



What Grace Can Do For Us!

By Tim Lighthall

1. Grace releases salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-9) What a great truth! To think that we cannot and will not be saved unless the Lord Himself reaches down and gives us the desire to be saved and the power to be saved. To think that there could be cries of grace, grace to lost people and they would come to the Lord in droves! Let us begin shouting grace, grace to the obstacles that keep the unsaved from being born again. Then we will watch the harvest begin to be brought in. This is key for these last days as we should expect an end times harvest according to Jesus. Praise the Lord for this truth! Unfortunately, this is about the only thought most of us have about grace. Grace gives us so great a salvation, but that is only the beginning! Let's look at other things grace does for us.
2. Grace gives us the desire and power to do all things in the Christian life (Phil 2:13), and it is available in greater and greater measure (Acts 4:33, James 4:6, 2 Peter 3:18). So nothing is impossible with God! Thus, grace is one of the main keys and main resources God gives us in the Christian life. Grace also means favor or success. *Declare grace and favor and success DAILY over your life and the life of your family and the lives of those you minister to!*
3. Grace releases miracles. (Acts 4:33, 6:8, 14:3) Grace can be ON us! Notice the key to the signs and wonders were men and women of God that were full of grace. Acts 4:33 compliments Zechariah by revealing that the key to the disciple's success was the 'mega' or 'great grace' that was on them. In a time when miracles, signs and wonders are critical to outreach, we must walk as kings and priests and shout 'grace, grace' and watch a ceaseless flow of the miraculous mark our ministries. Also, personally, we can shout grace, grace to a situation that needs a miracle!

4. Grace releases abundance. (2Corinthians 9:6-8) So many struggle financially when the Bible talks so much about the Lord meeting all of our needs. Grace is the key to abundance. Look at v. 8 in the Amplified translation: *“And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].”* According to this passage, we should not only have all of our needs met, but we should have plenty left over to meet the needs of others. Shout grace, grace to your financial situation!
5. Grace releases revival. (Ezra 9:7-9 NASB) Do we need a little reviving in this nation? Yes, more than ever. Not only will His grace give revival, but also a peg into the Holy of Holies, a remnant that changes the world, and supernatural revelation. If you desire revival in this hour, begin shouting grace, grace to yourself, your family, your church, your community and your nation!
6. Grace releases wisdom. (Ephesians 1:7-8) A whole series of books could be written on the importance of getting and having wisdom. The whole book of Proverbs is dedicated to the pursuit of wisdom. Grace releases wisdom and wisdom releases prosperity in every aspect of life. Wisdom was with God at the beginning and must be with us now. Nothing eternal will happen without wisdom. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Wisdom and Paul prayed that the Ephesians have a spirit of wisdom and revelation and for the Colossians to have the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Body of Christ is in desperate need of wisdom in this hour in the midst of a world that sorely lacks it so call out to the throne of grace for more grace for wisdom.
7. Grace allows us to rule and reign with Christ! (Romans 5:17) We are kings and priests that have been given authority to reign here as Christ’s representatives. In order to reign with Him and for him, we daily need His grace. According to this passage, all we need to do is receive that grace!
8. Grace releases prudence. (Ephesians 1:7-8) This is similar to wisdom except prudence is the ability to make the right decisions in life. How many big decisions do we make per day, per week, per month, or per year? Can’t we look back at the times when we wished we would have made a different decision? With prudence, we have the practical ability to make the right decisions at the right precise time. Lord, please give us multiplied grace for more prudence!
9. Grace releases redemption. (Ephesians 1:7) We have already seen that grace brings salvation, but salvation is just a part of redemption. We were redeemed from every curse through the blood of Jesus. This redemption was made available by the riches of His grace. So, when we come under attack from sickness, disease, poverty, sin, or even death, we can shout grace, grace to those things because we have been redeemed from every curse.

God's grace truly is amazing! Do not suffer from these curses another minute of your life. The blood covenant of grace eradicated them. Walk in the blessing, not the curse!

