



Guided by
GRACE

NAVIGATING THE PATH FROM *Darkness* TO *Light*

30-DAY DEVOTIONAL
JENTEZEN FRANKLIN

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Guided by Grace: Navigating the Path from Darkness to Light

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*“Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your
waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have
gone over me. The Lord will command His
lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night
His song shall be with me...”*

PSALM 42:7-8, NKJV

DAY 1

Deep Waters, Dark Nights & GUIDING GRACE

I once heard about a man who sailed large ships down the Mississippi River for forty years. He was asked upon retiring, “I would imagine you know every big rock and danger to a ship in this mighty Mississippi from St. Louis to New Orleans?”

His response: “No, but I know where the deep water is. If you stay in the deep water, you don’t have to worry about the rocks or what else might snag the ship.”

What a powerful statement. Similarly, God isn’t only concerned with what might snag or ensnare you. He wants you to know where the deep water is. He desires for you to be so aware, attuned, and awakened to His presence that when obstacles

come, when the unexpected strikes, when darkness falls, you're not caught unprepared. You're empowered by the Holy Spirit. Emboldened by His Word. Guided by grace.

The Psalmist writes, *“Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have gone over me. The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me...”* (Psalm 42:7–8, NKJV).

Are you ready to wade into the deeper things of God? Are you ready to see darkness as more than a setback to endure but an opportunity to see God's light shine brighter in and through you?

The God who saved you wants to complete the work He's begun in you (Philippians 1:6). You're not alone. You're not without help. You're not without hope. And in the pages ahead, it's my prayer you will understand what it means to be guided by grace, know the deeper waters, and experience God's light in the darkest of nights.

God has a promise for families—even broken ones. God promises that there is always a reason for hope. God promises to comfort you in your affliction. God promises to reward your faithfulness. Satan does not have the final say over your children, your marriage, or your family. God does.

*“By grace you have been saved...
it is the gift of God...”*

EPHESIANS 2:8, NKJV

DAY 2

The Beauty of **SAVING GRACE**

“By grace you have been saved...” (Ephesians 2:8, NKJV).

Before we go any further, it’s important to recognize what God’s grace is *and* what it does.

Ephesians 2:8–9 says, *“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”* (NKJV).

You don’t get good to get God. You get God to get good. The Gospel isn’t about doing. It’s about what Jesus has done! On the cross, He said, *“It is finished.”* (see John 19:30) By living a perfect life and dying a sinner’s death, Jesus took on your sin

and shame. Today, through His sacrifice and by the gift of His saving grace, you are redeemed and restored to God.

Our Savior demonstrated this truth further in the parable of the prodigal son.

In the story, the younger son requests his inheritance and then wastes it on sinful living. Meanwhile, the older son stays home. He doesn't rebel or reject the Father. However, when the younger one returns home and the Father celebrates, the older doesn't understand. He doesn't agree. He's angry, even. Why? Because though he never left home like his prodigal brother, he also didn't have a full understanding of the Father's heart.

Look quickly at their conversation:

'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found'" (Luke 15:29–32, KJV).

*“...having been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ...”*

Romans 5:1, NKJV

DAY 3

The Peace of **JUSTIFYING GRACE**

“...being justified freely by His grace...” (Romans 3:24, NKJV).

I love these words in Revelation 12:10, *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down’”* (NKJV).

Notice the title: “Accuser of our brethren.” Of course, scripture is referring here to Satan, and it’s important to recognize that’s exactly what he is. An accuser.

An accuser attacks. Condemns. Shames. Points out your deficiencies and disappointments until you're so dejected you can't look up to see your Savior. All the while, Romans 3:23–24 says, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”* (NKJV).

Romans 5:1–2 further declares, *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* (NKJV).

How do we find peace with God even when the accuser spits lies and shouts judgment at us? Through grace. Because not only does it save us, but God's grace also justifies us. “Just-as-if” we'd never sinned. Not because our sins no longer matter but because Jesus' grace and righteousness now cover us as the blood-bought child of God we are.

Jesus wore the crown of thorns so you could wear the crown of righteousness and be in right standing with God. And now, because you've been made righteous, you can be at peace and experience His best!

*“See then that you walk circumspectly,
not as fools but as wise...”*

Ephesians 5:15, NKJV

DAY 4

The Wisdom of **TEACHING GRACE**

“The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom...”
(Isaiah 50:4, NLT).

Grace isn't permission to do wrong.

Did you catch that? Grace is not permission to do wrong. On the contrary, God uses grace to pull you away from a sinful lifestyle and propel you forward into His plan for you. Titus 2:11–14 says...

