand, live and act in faith according to your will, in Jesus Christ name, Amen.

# ACTING IN *Faith* UNDERSTANDING *Grace.*

## *Acting In Faith Understanding Grace:*

Have you been Praying and acting in Faith? Indeed timely and will really meet the need of Christians who earnestly desire to grow spiritually, in this modern day Christianity when confusion has already entered the lives of many so called born again Christians. Faith and obedience are highly required from everyone to obtain the special Grace of God, yet Grace remains unconditional in the sense that it does not depend on any merit of man or woman but that of Christ Jesus. Man needs to act in Faith in order to enjoy the good life of God's Grace here on earth. The author, explained this rather big theological term in a very simple and clear way for effective understanding. G J Sharah noticed with dismay that feelings, emotions, imaginations and the likes are the driving force of many Christians who claim to act in faith. This book explains the main biblical purpose of miracle. Mystery of Grace and Acting in Faith is broken to assimilation that will result to one piece of action unlocking grace abundance in this book. Christ has not only remained the center of God's Grace but also has full power and authority to fulfill the requirement of the law and paid the penalty of our sins. This book will be of great help to believers and unbelievers who desire to know and live by the truth. I counsel you to use this book with open Heart Study.

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