10. Grace releases peace and strength and perfection when weak and discouraged. (2Thessalonians 2:16, 2Corinthians 12:9-10, 4:15-18, Matthew 8:24-26, 1Peter 5:10, Philippians 1:19) He will supply a special abundant supply of the Holy Spirit when I am completely bankrupt of it. One of the greatest weapons the enemy is using in these days is discouragement. When we get discouraged, we lose strength. When we lose strength, we lose joy. When we lose joy, we lose hope. We desperately need grace at this hour to overcome discouragement and weakness. When you are experiencing the spirit of heaviness, begin to praise and call out grace, grace to your circumstances!
11. Grace releases holiness. (Titus 2:11-12, Romans 5:17, Psalm 119:32 [AMP]) This should be life transforming. Realize that you could not save yourself; you needed God's grace for salvation. The same grace that saved you is the grace that teaches you holiness! You can't save yourselves, nor can you sanctify yourself. But just as you were saved when you least deserved it, you will be sanctified and made holy by His grace as well. I have personally, on numerous occasions, not felt like doing what was right. But when tempted, I knew I could call upon God's grace and so I did. It was amazing how the grace would flow to me from heaven and I felt immediately the desire and power to obey. For some that are facing major sin issues such as addictions or even worse, understand that when you are weak, He is strong, and that the grace of God is so powerful it can overcome even the deep darkness that will be displayed in the last days according to Isaiah 60:2. Shout grace, grace over your life when you are struggling with sin issues and watch God teach you how to be holy! Watch vile sinners saved and watch believers who are desperately struggling with sin have the grace to overcome when this great grace is released. Even the Psalmist understood that God gives us a willing heart to obey by His grace. How much more so in the covenant of grace! Romans 5:17 reminds us that this abundant grace needs only to be received!
12. Grace releases salvation and boldness to be a witness. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 4:31-33, 15:11) We all know about God's grace for salvation but how often do we shout grace, grace towards lost people? They are not saved by our expert witnessing techniques; they are saved by grace in spite of what we think are expert witnessing techniques! Let God's grace give you boldness and courage and the correct witness for each person and we will see an outbreak of salvations! God's grace through you will do more in a few minutes than hours of witness training can ever do.
13. Grace releases our callings and destinies. (Galatians 1:15-16) What are you going to be when you grow up? Some still do not know their destiny and calling after many years of knowing the Lord. You will not find your calling in a spiritual gift inventory; you will find it in the grace of God. Quit searching for a calling; search for Him. Allow His grace to manifest at the right time and reveal to you your destiny. Shout grace, grace to your destiny!

14. Grace grows us up and builds us up in order to receive our inheritance! (1Corinthians 3:10, Acts 20:32, Psalm 119:5-6 [AMP]) Paul called himself a master builder. He was able to build up the body so well because it was God's grace that allowed him to do so. We all need to be built up, to grow up. We also hear a lot about receiving our inheritance. We will receive nothing without His grace. Count on the Lord to give you your inheritance and to build you up with shouts of grace, grace to it! In Psalm 119, the psalmist knew he needed something to help him obey. He was under the law and not under grace so he was searching for what we have in our better covenant! As we receive that help, that grace, we will not fail to receive or inherit the promises!

