

OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

HOW TO RECEIVE WHAT GRACE HAS MADE AVAILABLE

CREFLO DOLLAR

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Obedience to the Faith: How to Receive What Grace Has Made Available

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CHAPTER 1

OBEDIENCE GIVES BIRTH TO BLESSINGS

Did you know that obedience gives birth to blessings? However, there is a difference between obedience under the Law that came by Moses and obedience under grace that came by Jesus Christ. So, what is the difference?

Under the Law obedience gave birth to the blessings. But disobedience to the Law resulted in curses. Fortunately, we are no longer under the Law. We are under grace, and as such, our obedience is to the faith, not the Law. That's important for us to understand. Under the Law, we had to do something to get God's blessings. Under grace, Jesus did it all. The Law makes demands. Under grace, it's all about supply. Under the law, we work for God. Under grace, God works for us. The Law requires us to work. Grace requires us to rest.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." So, you were not saved by your own efforts, right? You didn't do something to get saved, did you? It wasn't by your performance that you got saved, and it wasn't by your good deeds—it was by grace, and grace alone. Now, how did you get what grace had to offer? The Bible says it was through faith. So, grace made it available, but faith causes you to be able to obtain it. The Amplified version of Ephesians 2:8 says, "For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment *and* made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God."

Now, what does the word *saved* mean? According to the Amplified translation, it means delivered from judgment and made

partakers of Christ's righteousness. So, you didn't do anything to deserve to be saved. Mankind deserved the wages of sin, which is death (Romans 6:23). However, Jesus showed you favor and delivered you from the judgment that should have been yours. Not only did He deliver you from the judgment you deserved, but He did you another favor. He made you a partaker of His righteousness. He made you a partaker in spite of yourself, and in spite of your sin.

So, what can we now partake of? We can partake of healing, prosperity, deliverance, and peace—the things that bring us joy. We can partake of all the finished works of Jesus Christ. We can be a partaker of all that grace has made available, which is everything you will ever need for this life.

Do you have any needs or lack in your life? The good news is Jesus has already made everything you need available to you. Therefore, if you are experiencing lack you haven't been partaking, because it's already done. He's not asking you to do anything but take it! The problem is that those He has made partakers are not partaking!

Are you sick? Healing was made available over two thousand years ago. Partake! Do you lack the money to pay your bills? It's already been made available for you. Partake! Are you in bondage to some addiction and can't seem to get free? Your freedom has already been made available by grace. Partake! Stop complaining and start partaking! I understand you may not know how to partake. That is why I am going to break it down to a level of practicality where you can really understand how to do this. When something is missing in your life that Jesus has already made available, I want you to understand how to get what you need to manifest. This is what makes you powerful, instead of pitiful. This is my call—my apostleship. I am anointed to promote this Gospel of grace so that you will understand what to do!

CHAPTER 2

HOW TO PARTAKE

I shared in chapter 1 that if you are born again, you have been made a partaker of Christ's salvation through your faith. Now, what does that mean? Everything that's been made available comes through faith. It's just like something that goes through a tunnel in order to end up somewhere else. For example, it's like going from New Jersey, through the Lincoln Tunnel, and ending up in Manhattan.

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." To be blessed means to be empowered to have success. You have been blessed with every empowerment you need to be successful while you're on the earth. So, where are the spiritual blessings? In heavenly places in Christ. All of what Jesus has done for us already exists in the realm of the spirit. He's already blessed us with *all* spiritual blessings, but there's a tunnel these blessings have to go through in order to get from the spiritual realm into this physical realm where we are. The tunnel that connects us to the finished works is called faith. Faith is the vehicle that will bring what's in the spirit realm into manifestation in our lives.

You may be wondering how to do that. Well, how do you partake of natural food? You eat it with your mouth. You can't just inhale the aroma of natural food and keep your mouth closed if you want to partake of that food! You're going to be hungry and starve! You have to open your mouth in order to partake. You have one mouth, but you have two eyes, two ears, two hands and so on. Therefore, the mouth must be powerful.

What you say you believe, you must speak. The Bible says if you believe, you speak! “Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13, *AMP*).

Do you believe in the finished works of Jesus Christ? Do you believe that grace has made everything available to you? If you don’t believe that, you’re stuck. The New Testament works for people who say, “I believe it!” It’s designed for Believers!

In order to obtain and partake of the things that grace has made available, it’s going to require you to use your mouth—you partake with your mouth. For example, if the doctor says you’re sick, you say, “I receive healing that has been made available to me by grace, in Jesus’ name.” If you have financial lack in your life say, “I partake of the provisions that grace has made available to me, in Jesus’ name.” If you are in bondage or have an addiction say, “I partake of my deliverance that grace has made available to me, in Jesus’ name!” That’s how you partake. If you don’t open your mouth to partake of what grace has made available to you, it will not manifest in your life. The question is, do you believe God’s Word enough to open up your mouth and partake?

I come across many Christians who spend most of their time talking about how bad life is. They open up their mouths to murmur, complain, and partake of all the negative things, which are responsible for them being where they are in life. Instead, they should be using their mouths to partake of what grace has made available to them.

