

BEING A GOOD RECEIVER OF GOD'S GRACE

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1. Somebody once said, "God is more willing to give, than we are to **RECEIVE**."
2. Basically, God's salvation of us works like this:
 - a. We have a need, e.g. forgiveness of our sins.
 - b. We cannot meet our need, i.e. we cannot earn forgiveness by our own efforts.
 - c. God has already met our need through Jesus' death and resurrection, e.g. "He bore our sins in His own body on the tree...." *1Pet 2:24*.
 - d. So **RECEIVE**, by faith, God's provision of your need through Christ, *Mk 11:24*. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, *Jn 3:16*.
3. **We all know** when we have a need such as forgiveness, healing, victory over a sinful habit and so on.
Usually we struggle in vain to meet our own need until we realize we can't.
Gradually we see that Jesus is the answer, and we cry out to Him, "Please help me!" not realizing that He has already met our need 2000 years ago on the Cross, and is waiting for us to **RECEIVE** His ready provision by faith in His Word and His promises.
Our problem is we are slow to **RECEIVE** what God has provided for us, through Christ.
4. **The hindrance is not on His side.** He is the Supplier of our every need, *Phil 4:19*. He is the Giver of abundant life, *Jn 10:10*. He is the Fountain of Living waters to the thirsty, *Jn 7:37-39*, *Jer 2:13*. He is the Light for those in darkness, *Jn 8:12*. He is the Healer for those in sickness and pain, *Mat 8:17*. He is the Bread of Life to the hungry, *Jn 6:35*. He is the Good Shepherd for the lonely and lost, *Jn 10:14,27*. He is the Resurrection and the Life for the weak, *Jn 11:25*.
5. **The problem is on our side.** Will I be a **RECEIVER** of what He is offering me, and has already provided for me? *2Cor 1:20*, *Ps 84:11*, *Is 30:19*, *2Pet 1:3,4*, *Mk 11:24*, *Mat 21:22*, *Mat 7:11*, *Eph 1:3*.
6. When He cried, "**It is finished!**" *Jn 19:30*, he had accomplished the full work of salvation and redemption for you, for me, for all of us
7. God desires you to be a **RECEIVER** of His provision through Christ. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive..... For everyone who asks receives..... If, you being evil know how to give good things to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him, *Mat 7:7,8,11*."
8. Through Christ's death and resurrection God has already:
 - a. Set you free from the guilt of sin, so **receive it now**. *1Jn 1:9*, *1Jn 1:7*, *1Pet 2:24*, *Rev 1:5*.
 - b. Delivered you from that persistent sinful habit, so **receive it now**, *Rom 6:1-14*, *Rom 8:2*.
 - c. Set you free from satanic influences, so **receive it now**.
Heb 2:14, *Col 2:15*, *1Jn 3:8*, *Lk 10:19*, *Rev 12:11*.
 - d. Sent out the Holy Spirit upon all who believe in Jesus, so **receive it now**.
Ac 2:38,39, *Ac 19:2*, *1Jn 2:27*, *Jn 20:22*, *Lk 11:13*, *Jn7:37-39*.
 - e. Healed our sicknesses and diseases, so **receive it now**, *Mat 8:17*, *1Pet 2:24*, *Ps 107:20*.
 - f. Redeemed us from the curse of the Law, of poverty, sickness, and destruction, so **receive it now**, *Gal 3:13*, (*Deut 28:15-68* the curse)
 - g. Set us free from being controlled by this world system, so **receive it now**.
Gal 1:4, *Gal 6:14*, *Jn 16:33*, *Rom 12:2* (God is now our Source of Supply - *Phil 4:19*, *Jer 2:13*, *Ps 23:1*)
 - h. Freed us from legalism, condemnation and guilt, so **receive it now**.
Rom 7:4,6, *Rom 10:1-4*, *Gal 5:1*, *Gal 3:10-14*, *Eph 2:15*, *Rom 4:15*.

9. The problem is not to pray to get God to do something for us we need, but to get ourselves into the place we can receive, by faith, in His promises, what God through Christ, has already provided for us.
10. There are some hindrances that can hinder us receiving God's grace. These are described in No 12 of our set of teaching notes.
11. Now for an example.
In January 1964 I first heard about the "Baptism with the Holy Spirit." I knew that this was what I needed in my life so I started to seek God for it. Each night I would stay up late and pray, asking God to baptize me with the Holy Spirit. Night after night, week after week, and month after month I prayed, and cried out to God. Nothing happened, so I figured that I must have to pray harder, or become more holy, or both. So I continued to struggle to pray harder and become more holy. This continued to mid July when suddenly God gave me a vision of one word "**GIFT**" in big gold letters. Immediately I stopped trying to earn the Baptism with the Spirit by praying harder, and becoming more holy, and simply **received it by faith**, thanking and praising God that **He had already given it to me**. I had no feelings or supernatural experiences, but continued praising and thanking God that He had given me this blessing. After one week I could see that my whole life had been totally transformed by the power of God's Spirit, in a new powerful prayer life, in revelation of the Word, in victory over sin, boldness to witness, power of preaching, and in overflowing joy and rejoicing.
12. The Holy Spirit was sent in *Acts 2*. He has been here ever since. God has not taken Him away. We need **to RECEIVE** what God has given. *Ac 19:2, Lk 11:13, Mat 7:11*.
13. The same example applies to healing, being saved, set free from some sinful habit and so on.