15. Grace releases us to mend broken relationships, maintain healthy ones, and create networking relationships of favor that we need to fulfill our destiny! (Hebrews 12:15, Philippians 1:7) One key to end times victory will be unity in the Body of Christ. (See John 17:21) If the enemy can get us to just avoid our enemies instead of reconciling with them, the world will never be reached. One of the hardest and most humbling things in the Christian walk is to humble oneself and reconcile a relationship. If you do not have the desire or power to do it, shout grace, grace to it and watch the Lord move you with compassion and a deep desire to get it right. Through the years I have stuck my foot in my mouth at best and said and done terrible things to others at worst. To try to bring myself to humbly right those relationships was impossible for me. It was too humiliating and embarrassing. But when I learned about grace and started asking for it to right those relationships, I had the desire and power to confront those people and make right those relationships. I can now honestly say that there is no one in the world that I know of that I am out of relationship with as far as it depends on me. What peace that brings! Your relationships will be powerfully and wonderfully restored as well when grace, grace is poured out on you! You will also find that the grace that mends relationships is also the power that keeps good relations from going sour or bitter. With God's grace, you will find God connecting you with people that create opportunities for favor in fulfilling your ministry and destiny just as God opened the door for Paul to minister to the Philippians through a vision. You will "accidentally" run into someone who holds the key to opening the door you have been praying for to be opened just as David accidentally ran into the Egyptian servant of those who had just burned Ziklag and kidnapped their wives and children! (1 Samuel 30:7-20) You will happen upon someone with the financial means to support your vision. God will strengthen you in the area of love and compassion and that will open doors for miraculous ministry to individuals and groups that otherwise are not seeing breakthrough just as Philip did at Samaria. (Acts 8:4-8) You will have a 'breaker' anointing because of the mega-grace on you and you will be established with those people in a wonderful new relationship!

16. Grace releases worship and the glory. (2Corinthians 4:15, Colossians 3:16) Colossians says to sing with thankfulness in our hearts. The word is actually grace in the Greek. It is grace that allows us to sing and praise and worship. Thanksgiving will also release multitudes glorifying the Lord. Worship will be another end times key, so worship with shouts of grace, grace!

17. Grace releases spiritual gifts. (Romans 1:11) This is similar to our callings and destinies. You will not find your spiritual gifts in an inventory; you will find them in the midst of ministry. Opportunities will come your way to minister and when you think you are not gifted to fulfill that ministry. Shout grace, grace to it and you will have all the grace, power, and giftedness you need from the Lord to make a miraculous difference. Also, we should be aware that Paul was eager to lay hands on the body of Christ to impart spiritual gifts. When was the last time you had an apostolic leader in the body lay hands on you in order to receive grace?

18. Grace gives us favor with God and man! (Luke 2:52, Acts 2:47) Anytime you see the word favor in Scripture, you can interchange it with the word grace. Grace is favor! The Old Testament is full of people that “found favor with God”. Whenever they found favor with God, miraculous and awesome blessings came their way. If only we could find favor with God today, we would see the same miraculous and awesome blessings in an even greater measure. Guess what, you have found favor with God! Ephesians 1:6 tells us that we have not only found favor with God through Jesus, but we are highly favored. To be “*accepted*” in the beloved is the same word used of Mary, *charitow*, which means ‘highly favored’. We are as highly favored as Mary, the mother of Jesus, was! With shouts of grace, grace, expect to be highly favored at home, at work, in your ministry, in your finances, in your health, in every area of your life. No obstacle can stand before you, they will all fall and become a plain because of God’s grace, grace and favor, favor on your life! Psalm 5:12 says that favor surrounds us as a shield! Grace protects us from the attacks of the enemy and turns every attack into God’s favor! Psalm 41:11 says, “*By this I know that You favor and delight in me, because my enemy does not triumph over me.*” If we can catch hold of this revelation of grace and favor, our world will be totally and completely turned upside down and right side up! You will see yourself for who you really are, one who is always led in triumph by His grace and one who is more than a conqueror at all times because of His favor. You will always win because He won at the cross! The game was finished and victory and grace were released! Now we just walk in it as we receive grace on a moment by moment basis! If that is not enough, we even grow in grace and go from grace to grace and have grace multiplied to us! The closer we draw to Jesus, the more grace is given! Wow! What a covenant! To Jesus be all the glory, to the praise of His glorious grace!