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the

present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (NKJV).

God's grace is a teaching grace. That means when it's operating in your life, it's making you more like Jesus. Guiding you in wisdom and holiness. Leading you from darkness to light.

The Apostle Paul writes a powerful passage in Ephesians 5 describing the transformational effects of teaching grace. I encourage you to read it slowly and meditatively. Let the life and power of God's Word give you hope and strength today.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God (Ephesians 5:8–21, NKJV).

When have you experienced God’s teaching grace in your life? What is He revealing to you today?

“...‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’”

2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV

DAY 5

The Strength of **ENABLING GRACE**

There's one final type of grace revealed to us by the Apostle Paul: *Enabling* grace. He writes in 2 Corinthians 12:7–10...

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in

reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NKJV)

A thorn pierces the skin and lodges beneath the surface. Every step can be a reminder of it:

- The destructive habit you can't seem to break
- The financial debt you can't seem to repay
- The felony on the record
- The memories that haunt you in the night

Paul prayed three times for his "thorn" to be taken away. He begged God for its removal. And three times, God responded with the same answer: "My grace is sufficient for you."

Paul took his thorn in the flesh to the throne. And God gave him the sufficient grace he needed to overcome the challenge.

Hebrews 4:16 says, *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need"* (NKJV).

Enabling grace promises us not the absence of struggle but the strengthening presence of God. Empowering us to be victorious over every struggle or "thorn" we face.

“...the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

John 3:19, NKJV

DAY 6

The Ministry of **DARKNESS**

There are four types of darkness revealed in scripture.

There's the “darkness of sin.” John 3:19 reveals this type when it says, “...*the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil*” (NKJV).

Second, **the “darkness of ignorance.”** 1 John 1:5 says, “*God is light, in Him there is no darkness*” (NIV). This isn't a physical darkness but a mental and spiritual one that happens when God's presence is rebuked and refused.

Third, **there is “demonic darkness.”** This is shown in Luke 22:53 when Jesus talks about satanic and demonic oppression, calling them the “powers of darkness.”

We can all face attacks from those kinds of darkness in our lives. We can receive God’s grace to overcome them. But there is also a fourth darkness. And it’s a darkness God uses to test our faith, draw us closer to Him, and lead us to our destiny.

The “ministry of darkness.” Isaiah 50:10 says, *“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God”* (NKJV).

God is speaking in this text. And what’s significant is the people He’s speaking to. They love God. They walk in obedience to Him. Yet, they walk in darkness. And it seems contradictory. After all, Proverbs 4:18 says, *“But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day”* (NKJV).

However, here’s the truth we must not forget: We do not walk by what we see with our physical eyes. We walk by faith. And this is a darkness we feel most heavily in our emotions. It’s when you wake up in the morning and you don’t feel God’s presence

“...you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me...”

Jeremiah 29:12–13, NKJV

DAY 7

When You Don't Know WHERE GOD IS

"...to you the night shines as bright as day" (Psalm 139:12, NLT).

Have you ever wondered, God, where are you?

- When you received a bad medical diagnosis
- When you heard your child was struggling in school
- When the marriage you thought was strong is in jeopardy
- When the job you loved or the house that was your home is at risk of being lost

I've heard one writer call moments like those "the dark nights of the soul." When you don't see God. Perhaps doubt God. And wonder if He'll show up to help. It's in those moments of darkness God wants to minister to you. He wants to empower you.

He wants to guide you with grace. But here's what's so crucial to remember:

Though what you feel is real, that doesn't mean it's the truth.

God never designed the Christian life to work in an artificial environment. And while reality might cause you to doubt, fear, and acquiesce to the enemy's lies, let me encourage you to remember who your God is. He is still just, still loving, still good, and won't ever fail or forsake you.

You may be walking in darkness, but you're still a child of Light. And to God, *"the night shines as bright as the day"* (Psalm 139:12, ESV). Here are a few practical things you can do when darkness falls:

- 1 **Nothing.** When something happens that doesn't make sense. When you're not sure where God is or what He's doing, do nothing. Don't make a reactionary decision based on what you're feeling at the moment.
- 2 **Start walking.** After you've collected yourself, commit to walking by faith and trusting God no matter what. Though things might not make sense, keep moving forward, knowing God can meet your needs.

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.”

Isaiah 45:3, NKJV

DAY 8

Revelation Out of **DARKNESS**

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel” (Isaiah 45:3, NKJV).

There is no darkness in God. But that doesn't mean He can't use the dark to bring truth and revelation. Remember, the night is as day to Him! We find this in Deuteronomy 5.

