

Sustaining Grace

Philippians 1:6 (NASB) "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

1 Peter 5:12 (NASB) "Through Silvanus, our faithful brother ..., I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!."

First: What is God's SUSTAINING Grace?

1. God's sustaining grace keeps me standing when I am tempted.

1 Peter 5:8 (NASB) "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:9 (NASB) "But resist him, firm in your faith ..."

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB) "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

2. God's sustaining Grace helps me keep standing when I'm tired.

Galatians 6:9 (NASB) "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. "

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV) "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Philippians 2:13 (NASB) "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

3. God's Sustaining Grace gives me the power to keep going when I'm troubled.

John 16:33 (NASB) "In the world you have tribulation,"

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB) "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Psalms 46:1 (NASB) "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear."

Second: How do you ACQUIRE God's Sustaining Grace?

1. CALL out to God.

James 4:6 (NASB) "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:7-8 (NASB) "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

James 5:16b (Amp) "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."



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2. Fill your **MIND** with God's word.

Psalms 119:25 (AMP) "My earthly life cleaves to the dust; revive and stimulate me" "according to Your word!"

3. Accept **SUPPORT** from God's people.

Mark 12:31 (NASB) "Love your neighbor as yourself."

John 13:31 (NASB) "Love one another just as I have loved you."

John 15:10 (NASB) "If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandment and abide in His love."

4. Hold on to God's **PROMISES**.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NASB) "He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NASB) "We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 12:7b-9 (NASB) "There was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

2 Corinthians 11:9b-10 (NASB) "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Application:

Where do you need God's Sustaining Grace today?

Where are you discouraged and you feel like giving up?

Where are you being tempted?

Where are you tired and ready to quit?

Where are there tensions, trials and troubles that you can't fix?

What has God shown you concerning your need for sustaining Grace?

Where do you need to make adjustments in your life?

What commitment do you need to make this week to experience the joy of sustaining grace?

Memory Verse: **Philippians 1:6 (NASB) "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."**