19. After going through the shaking and receiving the Kingdom that cannot be shaken, grace then allows us to serve Him and walk with Him acceptably. (Hebrews 12:27-28) Grace is the good news; the shaking is the bad news! In the end, allow the Lord to shake you to your core so anything that is not of the Kingdom of God is shaken out and there is nothing left but grace! All that you have trusted in, your works, talents, ideas, programs, worldly wisdom, personality, etc., will be shaken out and you will realize that you cannot put any trust in them lest you have reason to boast. There is one thing to boast in, that is Jesus Christ and Him crucified, dead, and resurrected, lavishing His grace upon us! Then, with all of the old covenant of works gone, with all worldliness gone, we can receive a Kingdom

that cannot be shaken because we shout grace, grace and serve Him with powerful effectiveness and also please Him by walking acceptably.

20. Grace overcomes obstacles. (Zechariah 4:7) Whenever we have an issue that comes up that often seems insurmountable (like a mountain in the way), we just need to shout, "Grace, grace" to it and it will fall!

Ways to get grace:

1. Receive it! (Hebrews 4:16, John 1:16-17, Romans 5:17) Grace is undeserved, it is a gift, it is to be accepted and received. Of His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace upon grace upon grace! Never ending! Unceasing flow of it! Oftentimes grace comes out of the blue when you least expect it. Your whole attitude changes and the atmosphere changes around you because the Lord pours out some grace upon you. What a God we have that takes care of us like He does. His eyes are always on us. Just as Jesus was full of grace and truth, that is our inheritance as well. Just receive a truckload of grace right now from your loving heavenly Father!
2. Ask for it. (2Peter 1:2, Psalm 119:58, also, every letter of Paul begins and ends with a prayer for grace) We can ask for grace any time of day. This is crucial because we need grace at all times of the day! Scripture describes the throne of Jesus as the throne of grace. Do you think He has enough grace to go around? He has so much grace, He died to give it away! When we struggle, grace is just a heavenly 911 call away!
3. Put a demand on the covenant. (John 1:17) We know that we are no longer under the covenant of the Law, we are under a better covenant of grace. When a covenant agreement is made, there are promises to fulfill on both sides. Under the New Covenant of grace we are to give our hearts and lives to Jesus and live for Him by faith. In return, God grants us grace and mercy to forgive our sins and have peace with God. He even gives us grace to fulfill our end of the agreement; grace to live for Him. On top of that, He gives us everything we need for life and godliness. If that is the agreement, then we should expect God to fulfill His end of the bargain and He should expect us to fulfill ours. If we are walking with Him and we come across a need that He has promised to meet, we can place a legal demand on the blood that sealed the covenant. For example, if I am struggling with a specific sin, I can put a demand on the covenant and call for grace to overcome that sin. God has obligated Himself by covenant to oblige us and give us the grace to overcome any and every sin issue. He will not do it grudgingly. He sent His only Son to shed His blood and die for us in order to get that grace to us! Why would He not release it to us? Later in the chapter will be some grace blockers that can stop the flow of grace to us, but if we are walking with Him, we can put a demand on the covenant and call for grace. We are not under the Law where we have to earn His help. We are under grace where it is given freely. So pray something like this: "Lord, I put a demand on the covenant and request grace for

my need (be specific with your need). Thank you that You promised it to me and I receive it right now because You are not a god that would lie. I stand in covenant with You and I access the grace that Jesus died to give me! Thank You, in Jesus Name!”