Jesus has already made God’s grace available to you. Your job is to open up your mouth and say, “Thank You Jesus! I believe I receive it!” If you need money say, “Father, I believe I receive all of the money necessary to pay my bills. Thank You Jesus!”

Another way to partake is by praying in tongues. Tongues is a grace gift. When you pray in tongues the Holy Spirit prays the perfect prayer through you. I advise you to start partaking quickly and watch how the things grace has made available to you begin to manifest in your life.

EMPLOY PATIENCE

Whatever you may be believing God for may not come today—or, then again, it might. The Bible says if your faith is going to work, you're going to have to employ patience. "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4). So, what does that mean?

For your faith to work, you must activate it by employing patience. To be patient is to be consistently the same. So every day that you don't see the manifestation, keep thanking and praising God, and believing in your heart that you have already received what you prayed for. Unfortunately, it may take a long time for you to see manifestation if your priorities are not in order, which could be the cause of the delay. First things have to be first. Are God and His Word first place in your life? Anytime you see things being delayed for a long period of time, examine your priorities to make sure they are in order.

How many times have you tried, through your own will-power, to stop doing something, or to make something happen? But months or even years have gone by and you are still depending on your degree, or your intellect, or your ability to manipulate situations to stop or make that something happen? Although you may have your degree, intellect, or ability working for you, God is the One Who gives influence. And the day you acknowledge Him as your only source and say, "I need You Jesus." Then He will say,

“Okay, now your priorities are in order. Now we can proceed to make it happen.” When you build your life around God and yield to Him, He rewards you. It’s not a hard thing. You just have to learn how to dismiss yourself, get yourself out of the way, and let God have His way in your life.

I encourage you to trust God enough to open your mouth. Speak and believe you receive what grace has made available to you. It’s time to partake.

CHAPTER 3

BELIEVE TO SEE GOD'S GOODNESS

How often throughout the day do you find yourself saying, “Lord, I believe to see Your goodness today?” I ask this question because one aspect of obedience to the faith is right believing, which is the belief that you will see God’s goodness in your life. As I shared in chapter 2, you can be a partaker of all that grace has made available; this includes God’s goodness. If you want to see it, you must partake of it.

God’s goodness is not going to fall down from heaven. You can’t live your life hoping that something good will happen to you. You have to *believe* to see His goodness. David said it this way, “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING” (PSALM 27:13). What did David do to see the goodness of God in his life? He believed! So likewise, what do you have to do? Believe! To receive healing, you have to believe to see it. To be delivered, you have to believe to see it. Believe it and speak it just like David.

Oral Roberts used to say, “Something good is going to happen to you today!” People got mad at him for saying that. Would they rather he had said, “Something bad is going to happen to you today!” What’s wrong with him telling you that something good is going to happen to you today? When you say it to yourself, you’re partaking of something that’s already available—God’s goodness. I thank God for all the good things we’re going to see and experience in heaven, but I need to see some of His goodness here on earth, right now!

My desire is to see people come to the Lord and become born again. How is that going to happen? Goodness. Looking at your

life, I'm sure you can recall times when you knew you deserved something crazy but God's goodness showed up, and it changed you. Or when you did something in a relationship that was so terrible to somebody and they treated you good anyway; it changed you. Many of us should be dead based on how we were living, but the goodness of the Lord showed up and it changed us. The goodness of God leads to repentance, a change of heart and mind (Romans 2:4, *AMP*).

I love what my wife, Taffi, says, "Some people have a mouth, but they have no idea what to do with it." That is so true. We are quick to use our mouths to murmur and complain, not realizing that it is a divine apparatus. It is the fork we use to partake of God's goodness and everything else that God's grace has made available to us. So, when you're around people who are complaining you should say, "I'm going to see the goodness of the Lord! I am going to partake of and receive His goodness while I'm alive! Praise God!"

Do you know that everything that pertains to life and godliness is in you? It's in your born-again spirit. Philemon 1:6 says, "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." That's pretty plain, isn't it? The scripture says that by you acknowledging every good thing that is in you turns your faith on and brings it to pass. For example, if you will admit that you have God's love in you, then faith will start making it come to pass in your life. You'll find yourself being more loving and kind. Acknowledging your faith in what He's done and made available is how you partake of God's goodness.

BELIEF GIVES BIRTH TO ACTION

The Bible says in James 2:20 that faith without works is dead. Now, religion has defined that scripture like this: if you don't do

something then your faith is dead. Many Christians have turned spiritual activities such as praying, fasting, attending church, etc., into rituals similar to those given under the Law of Moses. These Christians erroneously believe their works will earn their salvation. They also believe their good works will make them right with God. Religion has us coming to church looking for a law; a law that we can throw at somebody to make them feel guilt and shame. They're looking for a law they can use to make their loved ones feel bad. They were saved by grace but they are still operating by the requirements of the Law. But God says, "No. I'm going to give you grace. I'm going to give you My love, and I want you to take this love and learn how to love and forgive one another."