Moses has ascended a mountain to meet with God. After sharing with all Israel the ten commandments God gives him, we read in verse 22, *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice...” (NKJV).*

Notice the words “thick darkness.” Moses was clearly a man used by God in remarkable ways. He walked in the light. And yet, God didn’t remove the darkness in Moses’ presence. He spoke *through* it.

Let me encourage you today: If you’re going through a dark season, it could be you’re on a mountain! God may be about to reveal truth, commands, and revelation in your life.

In the moments we find ourselves in darkness, our initial response will be to ask, “Why?” But here’s what Moses’ experience shows: God might not give you an explanation, but He’ll always give you a command. And with that command is blessing and promise!

The Psalmist learned this. I believe it’s why he writes in Psalm 103:1–8,

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The Lord executes righteousness

*“...Let him trust in the name of the Lord
and rely upon his God.”*

Isaiah 50:10, NKJV

DAY 9

The Power of **A PROMISE**

“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God” (Isaiah 50:10, NKJV).

When I read Isaiah 50:10, I can't help but think of Abraham.

He feared God. Knew His voice. Trusted Him. And yet, at numerous points in his life, he found himself in darkness. Perhaps none more so than when He was told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

Abraham had been promised by God his descendants would be “*numerous as the stars in the sky*” (Genesis 26:4), only to wait years for him and his wife to have a son, Isaac, at an old age. Then, God inexplicably told him to sacrifice his son. It made no sense. And I can only imagine the pain, doubt, and perhaps anger Abraham felt as he walked with his son to the mountain altar with Isaac carrying the wood to be used for his own sacrifice.

Of course, we know God didn't let Abraham kill his son. The Spirit of God stopped him and provided an animal in Isaac's place. But scripture doesn't record God explaining to Abraham why all of that happened. How it was a parallel to Calvary. How Isaac carrying the wood was a picture of Jesus carrying the cross. How Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only begotten son was a mirror of God sacrificing His son.

We see it all now, but God never explained to Abraham why he had to go through that experience. Hebrews 11:17-19 shows us,

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead...” (NKJV).

The fact is, God may not explain every dark moment or season we walk through. But He will always provide a promise. Scripture is filled with them. Promises like...

“I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV).

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you” (Isaiah 43:2, NKJV).

Today, put your faith in who God is and His promises. He is with you, and He won't fail you!

What promise from God do you need to remember and meditate on today?

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped
for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Hebrews 11:1, NKJV

DAY 10

The Just Shall **LIVE BY FAITH**

“...the just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, NKJV).

In the first two chapters of Habakkuk, we find an incredible conversation between God and a prophet.

This prophet was frustrated, distraught, and possibly even offended. He tells God, *“...the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds”* (Habakkuk 1:4, NKJV).

He declares he will stand and wait for God to answer. And does He! God replies, *“the just shall live by his faith”* (Habakkuk 2:4, NKJV).

We find that statement four more times in the New Testament, but it first came because a man cried out questions to God. And what is faith? The substance of things hoped for. The evidence of things you don't see (see Hebrews 11:1).

As the prophet experienced, few things test a person's faith like darkness. It tests your courage. It tests your convictions. It reveals who you are and what you believe.

Three young Hebrews experienced this in a very real way in Daniel 3. The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, built a golden statue and commanded everyone in the kingdom to worship it when they heard music. If they didn't, they would be thrown into a furnace of fire. Nevertheless, we read in Daniel 3:16–18...

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O, Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (NKJV).

“Who are you, O great mountain?”

Zechariah 4:7, NKJV

DAY 11

Speak to **YOUR MOUNTAIN**

“The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth” (Psalm 97:5, NKJV).

In the Bible, mountains often represented obstacles on the path to God’s promise.

Darkness can feel like a mountain. Big. Scary. Impassible. And I wonder if you’re staring one down today. It could be financial, a lack of hope for the future, or an addiction.

Today, recognize it matters what you say. Speak to that mountain in faith. Believe it can be moved, and it shall be in His name!

Zerubbabel did this. There was a mountain before him, and he said, *“Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!”* (Zechariah 4:7, NKJV).

Remember, even though God can use darkness for your good, it's never His intention for you to stay there. You're a child of light. Created to walk in the light. When you're faced with a darkness that seemingly refuses to dissipate, a mountain that won't move, don't let your words become consumed by the setback. Talk about how big your God is.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22–24, “...Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (NKJV).

You don't only have saving grace that redeems you or justifying grace that makes you right before God. You have enabling grace that empowers you to stand in faith against challenges and overcome them by the power of the Holy Spirit!

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”

John 14:19, NKJV

DAY 12

Happiness in **DARKNESS**

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19, NKJV).