4. Receive it or access it by faith. (Romans 5:1-2, Titus 2:11-12, Ephesians 2:8, John 1:16) We have access to this amazing grace by faith. Like all parts of the Christian life, faith can activate God’s plan and, in this case, faith can activate God’s grace in any and every situation. Believe that God will release grace to you at the moment you need it and you will often times experience that grace immediately! Sometimes He gives us direction as to how to access that grace. Faith without works is dead, so if you receive it by faith and He tells you what to do next, do it! If the Body of Christ got hold of this fact and began to believe God gives grace, grace through our faith, we would see a ceaseless flow of oil multiply around the world. How do we get the ceaseless flow? By faith! When you boil it down, the ceaseless flow of oil is the ceaseless flow of His grace!
5. Confess it as yours. (Romans 10:9-10, Psalm 2:7) We can declare God’s decrees. If He has promised us something, that means He has decreed it and that decree cannot be broken and it must come to pass. We must loose what He has already loosed in Heaven. (Matthew 16:19, 18:18-20) His decrees are written down in Scripture and we need to declare His decrees or loose His promises over ourselves, our families, our churches, our communities and our situations. Declare and decree favor over yourself and your family daily! If God has promised us grace upon grace and favor upon favor, declare His decree! Do not let your children go off to school without declaring God’s promised grace and favor over them. Do not let your husband or wife go one day without loosing His mega-favor over him or her. Confess you are full of grace (John 1:14), you have great (mega) grace (Acts 4:33), receive abundance of grace (Romans 5:17), confess more and more grace (2Corinthians 4:15 [Message]), exceeding grace of God in you (2Corinthians 9:14), the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7), the exceeding riches of his grace (Ephesians 2:7), the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant (1Timothy 1:14), more grace (James 4:6), all grace (1Peter 5:10), true grace of God (1Peter 5:12), grace and peace be multiplied unto you (2Peter 1:2), grow in grace (2Peter 3:18), the grace of God upon you (Luke 2:40), grace upon grace (John 1:16), immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace, His unmerited favor (Ephesians 2:7)!
6. Know Him! (2Peter 1:2-3) Grace and peace will be multiplied to us through the knowledge of Him. That would be reason enough to get to know Him better each and every day. Of course, we get to know him more because we love Him, but there are great rewards for seeking Him and becoming intimate with Him. This passage is interesting in that it says we receive grace and peace just like we receive his divine power and everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him. Can we love Him so much and desire Him so much that He just begins to overflow oil and peace and grace and anointing in return upon the ones He loves? Yes, and in greater measures than we can ask for or imagine, so let’s get back to our first focus in life; loving Jesus with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength!

7. Be humble. (James 4:6) It is humbling when we recognize that without Him, we can do nothing. With Him, nothing is impossible. Why? Because when we humble ourselves and admit our weakness, His grace takes over. When I am weak and humble, He is strong. It is not us, but the grace of God in us that labors. As soon as we begin to think it is us, the Lord will pull back His grace and we will find out real quick what He can do through grace compared to what we can do in the flesh. Sometimes, the Lord will even orchestrate or allow some embarrassing moments to humble us because He knows we are in need of grace. So, in our humility, He has a vessel that He can pour His grace into.
8. Walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11) No good thing does He withhold for them that walk uprightly. What is the first thing on the list of good things He gives? His grace! Grace even comes before His glory. As we walk uprightly, we will go from grace to a greater level of grace. How do we walk uprightly? With his grace! He will give us the desire and power to walk uprightly. With every breakthrough we have over sin, He pours out more grace for the next breakthrough.
9. Be in submission to all authorities. (1Peter 5:5) This passage is in the same context of humbling ourselves. It is very humbling to submit to anyone, but it is God's way. All we have to do is drive down the road and watch how many Christians drive the speed limit and we will find out how much we care about obeying authorities. Or we can go to the parking lots of churches and listen to church members talk ill of their pastors and realize why there is so little grace in the church today. Pastors talk about other pastors all the time they preach "touch not God's anointed." Wives run the household as do many children. Students run the classrooms. God's grace is nowhere to be found until we submit outwardly and inwardly to ALL authorities. A church that is in order, that has a group of people that loves and respects their leadership will be the church that God's hand of grace is on. Submit, serve, build up one another, obey, and watch a grace revival begin to break out!
10. Be encouraged by others. (Ephesians 4:29) Has anyone ever come up to you out of the blue to pay you a true, heartfelt compliment? Did it change your whole attitude? Of course it did, because Paul tells us that encouraging one another actually releases God's grace to the hearer! What an incredible truth! Have you ever had anyone come up to you and fish for compliments? Why do people do that? It is because they are not getting enough encouragement and therefore their grace tank is low or on empty. Somehow, we all instinctively know that we need compliments that release grace in order to survive. We must encourage each other more so more grace will abound! Oh, to see a church that is positive and encouraging rather than murmuring and complaining! If you see someone struggling in any way, discouraged, lost, financially struggling, or whatever, go to them with an encouraging word and watch God's grace almost immediately begin to change their perspective and situation. What a resource we have in encouragement. What would happen if families and churches went one whole day doing nothing but being positive and encouraging? Again, a ceaseless flow of oil would begin to be poured out! Grace, grace

would be there and obstacles would begin tumbling and even crashing. Be an encourager and release one of the Lord's greatest gifts, His grace, upon the hearer!

