

Series: Grace in Action: Serving through God's Love
Grace in Action

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the immeasurable gift of your grace.
We come before you today with a heart full of gratitude for your love and mercy.
A deep love and appreciation for all you have done for us.
Grant us the humility to recognize that all my abilities and talents come from you.
Help us to serve others with a selfless heart
Empower us to extend your grace to everyone we encounter, showing compassion, forgiveness, and understanding.
Guide us in my service.
Show us where I can use my gifts to make a difference in your kingdom.
Give us the strength to serve consistently and faithfully
Fill us with your love, so that it overflows into my actions and words.
Help us to be intentional in our service, seeking your guidance and direction in all that we do.
Remind me of your grace, and help me to get back up, and to continue to serve you.
In Jesus name, Amen.

I speak so positively about Star of Hope Mission in Houston and being in the Spiritual Recovery Program because it is a good organization and program that really helped me out in bad and tough times in Houston. The staff is friendly, spiritual and engaging. The staff are good people that are deeply spiritual in the religious faith from representation and manage their own congregation. It is better than Trenton Rescue Mission in Trenton, New Jersey because the homeless shelter in Trenton is all about sin, temptation, idolatry and too many people still rather live by 1 John 2:15-17. That is why I rather use the knowledge from their program that I learn for five months in the Spiritual Recovery Program about how to live spiritually and putting God first in my life in whatever I do. I learned from the program and I continue not to do it today. I do not lean on my understanding. The Star of Hope Mission in Houston taught me how to focus more on God's wisdom from above, not wisdom from the world. That's why my social life improved in the program because I am surrounded with more spiritual minded staff and clients learning how to be disciples to God and the Holy Spirit. I felt like Star of Hope Mission really motivated me and staff motivated me to stick to the program to make sure I have more stability under me. When I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program, I had to do mandatory work therapy in the kitchen preparing meals and serving meals to clients during lunch or dinner time. I am compassionate to helping the homeless and that is why being in Trenton, New Jersey did not work well for me because I am used to being out giving back to the community and helping the homeless, so I left Trenton and came back to Baltimore.

When I volunteer at homeless shelters and organizations, I do it spiritually to show my compassion for the needy and homelessness while using my strong spiritual gifts in shepherding, prophecy, wisdom, teaching and exhortation. In September 2015-January 2017, I started a personal grassroots project in Dubuque, Iowa called America Homelessness Coalition helping the homeless and needy by providing counseling, mentorship, and led Bible study sessions for the homeless in communities, implementing homeless social services for the homeless to reduce poverty and homelessness, handling administrative tasks at public meeting spaces or at home, organized and hosted advocacy initiatives focusing on homelessness, poverty, and economic empowerment, attending weekly community meetings with local residents to discuss

community and economic development, evaluating and identifying the needs of homelessness and low-income individuals with mental health; acted as care coordinator for the homelessness and low-income communities. In December 2011-September 2014, I started a personal grassroots project in Chicago called Pastor Hobson Homelessness Initiative by providing counseling, mentorship, and led Bible study sessions for homeless in Chicago low-income communities; distribute clothing, food and financial assistance to the homeless men and women on the streets dealing with poverty and food insecurity, and teach bible study classes to the homeless and low-income individuals and families; implement homeless social services for the homeless to reduce poverty and homelessness, partner with churches in communities to promote services and ideas to end homelessness long-term, handle administrative tasks at public meeting spaces or at home; organized and hosted advocacy initiatives in Chicago focusing on homelessness, poverty, and economic empowerment. In November 2014-August 2015, I started a personal grassroots project called Youth and Children Community Development Initiative in Chicago to provide support to youth and children living in poverty in Chicago. I am a prayer partner at Helping Up Mission in Baltimore. I served as Junior Board member at Catholic Charities in Chicago to help the homeless and the needy for two years. My goal is to transfer that experience here in Baltimore as a man of God and Bishop of the congregation. I will not be returning to other states except for visiting them. I am going to stay put in Baltimore long-term. I volunteer four years of experience tutoring children in subjects at elementary and high school level in Chicago. When I do my service in the community, I do not do it for the money because I do it based on compassion for the homelessness, needy, children and youth. I do not serve as bishop of the congregation for the money like other pastors like Creflo Dollar and other wealthy pastors. I do it for my compassion and good heart for the community and Christ Jesus as my personal savior in heaven. I am grateful for tithes and offerings that the church gets online, during services and community. I am not like pastors that are wealthy that live in large mansion, own business jets and fancy cars.

