

The Christian Arsenal

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SUSTAINING GRACE Good News About Grace

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Part 2 of 9

Phil 1:6; 1 Peter 5:12

“God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished.” Phil. 1:6 (NLT)

As your pastor, I don't want to just get you into heaven – I want to help you finish the race of life well.

“My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that the grace of God is with you no matter what happens.” 1 Peter 5:11 (NLT)

Sustaining Grace is the power to keep on going when I feel like giving up.

GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE...

1. ... HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TEMPTED.

“Watch out for attacks from the devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him and so be strong in the faith.” 1 Peter 5:8

Moral choices are called temptations.

You will never outgrow temptation.

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses for He faced all of the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious Lord. There we will receive His mercy and we will find grace to help us when we need it.” Heb 4:15 (NLT)

If Jesus was tempted and he never sinned, it means it's not a sin to be tempted. It's a sin to give in to temptation.

ONE MAJOR AREA OF TEMPTATION – SEXUAL TEMPTATION

People confuse attraction with lust – they are not the same thing.

Lust is when you take a thought and begin to dwell on it in your mind and you begin to mentally have an affair with that person; you begin to fantasize with that person and to imagine, “What would it be like with that person?”

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“The temptations that you have are the same ones that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. When you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape. Then you will be able to stand it.” 1 Cor. 10:13 (ICB)

If temptations are common to man, that means there are common solutions.

2. ... HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TIRED.

Sometimes I'm not tempted – I'm just tired.

“Let us not grow weary in doing right for we will reap a harvest of blessing if we do not give up.” 2 Thess. 3:13

“It is God who gives us the ability to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us and He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts.” 2 Cor. 1:21-22 (NLT)

“For God is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.” Phil. 2:13 (Ph)

The Christian life is not a matter of your willpower, but a matter of God's will and God's power in your life.

3. ... HELPS ME KEEP STANDING WHEN I'M TROUBLED.

The most difficult kinds of trouble to handle are the troubles, the problems in life, that are unplanned, unrelenting, and undeserved.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

- **Stop** doing the “if only” game
- **Start** focusing on Christ

“So don't worry, because I am with you. Don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you. I will support you with my right hand that saves you.” Isaiah 41:10 (NCV)

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU CAN'T FIX AN UNFIXABLE PROBLEM?

You throw yourself on the Sustaining Grace of God.

HOW DO I RECEIVE GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE?

- **Call** out to God

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“God gives grace to the humble, so give yourselves completely to God...Draw close to God and God will draw close to you.” James 4:6-8 (NCV, NLT)

- **Fill your mind with God’s Word**

“I am completely discouraged. Revive me by your Word.” Psalm 19:25 (NLT)

- **Accept support from God’s people.**

You need a support group. God never meant for you to go through life on your own. You’re not a Lone Ranger.

“By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the Law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2 (NCV)

- **Hold on to God’s Promises**

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired ... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” 2 Cor. 4:18 (NLT)

“I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But He said to me, My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, then My power is made perfect in you.” 2 Cor. 12:8-9 (ICB)

When you’re going through a problem you can’t fix – don’t give up – LOOK UP!