

# **AN INSTRUMENT OF GRACE**

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**“And the Word became flesh and  
Dwelt among us, and we have  
Seen his glory, glory as of the  
Only Son from the Father, full of  
Grace and truth.”**

**Ω John 1:14**

**“For from his fullness we have all  
Received, grace upon grace.”**

**Ω John 1:16**

**“And God is able to make all grace abound to you,  
So that having all sufficiency in all things at all  
Times, you may abound in every good work.”**

**Ω 2 Corinthians 9:8**

**The gospel of John is one of my favorite books. It's totally different than the other three gospels in its emphasis. And in John 1:14 we can learn so much if we can come to a spiritual understanding of what occurred when "the Word became flesh" and the fact that this Word was "full of grace and truth."**

**Now I've written and preached quite a bit about the "truth" portion of this. Jesus was not only full of truth but He was the ultimate truth. And as I've said many times, had the Pharisees possessed the Eye of the Eagle and had some spiritual understanding of what was going on when Jesus walked the earth they would have realized that one of the reasons they had so much controversy with Jesus was just because of this fact—He was Truth and so He was "full of truth."**

**And because of this fact, as Truth He was always confronting error. The religious leaders of His day did not understand the Sabbath and so they had much controversy with Jesus over things like healing that He did on the Sabbath. They did not understand marriage (boy does our society in America today need to understand marriage). They had become selfish and so they had perverted marriage from the sanctified, holy matrimony covenant that God had established. Jesus tried to correct their lack of understanding in these areas as well as many others because the Truth must confront error. But like both much of the Church and the world today they had "made the word of God no effect by your traditions."**

**But as we are entering Passover in a few days—an important Passover that coincides with the year 33 A.D. in which Jesus, the ultimate Instrument of Grace from the Father, was given as our Passover Lamb God wants us to focus on His Grace—how to receive it and how to be a channel of His grace to others like Jesus was.**

**Therefore, we need to focus on this tremendous sacrifice of Grace from both the Father and the Son and what it means to us today as the Body of Christ, the Church. The Lord wants us to meditate on this work**

**of Grace and how we might be willing, yielded vessels through which He can continue His work of Grace upon the earth today to a sin-sick, crying, dying world so in need of Grace. Remember, when God wants to change history, He births a baby and you might be just the instrument or vessel that He wants to use today—in fact, I'm sure of it!**

**I've been very blessed in my Christian walk and ministry to be able to meet and sit under the teachings of some of God's best—from my pastor, John Osteen, to Kenneth Hagin, Norvel Hayes, Lester Sumrall and many others. Tommy L. Osborn began coming to our church in the late '70s from the mission field. Brother Osborn and his wife Daisy had served the Lord overseas for years and like all missionaries were viciously attacked by the devil. God used Brother Branham to help them be restored and learn to flow in miracles and the Anointing. I was ministering in Tulsa a few years ago and had planned to go by and visit brother T.L. Osborn but he passed away a few weeks before I was there.**

**Brother Osborn used to say something that really impressed me—and it's important for you to understand this if you're going to be an instrument of God's grace. He would say, "People have been beaten down enough; they don't need you to beat them down any more." Now isn't that the truth?**

**Yes, they need to hear about sin and that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) especially if you're Baptist like I was and led people to the Lord down "the Roman Road." But now listen closely. You need to follow the Holy Spirit and He will show you just how to minister correctly to people and normally He won't have you beat them over the head with their sins.**

**Let's consider a portion of the Scriptures where the Instrument of Grace, the Lord Jesus, not only ministered salvation to a woman but won the whole town to the Lord. And they were not covenant people—they were Samaritans who were in fact looked down on and hated by**

**the Jews. In John 4 we find the testimony of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman. I would encourage you to read and meditate on this discussion at some length. If you do you will learn a lot about ministering to people and being an instrument of grace in the hands of the Lord.**