11. Impartation. (Romans 1:11) Paul longed to go to Rome to lay hands on the body and impart spiritual gifts or grace to establish them. In other words, he did not want the Romans to be up and down, wishy-washy, roller coaster Christians. He wanted them established, firm, strong, rock solid. Grace will do that. Leaders, are you laying hands on the saints so they are flooded with grace?
12. Listen to testimonies and stir up grace through remembrance. (2Timothy 1:5-7) Do we want to stir up the grace of God? Do we want it to flow, then remember how we got it in the first place? Tell others about the incredible times that God in His grace reached out to us when we least deserved it. Tell others about Him and his magnificent grace. You will begin to sense a new strength; His grace will begin to fall on you afresh and anew. It is amazing how testimonies of God's goodness seemingly open the floodgates of God's presence and power. One of the biggest grace givers in my life comes through the reading of biographies of great fathers of the faith. This changed my ministry. I also began reading the book of Acts over and over and books about the revivals throughout history. Such a hunger began to overwhelm me and drive my life. Grace was released from heaven to me as my remembrance was stirred by what God did in the past. I would literally feel like more than a conqueror after reading those books. Do you want to change your circumstances, change the atmosphere of a church service, change your perspective? Then begin sharing amongst yourselves how God has moved in the past. Then just let the grace of God well up in you and around you. Faith and grace will be poured out and the spiritual atmosphere will change! You will then receive grace, grace to see revival happen today!
13. Ask for, receive and walk in wisdom. (Proverbs 3:4, 8:35, James 1:5) King Solomon tells us that in finding wisdom we find favor. We will receive not just favor but also abundant life, prosperity, etc.
14. Do good unto others, especially those who are hurting and oppressed. You will receive favor as your reward! (See Proverbs 11:24, Isaiah 1:17-19) There are not many things in life that turn God's head toward us than when we walk with His heart of love toward the poor and oppressed. When you minister love to people, God will bless you with His favor.
15. Be diligent. (Ezra 5:8 [AMP], Proverbs 22:9) It seems that the one at work that always receives the promotions and the favor are those that are most diligent. They are there to make the boss or company look good. God works in the same manner. Those who are diligent in seeking Him, serving him, and honoring Him receive the promotion and reward of the Lord.
16. Honor and do good to others. (Proverbs 12:2 [NASB]). Evil people may advance, but not with favor. Those who seek the good of others have the favor or hand of God on them at all times! Love never fails!

17. Sin. (Romans 5:20, 6:1-2) Wow! If this isn't one of the most incredible statements in all of Scripture. When we sin, we can humbly confess our sin and God's grace is loosed. Some of the most incredible outpourings of God's grace in my life have come after I have sinned. It is no wonder that Paul had to add a warning not to sin so that grace would abound. It is almost as if God so desires us to have grace, to have His desire and power, to have His anointing and favor, to have his ceaseless flow of oil, that we cannot hardly miss it. We should be able to stumble upon it if nothing else. So why are we not experiencing the grace that removes every obstacle in our life?