How do you measure your happiness? By what’s happening around you? Or what’s happening within you and what Jesus has done for you?

For many, the level of their Christianity is determined by how happy they are. But it’s critical to recognize that happiness isn’t holiness. Happiness isn’t a level of living to achieve. It’s a state of being.

A powerful example of this is reflected in the life of the Apostle Paul in Acts 26. In the context of this chapter, Paul has been accused, put on trial, and appealed to Caesar. But before he travels to Rome, he speaks to King Agrippa. His life is on the line. And he starts with these words...

"I think myself happy..." (Acts 26:2, NKJV).

Paul doesn't let his circumstances determine his perspective. He doesn't let the challenges facing him destroy his happiness. He chooses to think himself happy.

I wonder if that's what you need to do today. Yes, there are moments in life when you won't be happy. When it's dark, it's human to feel grief, sadness, and even regret. But God doesn't intend for you to stay there. If you wait for your circumstances to determine your happiness, you'll give more power to what's happening to you than what Jesus has done for you.

Today, recognize the recipe to be happy and at peace is to meditate on God's Word. Celebrate the good things He's done. Think about His promises. That Jesus kicked the stone away and declared, *"Because I live, you shall live also"* (John 14:19, NKJV).

“...according to the will of God... making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

1 Peter 5:2–4, ASV

DAY 13

From Impression **TO IMPACT**

“...according to the will of God... making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:2–4, ASV).

At the time of the Roman Empire, there was a certain process for making coins. They would first sketch out an image of their ruler, Caesar. They would make an extremely hot fire and rest the coin on that fire. Then, they would take the picture of Caesar, and the blacksmith would hammer it onto the coin. When this would happen, Caesar’s picture would be referred to as an “ensample,” having undergone the intense process of transitioning onto the coin.

Now, I share all of that with you because Peter uses that same word-ensample-in scripture. And when understood in its cultural context, it's powerful! He writes,

"...according to the will of God... making yourselves ensamples..." (1 Peter 5:2–3, ASV).

There is a dimension beyond impression. Like the process of a Roman coin, the picture of Caesar on it isn't simply an impression. It's an ensample. It's a very real image of Caesar made possible through intense impact.

Consider this in light of your relationship with God. When you spend time with Him, when you worship, when you read His Word, when you go to church... are you leaving impressed or impacted? When people look at you, do they see an image (ensample) of the King?

Let's make that our aim each day. To be so impacted in our time and relationship with Him that in every moment and season-the good and dark-we look, act, talk, and live like HIM!

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another... Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

2 Timothy 3:16–17, MSG

DAY 14

Vision AND LIGHT

“Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word], the people are unrestrained...” (Proverbs 29:18, AMP).

What is your vision for the future? What are you praying for and believing God for in the days ahead?

Vision is a mighty thing. Without it, darkness comes swiftly because, as Proverbs 29:18 reveals, without vision, there is no restraint or “self-control.”

1 Samuel 2–4 provides a heartbreaking example of this. The Prophet Eli was growing old. He was losing his ability to see. But it was also clear he had failed to develop a capacity for

vision long before. He had two sons, and according to 1 Samuel 2:12, they were corrupt and didn't know the Lord. Even the lamp of God in the temple was dimming.

Notice the order of events:

- A lack of vision
- Loss of light
- Then, an inability to carry the fire of God to the next generation

It's a harrowing narrative, but take heart today. This will not be your story! Even if you've lacked vision in your life before and the light of God has dimmed in your life, today is the day you will draw a line in the sand.

Renewal of vision. Restoration of light. Redemption for the generations who follow you. And the key is God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 declares in the Message version,

“There’s nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

*“And blessed is he who is not
offended because of Me.”*

Matthew 11:2–6, NKJV

DAY 15

Overcoming OFFENSE

“...I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12, NKJV).

There is something important Jesus reveals in Matthew 11. Let’s read the first few verses...

And when John (the Baptist) had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me
(Matthew 11:2–6, NKJV, addition mine).

John the Baptist is trapped in prison. He was put there because He had prophesied of the coming Messiah. Now Jesus has arrived. He's performing miracles and drawing thousands wherever He preaches. Yet, John is alone and perhaps even offended. Nevertheless, Jesus declares...

“Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me”
(Matthew 11:6, NKJV).

The fact is sometimes your experience in life may contradict the God you think you know. There can be temptation to take offense at Him. But today, choose faith. Choose trust. If necessary, ask God the hard questions as John did. He can handle them! After Jesus said those words, He also said this about John...