**Jesus was following the Holy Spirit as He always did (cf. Mt. 4:1, Mk. 1:12-13, Lk. 4:1-13, John 4:4) so He knew that He had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman in Sychar which is a town that was close to the mountain where Moses talked with God and received the Ten Commandments.**

**So Jesus came to the well around noon and although it was a hot day He just sat there waiting for this woman to arrive so He could minister to her. But I want you to meditate on how He ministered to her. Notice how His speech—as the great Apostle Paul later learned and wrote—was “seasoned with grace.” He didn’t condemn her; He didn’t call for her to be stoned for committing adultery and living in sin. She’d been beaten down enough. Notice how gently He confronts her sin. Remember, and this will help you a lot in ministry and show you why it’s imperative that you learn to follow the Holy Spirit, it’s not enough to *know* things through the Word of Knowledge as Jesus did here—that the woman had had 5 husbands. *How* you present those facts to them will determine the outcome—whether the will of God is done and they receive His grace. An immature prophet might have blasted her with her sin but then she would have begun to cry and become intimidated in his presence and flee without receiving God’s grace and her salvation as well as many in the town who came to know Jesus as the Messiah.**

## **God’s Grace and How to Receive It**

**Back in the early ‘80s the Lord spoke an interesting and powerful revelation to me that I’ve shared in MSDK and other writings. The revelation had to do with *why* most people don’t receive from Him—**

**even Christians who are in His family. The Holy Spirit used this revelation to bring a 40 year old man in the jail in Libby, Montana, to the Lord and also set him free from incarceration! His attorney, who told me she was an atheist, said she'd "never ever seen this (him getting set free) happen in all her days as an attorney." You see it wasn't supposed to happen! And it wouldn't have happened to this man had he not believed this revelation, acted upon it and come into the knowledge of the Lord's saving grace.**

**Men from our church ministered in the jail on Sunday nights and we had grace (favor) with the sheriff who was not a Christian. We only went into cells where the prisoners *wanted* ministry; we took them Bibles and other Christian books. We had copies of MSDK there for them to read and many came to understand how their lives had been impacted and controlled by demon forces so they wanted to be set free. Many wanted to receive the Baptism of Power.**

**But not everybody wanted ministry but guess what? If you were in a cell with men who did then you were "stuck" listening to the Word. During ministry this Sunday night this man said to me, "Why should I believe what you're saying? I've been in and out of churches all my life and God's never answered any of my prayers."**

**Now we have to be sensitive to the Spirit and give people the right answer if we are going to be instruments of God's grace. I replied, "You want to know why God's never answered your prayers?" He said, "Yes." So I shared this revelation about why most people don't receive from God: the Lord had said back in 1982: 1) "Most people don't receive from Me because they're not in my family. The little boy or girl living next door to you (there was a boy and a girl living next door to us in Texas back then) might come over, ring your doorbell and when you answer the door you notice that they need food or clothing and you might help them. *But you're not obligated to help them because they're not in your family!*" (Italics added for emphasis).**

**If we're not in God's family through the Blood sacrifice of Jesus then He's not obligated to help us or answer our prayers. I've thought for years, and even spoke to a Christian minister who used to be a Muslim Imam, about why they never realized they were praying to the wrong god because He never answered any of their 7 prayers a day.**

**This 40 year old man immediately said that he wanted to come into God's family so we prayed the sinner's prayer with him and he was born again. The very next Sunday after morning church service I got home and his attorney phoned me at home. I'll never forget it. She said, "Reverend Timmons, I don't understand this. It's never ever happened before. This man was supposed to go to prison for 25 years but the judge just called me and said if I would bring you to his chambers in the morning this man would be set free." Praise God!**

**Now I hadn't been praying that way though perhaps others were and I suspect this man was. But more than likely I believe it was just God's way of showing this man that what I had shared with him about being in God's family was true. God was just showing him a miracle of his grace by setting him free from jail and a lengthy prison term. Hallelujah! God's grace can always find us—in prison or in the fourth watch. We serve such an awesome God who delights in giving us favor.**