It's vital to understand that grace itself is a gift from God. It's not something we earn. Recognizing this humility is foundational. This means that our service should flow from a place of gratitude for the grace we've received, not from a desire to earn God's favor. It's about showing compassion, forgiveness, and understanding, even when it's difficult. Love and serve others: helping those in need (feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick). As man of God and Bishop of the congregation, I am trying to do more by visiting hospitals and nursing homes in Baltimore, Houston and Detroit. I want to have the opportunity to visit and preach to inmates in prisons like other pastors and religious leaders. Inmates need my powerful sermons and messages about the word of God. We need to show kindness and respect to everyone, regardless of their background. I never saw that happen at homeless shelters since I have been in and other of homelessness since 2011 while I did a lot of traveling and moving around. It is so much idolatry at homeless shelters among homelessness that is not biblical like Star of Hope Mission in Houston. I think about others before thinking about myself, but my case manager at Star of Hope Mission told me in the Spiritual Recovery Program that I need to stop doing that to start focusing more on myself. He told me that I need to stop using caring for others as a powerful trait and start caring and focusing on myself more.

When we serving in God grace in our life for God and the community, we need to be committed to doing the following and being a doer and having a compassionate heart for Christ Jesus:

1. Offer to help elderly neighbors with yard work, groceries, or errands.
2. Simply strike up conversations with people in your neighborhood. Building connections strengthens community bonds. I do not mean that thuggish and sinful crap from people in the community that cause you to listen to sin, temptation, idolatry and worship the devil in your life going forward in your life. I mean strike up good and spiritual conversations with people in your neighborhood that prevent, sen, ungodliness, idolatry and temptation.
3. If you see litter, pick it up. A small action that makes a big difference. This is an important step because we need to try to keep our communities clean and safe.
4. Check your local library for volunteer opportunities or community events. Libraries often serve as hubs for local engagement.
5. See if your local parks have clean up days, or other volunteer opportunities.
6. Food Banks and Soup Kitchens
7. Animal Shelters
8. Participate in or organize a cleanup of a local park, beach, or street.

While we are living under God's grace in our life, we need to practice our gratitude and stop being selfish by taking time each day to appreciate what you have. This can help shift your focus from what you lack to what you can share. When I talk about this, I am thinking about young people and youth hating their elders and other people that have more than them. I want to make it clear that it makes no sense to hate on other people and their success. It needs to come into people's mind that they need to work harder at their goals to do better for themselves. It is not a good idea to continue to hate on people because you are causing yourself to become more depressed and become bipolar that can lead to mental health. We need to stop saying time is money and start providing more compassion in our community to help our communities and others. I am saying this because politicians are not going to tell people this because they are too busy campaigning to get votes to vote for them in elections. Our communities and coming together make our nation stronger. Individuals and families in our communities run our economy and make neighborhoods stronger by people coming together, not politicians and governments. You can tell people at your church or to a pastor about your goals if your family thinks your goals are not realistic to them. When you feel lazy, remind yourself of the positive impact you're making.

Helping the homeless and giving back to the community is what I care about because it is why I turned down being a lawyer and going to law school as an undergraduate. I knew and started to understand that was not where my compassion was. I felt like I wanted to be a lawyer and go to law school for the money and income, but I started to realize as an undergraduate and serving in the community to make a difference was not where my heart was at the time.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."-Ephesians 2:8-9

This passage emphasizes that salvation is a gift of grace, not something earned. However, this grace should lead to good works. Grace refers to God's unmerited favor. This emphasizes that neither grace nor the faith itself originates from us. It's a gift from God. This counters the idea that we can achieve salvation through our own efforts or good works. We receive gifts by trusting in God's provision, specifically through Jesus Christ. The purpose is to eliminate any basis for human pride or self-congratulation. Salvation is entirely God's work. Salvation is a free gift from God, offered through his grace. We receive

this gift by faith in Jesus Christ. Our good works do not contribute to our salvation. This ensures that God receives all the glory. Applying Ephesians 2:8-9 to daily life involves a shift in perspective and a transformation in how we view ourselves and our actions. When you achieve something, remember that any abilities or successes you have are ultimately gifts from God. This helps to keep pride in check.

