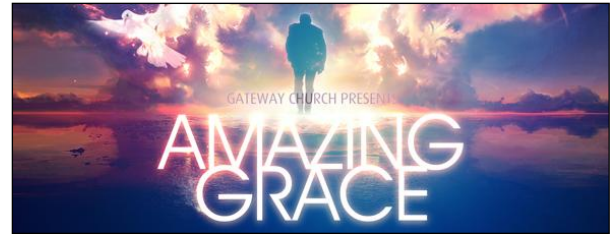


## Amazing Grace

### Week 3: Sustaining Grace

July 11, 2010

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I am well content in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* 2 Cor. 12:9-10



*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* Romans 1:1-5

*God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished.* Phil. 1:6

#### **We need to realize that there is a difference between finishing the race and finishing the race well!**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* Heb. 12:1  
*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

#### **THE HEAT IS ON...**

##### **My energy is taxed when I am 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 be strong in your faith.* 1 Pet. 5:8

*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

##### **My energy is taxed when I am torn.**

*I kept very quiet... but I became even more upset. I became very angry inside, and as I thought about it, my anger burned.* Psalm 39:2-3 (NCV)

##### **My energy is taxed when I am tired.**

*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

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

##### **My energy is taxed when I am troubled.**

*"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."* Isa. 41:10 (NCV)

*God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.* Ps. 46:1 (NLT)

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## **PLUGGING INTO GOD'S POWER SOURCE: Sustaining Grace**

*"The core problem isn't the fact that we're lukewarm, halfhearted, or stagnant Christians. The crux of it all is why we are this way, and it is because we have an inaccurate view of God. We see Him as a benevolent Being who is satisfied when people manage to fit Him into their lives in some small way. We forget that God never had an identity crisis. He knows that He's great and deserves to be the center of our lives."*

*"The irony is that while God doesn't need us but still wants us; we desperately need God but don't really want Him most of the time."*  
-Francis Chan

### **Power Shortage #1: The ability to anticipate**

*For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do. Eph.2:10*

#### **Sustaining Grace empowers me with readiness.**

*Stand firm then... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Eph. 6:14-15*

### **Power Shortage #2: The ability to motivate**

*(Solomon) "I looked at everything I had tried, and it was all so useless, a chasing of the wind, and there was really nothing worthwhile anywhere." Eccl. 2:11 (LB)*

#### **Sustaining Grace empowers me with desire.**

*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4*

### **Power Shortage #3: The ability to tolerate**

*I am worn out, O Lord... Give me strength; I am completely exhausted, and my whole being is deeply troubled. Psalm 6:2- 3 (GN)*

#### **Sustaining Grace empowers me with patience.**

*The Lord is the everlasting God... He never grows tired or weary... He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Those who trust the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. Isa. 40:28-31 (GN)*

### **Power Shortage #4: The ability to initiate**

*I often find that I have the will to do good, but not the power! Rom. 7:18 (Ph)*

#### **Sustaining Grace empowers me with purpose.**

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

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31*