**But Jesus also said to me back in 1982: 2) "Most Christians don't receive from Me because they don't know *how!*"**

**Do you know how to receive God's grace? Do you know how to be an instrument of His grace to others? Remember, and this is an area that most of the Church has completely forgotten because they are not doing the works of Jesus, Jesus still wants to release His grace to sinners and saints alike today but He needs willing vessels to be his instruments of grace to a sin-sick, crying, dying world.**

**Do you know *how* to receive God's grace? His healing grace? His miracle working power? Most Christians do not and that's a very sad fact of life. You can go into any hospital or church in America or anywhere in the world and there will be people in need of healing or a miracle. But they're not going to be healed! They're not going to receive that miracle that God has for them! Do you know why? Because they don't know how. And the reason why this is true is because most of the Church has not taught them how to receive from God.**

**And the Lord showed me back in 2005 when He gave me a message titled, *Expanding Your Possibilities*, that people demonstrate that they don't know how to receive when they limit God through their words and their actions. And God demonstrated the truth of this message because everybody in that church in a wheelchair that night got up and walked away and many others were healed of diseases and many received miracles. Many Christians received spiritual gifts and ministered those gifts to others as the Lord has intended for His church to do.**

**So now I want to ask you a question. Do you know *how* to receive God's grace? Because if you don't, how will you be able to tell others how to receive?**

## **BECOMING AN INSTRUMENT OF GRACE**

**“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation**

**For all people,” Ω Titus 2:11**

**Now as I've stated several times in this teaching, Jesus is the Ultimate—the crème de la crème—Instrument of Grace. We know from**

**John's writings that Jesus was "the Word made flesh" and now we learn from Paul's writings of inspiration that He was also "Grace made flesh" as He appeared and was seen as God's grace. He willingly came to earth and His Spirit took on the form of a man to suffer for all mankind so that the Father's grace could flow through Him to bring reconciliation between God and all mankind because of the awful nature of sin.**

**But Jesus needs His Church to be what He's called us to be—an extension of God's grace to a dying world that needs to receive salvation and grace for their sins. It's not an easy task; that's why not many are doing to. There's no glory or wealth in it which is why all the Balaam boys are not doing it but rather are doing the will of their "father" as Jesus told the Pharisees. But there is great spiritual wealth. If you will make the decision to be an instrument of God's grace today and begin to earnestly follow the Spirit and minister to people just like Jesus did then what rewards you will have—both on earth when you see the Lord grow out the legs of a child or open the blind eyes of a woman and in Heaven when you will receive true rewards from the Savior Himself.**

**Will you make that decision today? To be God's representative and His instrument of grace in your community today? All it requires is that you have received the Baptism of Power; have clean hands and a pure heart and are developing the Eye of the Eagle so that you are sensitive to spiritual things and can follow the Holy Spirit. Also, read and meditate on 1 Peter 4 and the Holy Spirit will speak to you about how He wants to use you as an extension of God's grace to those He brings you in contact with.**

**You see, the Word teaches that when we are "full of grace" like Jesus was then we will do signs and wonders because that "grace" will flow out of us just like it did Him from the Holy Spirit in us. Notice the following scriptures as proof texts:**

**“And Stephan, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.” Ω Acts 6:8**

**“So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.” Ω Acts 14:3**

**And don't forget what grace is or you might not recognize God's grace when it manifests. Remember, that man in the Libby, Montana, jail didn't need blind eyes opened or a leg grown out and he didn't need to be healed of cancer. He needed salvation and he wanted to be set free. God extended grace to him and he received unusual and unexpected *favor* from the judge.**

**If you will be faithful to God and stay out of sin—if you will have a pure and willing heart and clean hands then God will use you to accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God here on earth. He wants to do so. Ask Him to use you today.**

**Maranatha!**