“...What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written:

*“Rain down, you heavens, from above, and
let the skies pour down righteousness...”*

Isaiah 45:8, NKJV

DAY 16

The Treasury *OF SNOW*

“Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together...”
(Isaiah 45:8, NKJV).

There’s a revelation in Job 38 I hope you never forget.

“Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?” (vv. 22–23, NKJV)

On its own, it’s a confusing scripture. A treasury of snow? Hail? For trouble? But look at what God proclaims in Isaiah 55:9–10...

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater...” (NKJV).

One more verse. Look at Isaiah 45:3...

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, am the God of Israel” (NKJV).

Again, we see God working in the midst of darkness. Remember, the night is as day to Him. And how do we experience His hidden riches in secret places? Prayer. Because of this, the “treasury of snow” Job speaks of, the “snow from heaven” God refers to in Isaiah, they’re reserved for days of trouble—it’s all speaking to prayer!

Snow will accumulate on a mountain peak, then melt and rush down like a river in springtime, watering the earth to grow. That’s how your prayers, worship, and praise work in Heaven. The more you store up, the more will be released on the earth when you need it!

“...for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:17, NKJV

DAY 17

Store IT UP

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known” (Jeremiah 33:3, ESV).

What brings you to tears? What causes your heart to break and your soul to cry out to God for breakthrough?

Revelation 7:17 says, *“for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (NKJV).*

As we learned about yesterday, God turns those tears, prayers, cries, and worship into snow. Snow that will melt as the seasons change, becoming rivers of life, deliverance, and healing.

It was Paul who wrote to *“pray without ceasing”* (see 1 Thesalonians 5:17). So pray for the breakthrough in your life. Pray for the healing of your loved one. Pray for the deliverance from drugs and alcoholism for your friend. Pray for blessing and peace for your children and grandchildren. Make snow peaks of prayer!

This is what happened in Acts 10. The first two verses reveal, *“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always”* (NKJV).

Here is a man who is clearly storing up a treasury of snow. He’s seeking more from God-not just for himself but also for his entire household. And God hears him! He speaks to the disciple Peter. Gives him a revelation that the gospel and Holy Spirit are not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. Acts 10:44–48 reveals what happened next after Peter visited Cornelius and spoke...

...the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard

“He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold?”

Psalm 147:15–17, NKJV

DAY 18

Praying *WHEN IT'S COLD*

"...For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful" (Psalm 147:1, NKJV).

It's one thing to pray when life is well. It's another to pray when it's dark. To pray when you don't feel God and worship when you wonder if He's there. But in those moments, you're never wasting time. You're storing up a treasury of snow.

There was one day I was meditating on this, and I felt God tell me the best time to pray is when it's cold. Spiritually speaking, when it's winter and everything is withered, dry, and seemingly dead, that's the best time to pray because you're storing up snow for when the seasons change. And they will.

Winter can feel long and harsh, but springtime always follows. And with it, growth, life, and provision. We find a beautiful passage that reflects this truth in Psalm 147...

“He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold?” (Psalm 147:15–17, NKJV).

The question isn't whether or not God is present, powerful, and faithful to turn the snow you store into rivers of living water. The question is: Will you stand even in the cold and pray?

“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:17, NKJV

DAY 19

The Abundant **BLESSING OF GRACE**

“...much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17, NKJV).

I want to return for a moment to the truth and promise of justifying grace.

Romans 5:17 tells us, *“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” (NKJV).*

On this side of the cross, your worst is redeemed. Jesus' best is your inheritance! Remember what the father told his oldest son in the parable of the prodigal son? "All I have is yours."

John 1:16–17 says, *"And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"* (NKJV). Ephesians 1:3 further reveals that God has *"blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ"* (NKJV).

Are you experiencing that blessing? Keeping in mind the truth of God's grace and the justifying work of Christ, are you claiming His best for you?

The disciple Peter experienced this firsthand. He was fishing, and Jesus told him,

"...Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink" (Luke 5:4–7, NKJV).

*“And do this, knowing the time, that now it
is high time to awake out of sleep..”*

Romans 13:11, NKJV

DAY 20

The Strength of **ENABLING GRACE**

“...this is a critical time” (Romans 13:11, AMP).

The hour we live in is urgent. I don't say that to scare you but to encourage you. Jesus is coming back. Our risen King is returning to rule. Because of this, we need to be a people who are not sleeping in darkness but awake in the light!

Romans 13:11–14 says, *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and*

lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (NKJV).

Let’s walk through those words together...