Grace blockers:

1. Pride. (James 4:6-7) God opposes or "stiff arms" the proud. He stands in our way. That is the exact opposite of grace, God coming to our rescue. Verse 7 shows us the key to all humility: submitting ourselves or surrendering ourselves totally and completely to the Lord. We do this by confessing all of our sins, by bringing them to the surface so they do not become a stumbling block at the least or a stronghold at the worst. We then need to repent or change our mind about how we believe about that area of our life. It must come under the authority of God's word. We do not need to ask forgiveness, as forgiveness of all sin was given at the cross and appropriated at salvation. But we do need to surrender that area to the Lord and begin to receive grace to change it. We need to get alone with the Lord and allow Him and lay everything out before him and then receive the grace and righteousness of God and stand there. We do not want to focus on being sin-conscious, we want to focus on the righteousness and grace available to us through the blood of Jesus. Also, it seems to me that in my life the issue of pride often boiled down to I either had to be right or I had to be better. It didn't matter if I was arguing with a child or competing against a child, I still had to be right or be better. It even overflowed into ministry; I had to be seen as right or as better. The root of all that for me was insecurity. I felt better about myself when right and when seen as better, even if only in my eyes. It will not be until it does not matter what we look like to others, only what we look like to God, that humility takes over and grace abounds. We are not competing with one another, nor are churches competing with one another. I remember going to a church growth luncheon and the consultant asked who our competition was. I started thinking that our biggest competition was the lake that most of our community lived on, as many spent their time skiing, fishing, jet skiing, or swimming. But the consultant was not looking for that type of an answer, he was wondering what other churches were in our area. To him, they were the competition! Let's stop competing to have the best programs, the fanciest buildings, the biggest name speakers, and let's start working together as believers and churches to grow the Kingdom! Who cares who preaches the best and who has the biggest church? It is all done by His grace anyway, so we have no reason to boast or act as if we did something. What matters is God's Kingdom, His Manifest Presence, and how much we love Him and love those

around us. Our job, then, is to ask God to make us humble and then walk humbly before our God. Only then will that obstacle to grace fall and revival will be right behind.

2. Bitterness rather than forgiveness. (Hebrews 12:14-16) This is another huge obstacle. A turning point in my life came when I told the secretary to hold my calls and to not let anyone come into my office and I closed the door, got on my face and cried out to the Lord. I was frustrated in the ministry, mostly ineffective. I didn't like my job, and I knew that I was not living out the book of Acts in my ministry. So, on my face before Him, I told Him to either kill me or fill me. The first thing the Lord told me was that I needed to make a phone call and make a relationship right. I did not want to (pride of course), but when I did, it felt like the weight of the world lifted off me. That was until the Lord reminded me of another wrong relationship, then another, then another. Nine months later I finally righted my last wrong relationship. Then God's grace began filling me like I had never experienced before. That was nine of the hardest months of my life, certainly the most humbling, but with bitterness and unforgiveness gone, I was literally a new man and a new minister. This passage also says that bitterness is one reason immorality abounds in the Kingdom of God. How that works, I do not know, but that is what the passage says and it is true. How many believers and even leaders have fallen? Could it be because of bitterness in their heart? It very well could. Let us get our relationships right and stem the tide of immorality. It also says that bitterness is easily transferable, defiling others. Bitterness swipes a wide path in the body of Christ, keeping people away from true biblical unity and definitely away from an outpouring of grace. Leave your gift at the altar now and go make every single relationship right! I did! Expect a ceaseless flow of oil and grace with bitterness out of your heart.
3. Not pastoring or covering or looking out for one another. (Hebrews 12:15) The word 'diligently' in this passage is the Greek work *episkipeo*, where we get our word Episcopal or overseer. If we are not diligent, if we are not looking after one another, covering one another, there is great danger of bitterness and strife manifesting. It is amazing how a mediator or mature leader can stop a fight by just giving perspective, knowing that there are three sides to every story - his side, her side, and what really happened. Let's not fail the grace of God; let's allow peacemakers and overseers in our midst, calling upon them before strife breaks out.
4. Nullifying or falling from grace through self-effort. We are either walking by grace or by works, there are no other options. (Galatians 2:21, 5:4) The book of Galatians gives a very important truth for today. We must get out of religion and works (Hagar) and be totally led of the Spirit (Sarah). As soon as we get into works, we get out of the realm of grace. If we were saved by grace we must live by grace. We did not earn our salvation nor can we earn His favor, anointings, success, holiness, prosperity, or anything. When we are led of the Spirit, we will be absolutely full of grace. We must stop trusting in programs, the way we used to do it, in denominational mandates, in trying what worked for the successful "wonderchurch" that I just read about, and etc. Just because something worked yesterday

