

## Times of Greater Grace Series: 3

### Acts 4.33

#### Grace To Help In Times of Trial – Pt. 2

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

Last time we saw that at the Throne of Grace is the place where we can find grace to help in our times of need (Hebrews 4.16)

*“Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].” (Amp)*

We can approach the Throne of Grace boldly knowing that

- Jesus has been tempted in the same ways as we are, yet He without sin (by yielding to the temptation)
- He is therefore qualified to sympathise with our weaknesses. He knows how we feel and what we are going through. He is touched with the 'feelings of our infirmities'
- Hebrews 2.16-18
- without fear, we can ask for grace to help and aid us in our times of need
- we need grace in our times of need, not things

### Acts 4.33

The early church were experiencing a trial of their faith:

- Peter & John ministered healing to the man at the beautiful gate (Acts 3.1-10)
  - the man at the beautiful gate asked for what he thought he needed – money; what he actually needed was the grace of God which ministered healing to his body
- Peter (and presumably John as well) preached a powerful sermon (Acts 3.11-26) which resulted in an additional 5000 people being born again (Acts 4.4).
- The priests, captain of the Temple and Sadducees had them arrested for preaching and teaching the resurrection. (Acts 4.1-3) - Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection (Matthew 22.23, Luke 20.27), they deny the existence of angels (Acts 23.8) and the oral law as revelation from God.
- they were imprisoned (Acts 4.3)
- were threatened not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4.17-18, 21)
- prayed about the situation – they came to the Throne of Grace (Acts 4.23-31)
- they continued to give witness to Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 4.33)
- great grace was upon them - they received times of greater grace – manifestations of power and blessings.

**Grace will lift you up, it will exalt you:**

Look at what the Scripture says in Acts 4.13-14

*“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it”*

There was little this religious council could do – there was something in and on the apostles that set them above – grace.

- God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3.34; James 4.6; 1 Peter 5.5)

The grace of God will lift us out of our times of trial and need and give us a means of escape and relief

1 Corinthians 10.13

*“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

- God will not allow the trial or temptation to be beyond what we can bear.
- He gives us His grace – our means of escape, so that we can bear it and overcome it.

Ezra 9.8

*“And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage”*

- Grace was shown by God to bring hope and revival to those in bondage and need