“it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed” Again, Jesus is coming back. The day is closer now than it was then. It’s time to wake up! *Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* What is the armor? Ephesians 6:14-16 reveals it. The belt of truth. The breastplate of righteousness. The shoes of the gospel of peace. The shield of faith. The helmet of salvation. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And praying in the Spirit! *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.* Let me clarify, this passage isn’t written to a heathen people but a backslidden church. The writer, Paul, is crying out, “The hour is late. Jesus is coming. Walk in the light before it’s too late!” *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.* Making no provision means to not even consider the subject in thought. Don’t let your mind be consumed with any form of temptation or worldly affection. Feed your spirit and mind with God’s Word. Get into His presence by any means necessary!

*“And with great power the apostles gave
witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
And great grace was upon them all.”*

Acts 4:33, NKJV

DAY 21

Great GRACE

“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all”
(Acts 4:33, NKJV).

God wants to put *great grace* on your life, your family, and even your failure.

Because here’s the reality: The challenge is not *if* you will be knocked down-whether from the actions of another or a mistake yourself. The issue is if you will stay down. But mistakes are a catalyst for the miraculous if you will put them in God’s hands.

Heaven wants to make you. Hell wants to maim you. Both want to use your mistakes to do it. The adversary, Satan, wants to mock you for the rest of your life for the mistakes you have made. But God can transform you *through* your mistakes to be used for your good and His glory.

Mistakes can become prisons that hold you hostage-mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually. But mistakes can also become informative and revelatory. Great grace comes after great mistakes!

The disciple Peter rebuked Jesus three times before He was crucified. He could have let that failure define his future. He could have let the adversary discourage and defeat him from within. But he didn't. And at the end of John, we find Jesus talking with Peter. Symbolically asking Peter three times if he loved Him-not to condemn Peter. That's not how our Savior works. He was showing Peter great grace. That his destiny wasn't over. His life didn't have to be defined by his mistakes.

The same is true for you. The greater the mistake, the greater God's grace wants to come in to redeem and restore you!

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...”

Zech 4:10, NLT

DAY 22

Begin AGAIN

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...” (Zechariah 4:10, NLT).

Have you ever felt stuck, alone, without a source of help or hope to take another step forward?

Scripture records the story of Zerubbabel, a man tasked by God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He had started in 525 B.C., but then, for ten years, nothing. No progress. No construction. To make matters worse, the foreigners in Jerusalem were negative, half-hearted, and lacking in faith.

Problems without. Problems within. Zerubbabel was at an impasse, paralyzed by circumstances that undoubtedly felt out of his control. But then, at his darkest moment, God spoke...

“Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. So Zerubbabel... began to build...” (Ezra 5:1–2, NKJV).

I remember when God first highlighted that passage to me two decades ago. I was struggling. I felt incapable, unqualified, and uncertain. Then His Spirit spoke, “Begin again.”

It’s His Word for you today. For your business, your finances, your dreams, your faith. Begin again. Despite the problems you face on the outside or within, God’s guiding, enabling grace wants to empower you through it all.

Make no mistake, when God gives a word, He always provides the enabling grace to complete it. Today, thus says the Lord, “Begin again!”

*“...being confident of this very thing, that
He who has begun a good work in you will
complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...”*

Philippians 1:6, NKJV

DAY 23

“Grace, GRACE”

“...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...”
(Philippians 1:6, NKJV).

Have you ever stood in something unfinished?

- A house under construction
- A painting half completed
- A puzzle missing its final piece
- A lifelong dream unsatisfied
- A promise unfulfilled

There's a darkness to the incompleteness that's more than discouraging. It can be shattering. But in Zerubbabel's story, we again find a reason to hope, as well as a truth to stand on. We read in Zechariah 4:7...

“And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (NKJV).

As we've already learned, Zerubbabel's mountain was the walls he was trying to build. And God's instruction here is strange. He tells him to “bring forth the capstone.” In antiquity, the capstone was the final stone. Think of it like the ribbon a person cuts when they dedicate a building. You don't start with the capstone. You end with it.

But here's what God was showing Zerubbabel then and what I believe He is speaking to you now: What I start, I will finish. He wanted Zerubbabel to be so certain of God's faithfulness that he knew what the end would look like before he even started the project. He could hold that capstone as security of the promise. With that, Zerubbabel's challenge became not whether God's Word would be fulfilled but if he would endure to the end. And notice what God also told him to shout as he held that capstone: “Grace, grace!”

“...Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6, NKJV

DAY 24

Breakthrough IS COMING

“...Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6, NKJV).

When I was a kid, my Dad pastored a small country church in Henderson, North Carolina. A lot of my childhood days were spent there. Saturdays we’d vacuum. Sundays we’d arrange chairs. During the week, we’d cut the grass before we played.

