



Justapreacher Ministries

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. — 2 Timothy 4:2

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He Gives More Grace

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“But He gives more grace...” [James 4:6a] God has been teaching me more and more about this passage lately. The pastor at my home church of First Baptist Merritt Island, Florida has been preaching through the book of James, and sometimes calls me to talk about what God has been showing him. Ever since he called about this passage God has been speaking to me about the wonderful promise in this verse.

We as Christians came to understand our need for God’s grace in order to be saved and forgiven of our sins, but how many of us understand that we need His grace to live every day? Do you realize that God offers His grace to us for our every need? II Corinthians 8:1-7 says that God gives us His grace to be able to give generously when He asks us to, even when we think we don’t have enough money. We need His power to do everything that He asks us to do. Remember John 15:5 where Jesus told us that “apart from Him we can do nothing”? Sadly, too many of us try to “do the best we can”, and live much of our lives in our own strength. We miss out

on so much of what God has for us because we haven’t realized that He gives more grace after salvation.

I am so glad that God has been teaching me and reminding me of this truth. Just recently, I needed *much* of His grace. As some of you may have heard, on March 13th my Mom was rushed to the hospital with severe complications due to her advanced stages of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. She never really recovered, and was sent home on Hospice care on the 29th of March. She got to see Jesus face to face two days later, on Easter Sunday. Having to deal with all of the things surrounding her illness, hospitalization, and having to make tough decisions regarding her care, all while trying to keep my regular speaking engagements (some them out of state) made me very attentive to my need for God’s extra grace. I was so glad that He had been teaching me that He gives more grace.

Then came the day when I needed even more grace. I was to speak at her memorial service. God wanted me not only to preach (I know how to rest in

His grace for that since I do it regularly), but God wanted me to tell many stories about her life that would tie in to the message. This was going to be *very* hard for me. I love my Mom, and she I and I have been very close. I also am a “softy”. I cry at the least little thing, and my kids tease me for it. How was I going to speak about my Mom in front of hundreds of people without losing it?

I needed more of God’s grace for this. I asked Him for His Spirit to take over during that time, and He did. I felt His power and experienced a freedom while I told about my Mom’s life that was even more than I could have imagined!

Do you need His grace today? Ask Him for it and be-



Jim and his mom, Norma, on Mother’s Day, 1996

lieve that He will give it. Because, as John says in John 1:14-18, Jesus is “*full* of grace and truth”, and through Him we have received “grace upon grace”. So believe God today. Take Him at His Word. Receive by faith His grace for salvation, and after that receive His grace for everything He asks of us.

Family Corner

It is hard to believe that this school year is almost over. Nicole has two final exams left, Elise also has two, and AJ has five tests and a report to write. They have done well academically, and we are thankful.

Nicole has an opportunity to “shadow” a professional in her chosen career of

Speech Pathology the first full week of May, and then we will take a five day family vacation before our crazy summer starts.

Becky, Nicole, Elise and A.J are going on a mission trip to Ohio the first week of June. Shortly after they leave, Jim will head out on a basketball mission trip to Panama.

The family will be traveling with Jim quite a bit this summer. Destinations include Arkansas, Virginia and New England. Please pray for us as we go, that God will use us and that we will be a blessing to all we encounter. Please check the speaking schedule on the website to see if Jim will be speaking in your area!

Thank you!

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