GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT
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In the non-spiritual sense of the word, “Grace” usually means allowance of some kind. We give grace periods for payments of debts or we extend grace to someone who is always late.

But Biblical grace is something different altogether. First of all, it is totally undeserved. God extends His forgiving, restoring grace freely to those who will believe and receive.

Secondly, God’s grace is sufficient. It is never lacking. No matter what we are going through (COVID-19), His grace is sufficient to sustain us and even make us victorious.

I love what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 8:37, “In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

“All these things “refers to terrible hardships all believers face because we live in a fallen world. But what does it mean to be “more than conquerors?” I believe it means that the all sufficient grace of God is complete for forgiveness, redemption, and restoration. We don’t just win. We are restored.

It is our pleasure to see God’s restorative grace at work every day in our shelters. People don’t just get a meal or a bed. They don’t just get sober or a house. They get their lives back. They get their families back. They get their careers back. They are more than conquerors.

It may seem like you will never have your life back as you once knew it. And in some cases, you probably shouldn’t. But in the case where Satan the thief has stolen from us, God wants to restore. He not only wants to take us out of our present condition, but He wants to give us more and better.

Paul also said this, “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19. His supply of grace is always sufficient.

Every Story Matters,

Steve Sparks
CEO
RICHARD WAS a jet engine mechanic for the US Air Force for 9½ years. During that time, he served two tours in Iraq and one in Libya. During his last time in Iraq, he volunteered to help move the patients from the helicopter pad to the hospital. In one instance he was tasked with helping a nine-year-old girl who suffered fatal injuries. The experience of seeing a dying child in the middle of a war changed him, and he began to question and second guess himself; wondering if he could have done more to help that little girl.

After his tour in Iraq, Richard was stationed in Utah. Unable to get the picture of the little girl out of his head, he started drinking heavily. He thought nobody noticed at first, but when he got his DWI, the Air Force noticed. After several attempts at rehab in Utah, he found himself out of the military and back in Wichita Falls. It was not until his brother demanded that he get help or move out that he came to Faith Mission.

“Richard, I have seen you change,” his brother argued. “They teach you the medicine you need to live ... it is God and to study His word and just follow it. And if you can do those things, eventually it does change you”.

Richard’s attitude, while in the military, was to “work hard, play hard.” The product of a broken and abusive home, he tended to gravitate to the same type of people for support. “I always believed in God but never felt like I was religious”. It was not until he lost everything and came to Faith Mission that he felt a need for God. Now his life has a purpose. “They teach you the medicine you need to live ... it is God and to study His word and just follow it. And if you can do those things, eventually it does change you”.

Richard is presently a crew lead for Faith Enterprises and has been a model student in the program. He has used that “work hard” ethic to better himself and create great opportunities for his future.

When Richard leaves Wichita Falls Faith Mission, he hopes to get his A & P (airframe and powerplant) Certificate which would allow him to work on civilian aircraft. He is also currently working on the relationship with his ex-wife and learning how to be a good father to his son.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT WYNN HEYEN

Wynn Heyen is Board Chair for Wichita Falls Faith Mission, Inc.

“Don and I have served dinner once a month at Faith Refuge since it opened in May of 2012. The reason we volunteer is to simply love and encourage the women and children here. We have simple gifts that God has given us – I enjoy cooking and Don has a beautiful voice to lead worship – so we share those gifts at the Refuge in hopes to bless others and bring them joy.

“We began with just our family of four with our kids helping shop, cook, serve, and read scripture. We now have friends from church who serve regularly with us. To us, volunteering at Faith Refuge embodies what sharing the love of Christ is all about: sharing a meal, giving a smile, and simply loving others. We give glory to God and are thankful for the opportunity to serve here.”
JEANNIE LEFT HER HOME AT 16 to live with her grandparents because she was being abused and neglected. “I had a rough childhood. I was a step-child and never felt like I belonged.” When she quit school in the 10th grade, she got pregnant and was married for over 12 years. She always wanted a larger family but because of thyroid disease, she was not capable of having more children. She went through some difficult times. Receiving no support from her husband, she turned to drugs, something she had done off and on since she was 16. It was her way of coping.

She later came to Wichita Falls to live with her mother. She began to date a man who lived next door. They dated for over three years. Because of the drugs that she was taking, she barely remembers him making her drink embalming fluid. He was making a video of the incident because he thought it was funny.

After she got away from him, she asked for God to take control of her life, and He did. At that instant, a car pulled up and gave her a ride. The driver asked her where she would feel safe, and she mentioned the emergency room parking lot. When it was morning, she went to Faith Refuge.

After graduation, Jeannie plans to go back home and stay with her stepdad. This will be her first home in five years. Her goal is to gain custody of her two grandchildren and a third grandchild that is on the way. They are currently in Foster Care.

When asked about her biggest takeaway from all this, she said, “That I’m not alone. That God has always been right there beside me. He has put my feet on a rock, so I do not have to know fear like that anymore. It has been the best experience of my life. It has changed my life. It has changed my heart. I know that all things are possible through God who strengthens us. And I have seen him work in my life. Just being here. This place shows you who you are in Christ, and that’s important.”