One year, something happened that I’ll never forget. My grandmother (my Dad’s mom) needed a job. She was compassionate, kind, and loved elderly people. So, my Dad mortgaged everything and used every available penny he had to build a home that six senior citizens could live in for his mom to organize and run.

It was a beautiful idea. He wanted to do good. After several months and nearly losing everything, there were four senior citizens living there. Then they all passed away. It wasn't a sickness they passed to each other. They each had different reasons for their death. But as quickly as he was able to fill the home, it was now empty. And everything else my Dad had was at stake.

Finally, he called his real estate agent and asked him to sell it. But they couldn't. No one was interested. No one put in an offer.

My Dad got desperate. He started fasting and praying. One day, he drove me and my two brothers to that now abandoned house. He had been reading about Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho. And that's exactly what he did around that house.

He prayed in the Spirit. He pleaded the blood of Jesus. He shouted, "Grace, grace!" He walked the perimeter of that property seven times on a hot summer day. But when he came back to the car, tears were streaming down his face. He said to me and my brothers, "It's done. God's going to do it."

Now, here's the honest-to-God truth. He paid \$20 for a "For Sale" ad in the local newspaper. Within 24 hours, he got a phone call. The house was sold. That's the power of grace!

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:6, NKJV

DAY 25

From Dark **TO LIGHT**

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5, ESV).

A number of significant events in the Bible happened in the dark and at night.

While Adam was sleeping, God made Eve (see Genesis 2:21).

God directed Gideon to lead a group of 300 men against an army of thousands, only to defeat them and bring freedom to Israel (see Judges 7)!

At midnight, while the other prisoners slept, Paul and Silas sang praises to God and He delivered them (see Acts 16:25–26).

When Peter was locked in an inner prison, at midnight, God sent an angel to liberate him (see Acts 12:3–19).

When Jesus was crucified, the earth was plunged into darkness, but on Easter morning, the light came on—forever (see Luke 23–24)!

When you're navigating life without a map, every direction can feel like a dead end. When a room has a burnt-out lightbulb, even a familiar room can feel alien. When you walk or drive through fog, the path ahead can be hidden.

Today, God wants to flip the switch. He wants to turn the light on. In His guiding grace, He wants to speak to you through the darkness and lead you to the light. Even the night is as day to Him. Death is a doorway to resurrection!

Let these words in 2 Corinthians 4:6 encourage you today: *“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (NKJV).

“...as your days, so shall your strength be.”

Deuteronomy 33:25, NKJV

DAY 26

The Necessity OF NOW

“...as your days, so *shall* your strength *be*” (Deuteronomy 33:25, NKJV).

Over the course of my life, I’ve learned the necessity of embracing what is *now*.

We can’t change history. We have no authority over tomorrow. We have no power over yesterday. All we have is right now. And that’s good news!

Deuteronomy 33:25 says, “...as your days are, so shall your strength be” (NKJV). In other words, God provides the grace and strength you need for today. Not yesterday or tomorrow.

He's calling you to live in the present. To recognize—here and now—the wonder, beauty, and provision of His presence. I like to put it this way: Yesterday is a cashed check, tomorrow is a promissory note, and today is cash in hand!

With that in mind, don't keep waiting for the perfect time to do whatever it is God has put in your heart. NOW is the time! If you're waiting on a miracle, believe for it now. If you have bad habits to leave behind, stop making excuses. If you're planning on spending more time with your family, start today.

When too much focus is placed on what's ahead or what's behind, we can find ourselves paralyzed. Mired in the muck, sludge, and *darkness* of what's already happened or what we fear *could* happen.

Today, embrace the light of the day and seize the necessity of *now!*

“Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey... You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

Revelation 10:9,11, ESV

DAY 27

Sweet *AND SOUR*

“...who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”
(1 Peter 2:9, ESV).

The book of Revelation is filled with precisely that-revelation-about who Jesus is, what He’s done, and what He will do. But in the middle of it, we find something important that’s said to the writer (and Jesus’ disciple) John.

He is given a scroll and told, *“Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey... You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings”* (Revelation 10:9,11, ESV).

I find it so fascinating that, at first, the scroll—the Word of God—is sweet. But once it goes down into the stomach, it becomes bitter. Could it be the contrasting experience is a lesson for us to learn today?

It's natural to want what is sweet. We want to hear about God's goodness and grace. We want to sing divine promises of how, with Him, the future only gets brighter. We don't want to dwell on the truths of God's Word that may, at times, feel bitter. Like the "ministry of darkness" and how, while we live as children of light, we will also have to overcome the "dark night of the soul."