- Recognize that salvation is a free gift, not something earned
- Recognizing God's hand in blessings big and small.
- Understand that you are dependent on God's grace, not your own strength. This should lead to humility in your interactions with others.
- Extend that grace to others.
- Practice forgiveness, mercy, and compassion.
- Knowing you are saved by grace, should drive you to serve others, not to boast about yourself.
- Place your trust in God's provision for your life, knowing that he is the source of all good things.
- When facing challenges, rely on God's strength rather than your own.
- Let your actions be motivated by a desire to glorify God, not to gain personal recognition. When I serve communities to help the homeless and the needy, I do it to serve God's kingdom and not for my own recognition. My certifications and achievements that I did for God and not my own recognition.
- When good things happen, give God the credit. This reinforces the truth that salvation and all blessings come from Him.

"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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."-2 Corinthians 12:9

The apostle Paul had received extraordinary revelations from God. To prevent him from becoming arrogant, he was given a "thorn in the flesh," a source of persistent suffering. The exact nature of this affliction is debated, but it caused Paul significant distress. Paul pleaded with God three times to remove this thorn. God's grace is all that is needed to endure any hardship. God's strength is most clearly displayed when we acknowledge our own weakness. When we rely on God, his power can work through us in extraordinary ways. True strength comes from acknowledging our weakness and relying on God's grace.

- Identify your areas of weakness, whether they are physical, emotional, or spiritual. Don't try to hide or deny them.
- Release the pressure to be perfect. Understand that everyone has limitations.
- Instead of seeing weaknesses as a liability, recognize them as opportunities for God's power to work in your life.
- When faced with challenges, turn to God in prayer and ask for his grace to sustain you.
- Believe that God's grace is enough to meet your needs
- Instead of relying on your own strength, seek God's power to work through you.
- Share your struggles and how God has helped you overcome them.
- Let your weaknesses become a platform for God's glory to shine. When others see God's power working through your weakness, they will be drawn to him.
- God's grace will keep you humble.

- Don't dwell on your failure. Acknowledge it, learn from it, and trust that God's grace will cover you.
- Remember that you are only able to help because of the grace given to you.

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."-Hebrews 12:6

The core message is that God disciplines those He loves. This discipline is not a sign of His anger or rejection, but rather a demonstration of his care. The word "chastens" implies training and correction, similar to how a loving parent guides their child. The word "scourges" strengthens the idea of strong correction. This does not necessarily mean physical violence, but a strong corrective action. God's discipline aims to refine and strengthen believers, helping them to grow in holiness and maturity. The passage emphasizes the analogy of a father-son relationship. Just as a loving father disciplines his children for their well-being, God disciplines His children out of love. It is important to understand that God's discipline is not the same as God's wrath. God's wrath is his response to sin. God's discipline is his loving correction of his children.

- Remember that God's intention is always to refine and improve us.
- Even when discipline is painful, trust that God's love is unwavering. He is working for your ultimate good.
- When facing difficulties, take time for honest self-reflection. Ask yourself if there are areas in your life where you need correction.
- Pray for God to reveal any hidden sins or character flaws that need to be addressed.
- Be open to God's gentle nudges and promptings. He often uses trials to get our attention and guide us back to the right path.
- Resist the temptation to become bitter or resentful towards God.
- Surrender your will to God
- View discipline as an opportunity for growth. Seek to learn the lessons God is teaching you through your trials.
- Keep your eyes on the ultimate goal of spiritual maturity.
- During times of difficulty, draw near to God through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers.
- When facing financial hardship, consider whether you need to be more diligent in your stewardship.
- When experiencing relational conflict, examine your own behavior and seek to forgive and reconcile.
- When struggling with a persistent temptation, recognize that God is helping you to overcome it.

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."-1 Peter 4:10

This emphasizes that every believer has been given gifts. These gifts aren't necessarily just extraordinary talents; they can include any ability, resource, or opportunity that God has provided. This highlights the purpose of these gifts: they are intended for the benefit of the community, not for personal gain. It's a call to action, urging believers to actively use their gifts to meet the needs of others.

- Take time to reflect on your talents, abilities, and passions.
- Consider what others have told you about your strengths.
- If you are a Christian, explore the concept of spiritual gifts. Many churches offer resources or assessments to help identify your spiritual gifts.
- Ask trusted friends, family members, or mentors for their perspectives on your strengths.
- Volunteer in various ministries within your church, such as teaching, hospitality, or outreach.
- Look for volunteer opportunities with local charities, non-profits, or community centers.
- Be a good neighbor by offering help to those around you.
- Use your skills to help colleagues or contribute to team projects.
- Look for opportunities to mentor or support others.
- Utilize your hobbies
- Use your gifts consistently and responsibly.
- Find joy in serving others, knowing that you are making a difference.
- Pray for God to show you how to use your gifts effectively.
- Pray for God to give you the strength and motivation to serve faithfully.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."-John 1:14