

Freedom Through Grace

Jennifer Smith

I lived for years with a wrong view of God's grace. I believed I would go to Heaven based on Jesus dying on the cross for me, but I also thought I had to clean my life up in order to please Him and gain His favor. Despite my best intentions, I always felt like I wasn't good enough. I was powerless to keep the promises I made to God. In a breakthrough moment, the Lord revealed His grace and unconditional love to me. Then, I experienced His liberation, His love and His power AND I had strength to get clean from a drug addiction.

FEAR As a "baby" Christian I didn't understand the power I had through Christ to overcome my flesh and the Enemy. I didn't understand I was standing on Christ's righteousness, not my own (2 Cor. 5:21). I would sin, then promise God I would change. But I didn't know how, and my will power only lasted so long. I feared God couldn't give me favor without 100% obedience. I lived on a roller coaster of guilt and emotions.

Since I was delivered from these deeds of the flesh, my trials are different. But Fear always tries to creep back in. I receive God's grace to overcome trials (like the death of my prodigal brother), financial setbacks after taking a big step of faith (at God's prompting), quitting a lucrative job, living with chronic pain—the trials go on and on. But the solution and the security is the same: His faithful grace.

FAITH The Word of God and the Holy Spirit reveal God's unconditional love. Love floods me so I can respond with love, confidence and power to take Him at His word. I get to be a child with a loving, powerful, and perfect Father. His grace empowers me to stand on His promises knowing who I am in Christ. I no longer work to be perfect for God. I obey Him as I am able. I come Just As I Am. Not 100%, but perfect and sinless in His eyes—equipped to accomplish His purpose and plans for my life. I can live boldly!

FREEDOM I am redeemed! I am holy and righteous regardless of my behavior because I am in Christ. He paid my debt. I can come boldly to the throne of grace, then endure the trials and tribulations of life because of that grace. Grace saved me and now it empowers me to do anything He calls me to do. *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that always having all sufficiency in all things, you may have an abundance for every good work.* (2 Cor. 9:8)

God's plans for me and for you are so BIG, we need His power and presence to accomplish them. Just as we cannot save ourselves apart from this grace, we cannot live a victorious Christian life apart from His grace. Our self-righteous efforts cannot please God, but our trust and faith in Him is very pleasing to Him. By His grace, the heartaches and the suffering from this fallen world produce in us something beautiful and eternal. His grace is my reassurance of victory and FREEDOM.

RESOURCES *Surprised By Grace: God's Relentless Pursuit Of Rebels* by Tullian Tchividjian, *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine* by Max Lucado, *Because He Loves Me: How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life* by Elyse Fitzpatrick

CONTACT INFO

Email: Jennifer@jenniferleesmith.com www.jenniferleesmith.com www.GodCanHeal.com