But as you've read through this devotional, it's my hope your perspective of the dark has shifted. Yes, the enemy will attack and seek to bring darkness into your life. But Christ has won. The grave has been overcome. As 1 Peter 2:9 puts it, "*... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (ESV).

Don't avoid the words from God that may be bitter. They may just be what you need to re-arrange your priorities, turn the light on, and be awakened to His will and way.

“...I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.”

Isaiah 42:16, NKJV

DAY 28

The Truth That WON'T CHANGE

“...I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them” (Isaiah 42:16, NKJV).

In life, change is a constant. From politics to the economy, culture, and daily life, we might seek control, but we can't stop the constant change.

Thankfully, however, God doesn't change. Times and seasons may change, but He's *“the same yesterday, today, and forever”* (see Hebrews 13:8). That means you can trust Him. You can

count on Him. You can know in the marrow of your bones that He is and always will be faithful. And that's true regardless of the circumstances surrounding you.

Consider the life of Jesus. He wasn't born into a noble family or even a great city. Isaiah 53:2 calls Jesus "a root out of dry ground." He didn't need perfect circumstances to thrive then. He doesn't need them to thrive now. He can perform the miraculous in even the driest of places.

Today, plant God's Word in your life. Seek after Jesus even in darkness or adversity. The Psalmist writes, "*...Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning*" (Psalm 30:5, NKJV).

However long the night may seem, the morning will come—and with it, His joy. Looking back, you'll realize that it was His grace protecting you, providing for you, comforting you, and bringing you through. And that's a truth that won't change!

*“Draw near to God
and He will draw near to you.”*

James 4:8, NKJV

DAY 29

It Is **WRITTEN**

“...You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”
(John 8:32, NKJV).

Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to fast for forty days. He was weary, hungry, thirsty, and alone.

It was at this moment Satan came to tempt him, offering Jesus opportunities to eat, protect Himself, and seize power. Three times, Jesus responded, *“It is written.”* And scripture records, *“Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him”* (Matthew 4:11, NKJV).

Jesus undoubtedly recognized the power of God's Word when faced with attacks from the enemy. We would do well to heed His example. Though Satan is a deceiver, Jesus is a revealer. That means every time you bring Jesus—"the Word made flesh"—into a situation, Satan is unmasked, and his plans for your life are exposed and foiled. (see John 1:14)

The moment light moves in, darkness must move out. Because of this, our priority shouldn't be to conquer Satan. Jesus already has! We just need to move closer to Jesus. And James 4:8 promises, "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*" (NKJV).

Today, make Jesus and His Word your first option rather than your last resort. Psalms declares, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*" (Psalm 119:105, WMB). Recognize what is written, draw close to Jesus, and live in the light!

*“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”*

Ephesians 5:14, NKJV

DAY 30

AWAKEN

“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light” (Ephesians 5:14, NKJV).

The famous playwright David Lodge was sitting in the audience of a packed Broadway theatre on November 22, 1963. The play was one of his creations, and the audience was entranced by it.

Suddenly, one of the actors walked over and turned the radio on, as was in the script. He was supposed to simply turn it on, say a few lines, and go on with the scene. But a voice unexpectedly came booming out of the radio across the auditorium.

“Today in Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed.”

The entire audience was stunned. The actor quickly walked over and turned the radio off to try and resume the scene, but it was too late. One by one, the audience left. They had been shocked back into reality. The play was over.

I wonder if this devotional has served as a similar wake-up call for you. Remember, the only time that counts is now. We cannot change the past. We have no power over tomorrow. We can't control yesterday. And what I'm praying for is that we would break out of "performance-mode" Christianity. The play will be over. And we will step out of the darkness and into the light.

There's a powerful word to describe a set time in the Bible. In the Greek language, it's called "kairos." It means "a specific time" or "now or never." It's the same word that's used to describe the pool of Bethesda when the angel would come down once a year. With his sword, he would trouble the water. And whoever got in the water first would be miraculously healed (see John 5:1–15).

That was a kairos moment. And that's what I hope this devotional has been for you. That God is awakening you at this time with His guiding grace—piercing the darkness and shining His light in and through you.

**Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“I am the light of the world. Whoever
follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12, ESV**

Difficulty doesn't have to hold you back. Defeat isn't the end of your story. Though there are moments when life can feel dark, there is a pathway to hope! In this uplifting 30-day devotional, Pastor Jentezen Franklin will open your eyes to the wonders of God's grace and the enduring power of His light. Each day, you'll find reflections from scripture, personal stories, and actionable steps to deepen your faith and strengthen your relationship with God. You will know what it means to be *guided* by grace!



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