**Sermon Outline for May 28, 2017**

***God’s Grace: His Perfect Provision, Our Perfect Partner - by Pastor Gary London***

1. **TEXT:** Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

2Corinthians 11:21-12:10 (NIV)

1. **Thorns in the flesh** (the example we see in the life of the Apostle Paul).

2Timothy 1:8-9, “With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer for the sake of the Good News. For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time – to show us His grace through Christ Jesus.”

1. **Four results of God’s power (grace) resting on us:**
2. **Purity of our motives**.

1Corinthians 13:1-3, “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love. I am nothing. I f I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.” 2Corinthians 5:14, “the love of Christ compels us.”

1. **Integrity in our life**.

2Corinthians 1:12, “Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God’s grace.”

1. **Maturity in our discipleship**.

2Corinthians 4:15-17, “All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we don’t lose heart though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

1. **Humility in our character**.

1Corinthians 1:26-31, “Think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It’s because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it’s written: let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1. **Application of God’s grace to us.**
2. **Personally:** God’s grace = His perfect provision, your perfect partner.

* God has given you grace as your partner and that’s enough for whatever comes your way.
* God’s grace made Paul an overcomer and God’s grace makes you an overcomer.

2Corinthians 6:4-7, “We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit (of grace) within us, and by our sincere love. We faithfully preach the truth; (and) God’s power is working in us.”

1. **Corporately:** CHARIS (the Greek word for grace) = the enabling power of God’s love to us.

* It’s the unearned favor, or goodness and mercy of God to us.
* It’s His undeserved blessings to us – His active goodwill to us.

1. **To really be the fellowship of grace means:**
2. **We will identify with sinners**.

1Timothy 1:15-16, “Here’s a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown grace so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.”

1. **We will proclaim the Gospel**.

John 1:14 reveals that Jesus is full of grace.

1. **We will be grace-givers**.

2Peter 3:18 tells us to, “Grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

1. **We will show others that God’s grace enables us to be overcomers**.

1Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am…I worked harder than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

Romans 5:3-5, “We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit (of grace) to fill our hearts with His love.”

1. **Conclusion:**

1Peter 4:12-14, “Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad, for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world. So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God (of grace) rests upon you.”

2Corinthians 4:7-10, “We have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked-down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus (His power) may also be seen in us.”