or for someone else does not mean that is what the Lord wants for us at this time. I often quote Rick Warren when he said, "If the horse is dead, dismount!" Let us keep in touch with and move by the Holy Spirit, not by programs or even by what worked yesterday or for someone else's church or life. When we trust those things to work, we are no longer trusting the Holy Spirit's fresh manna and direction for today. When we seek to hear from the Lord and then wait until we hear His voice, then we can act upon His Word knowing that no word of God is without power, and His grace will abound, and obedience will result in great blessing.

5. Receive His grace in vain. (2Corinthians 6:1-4) Sometimes God gives us the grace we need and then we do not use it. That is receiving His grace in vain. This passage deals with the "acceptable" time of the Lord. The word acceptable is from the root word to receive. We are living in a time of receiving! Let's not stop the flow of grace by receiving in vain. Also, sometimes we experience God's grace and become a stumbling block or offense to others, being a bad witness. We know that His gifts (grace in the Greek) and callings are irrevocable, but wouldn't you sometimes like to personally revoke the anointings of those who use the grace of God for selfish gain and that bring the Kingdom of God into disrepute due to their actions? We are in a time of God releasing His grace and glory in our midst so the level of holiness and accountability must be high, just as in the days of Achan or Ananias and Sapphira. Let's not treat God's incredible grace with vanity or contempt or take it for granted. It is precious and we must treat it so, revering the One who has poured it out on us.
6. Speaking discouraging words instead of encouraging words. (Ephesians 4:29) It goes to reason that if encouraging words give grace to the hearer, the opposite must be true. If we speak negatively toward one another, it is a grace sapper. Not too many things in life can sap the grace out of us faster than people putting us down. When treated wrongly, not only can grace be sapped, but it is a slippery slope to bitterness which further removes the grace from our lives. We must quit murmuring and complaining about one another to one another. Let's quit defiling one another and begin giving grace through positive words of encouragement. Think about it. If you truly love someone (and we are to love even our enemies), would we cut them down which may lead to favor being lifted off of their life? We should desire all to walk in God's grace and favor, because what happens to them affects us. For they are a part of our Body if they are saved. If they are not saved, we could possibly be destroying the very grace they need for salvation.
7. Not loving your enemies. (Luke 6:27-36) Jesus asks us what credit (Greek word for credit is the word for grace) do we get from loving those who love us. When we love those who are unlovely, the implication is that grace and favor will be ours. For anyone who has lived a lifestyle of ministering to the poor or needy or oppressed, doesn't it seem like they have so much grace and favor upon their life? Mother Theresa is the prime example but all around the world this is true. This could be called one of the great secrets to God's grace and favor because it is, unfortunately, so rare. Let us reach out to the least of these with His love and watch God's grace come on us like a flood.

8. Unbelief. Faith gives us access into this grace. (Romans 5:1-2) One of the biggest attacks of the enemy is to try to get us to believe that God's grace and favor is not for us or that we have done something that will cause His favor to be taken away from us. The only thing that truly pulls the plug on an outpouring of grace is to not believe it is always available to us. Even if we get prideful or fall into works, simple repentance and going back to the throne of grace gets it flowing again. His throne is *made* of grace! We do not have to fast and pray and read 5.2 chapters of the Bible to earn back favor. It is a gift! Let us go boldly, with faith, to the throne of grace and obtain grace anytime we need it! Believe and confess that you are highly favored and God's abundant grace is yours.

Although these lists are not exhaustive, just thinking and reading about how great God's grace is should get His grace flowing in our lives! Let's tap into one of the greatest resources we have, sealed by Jesus' blood, His grace!