Faith is a positive response to the provisions that grace has already made available—what God has already done. Therefore, how you respond to a hard time determines if you're going to get the provisions that grace has provided for that hard time. How you respond in the midst of lack is going to determine if you're going to have the provisions necessary to get rid of that lack. In other words, what eventually manifests in your life is based on and determined by how you respond to the provisions that are already available to you.

So, faith without corresponding, cooperative action is dead. In other words, what you believe gives birth to the action. For example, believing that you are the righteousness of God will give birth to right actions. The apostle Paul said it this way: "But by the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10, *AMP*).

If you believe this grace message, it's going to start giving birth to things in your life. You're going to find yourself doing more. Not because you're trying to work to get God to do something; but because you believe wholeheartedly that grace has already provided the thing that you need. You're going to find yourself doing things that you have never done before, all because of what you say you believe. Your belief gives birth to action in your life.

CHAPTER 4

THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST

Not long ago, I twisted my back. I didn't pay it too much attention. I had been doing a new full-body workout routine which involved doing one-legged squats, going down as far as I could and then coming back up again. But one morning when I got up, my body rebelled against me. I was in serious pain. Other people noticed that I was in pain because that day when I got out of the car, people were like, "Reverend, are you alright?" I said, "Yeah, I'm healed, praise God, in Jesus' name." When I got back in the car that day, I heard the Lord say, "Hey son, I want to show you something. Go ahead and do what you taught yesterday at church." I said, "That sounds like a rebuke." He said, "I want you to realize, before you receive it, that there is pain relief that has already been provided. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to say, 'I receive my pain relief through the faith of Jesus.'" I said, "Lord, isn't it by *my faith* that I receive it?" He said, "No. I want you to see that I not only provided My grace, but I also provided you with *My faith* to get the job done." I said, "Lord, where is that in the Bible?" He said, "Galatians 2:20." I didn't have a Bible while I was driving but I knew that scripture reference. He said, "I've already told you that you now live a life through the faith of Jesus Christ." Well, I did what He instructed. I opened my mouth up and I said, "Father, I receive pain relief right now through the faith of Jesus Christ."

I promise you, in the name of Jesus, two or three seconds went by and then, bam! That pain left my back and I was like "Whoa!" I said, "Whew, Jesus! Lord, what is this? What are You trying to show me?"

Now, listen, the devil is called the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). So, no matter what may be happening in your life, the devil is going to be talking to you. At that very moment he said, “That wasn’t Jesus. That was those supplements you took this morning. They just kicked in.” But I rejected that. I said, “No, that was Jesus! Lord, now, I see it!” I realized that every now and then we will question our faith, but it’s not our faith!

God said, “I want you to take what I’ve just shared with you and teach it to your congregation. It’s not your faith. All this time you thought it was your faith. Whenever you’re thinking it’s your faith, you will see the weakness in it. You will start wondering about it and questioning if your faith is strong enough. The faith used to apprehend what grace has made available is not your faith—it’s the faith of Jesus Christ!”

The scripture the Lord gave me says this, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Let me ask you something: Do you believe you are crucified with Christ? Do you have faith in the faith of Jesus? Do you trust the faith of Jesus? If you’re crucified with Christ that means you’re *in Christ*. When He was crucified, you were crucified; when He died to sin once and for all time, you died to sin; when He was resurrected from the dead, you were resurrected from the dead; when He sat down at the right hand of God the Father, you sat down at God’s right hand. All of the experiences of Jesus have now become your experiences. As He is, so are you in this world (1 John 4:17). And according to Galatians 2:20, not only are you *in Him*, but Christ is now *in you*. Jesus lives in you, right now! And because He lives in you, you live by His faith, not by your

own faith! And His faith will not fail! Praise the Lord!

This is the same faith that raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43); the same faith that walked on the water (Matthew 14:26); the same faith that caught a multitude of fish (Luke 5:6); and the same faith that calmed storms (Mark 4:39).

Do you see what you've been given? You're walking around with the faith of Jesus Christ on the inside of you. Don't allow the devil to frighten you because of what you see and feel. Instead, constantly remind yourself that you have the faith of Jesus.

THE MEASURE OF FAITH

Romans 12:3 states: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

God has dealt (or given) to every man the measure of faith. Grace is a gift and faith is a gift. Jesus' faith guarantees that you can apprehend and appropriate what grace has already made available. But how are you responding to grace and faith? What are you doing, and what are you saying when you have lack or needs in your life? Your response is the evidence of what you really believe. Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done" (Matthew 21:21).

You cannot obtain all that grace has made available if you don't speak. And you won't speak if you don't really believe. You may say all the Christian clichés while you are in church, but, what are you saying when you are at home and the pressure is on? That is when you will discover exactly what you believe.

I've noticed that many Believers have more faith in their obedience to the Law (their self-effort, works, and performance) and less faith in their obedience under grace—faith in Christ's obedience to accomplish what they can't accomplish. God is asking us to trust in Him, His grace, and His faith so that we can receive what has already been done on our behalf.

Take a moment to think about this great grace. Think about the freedom you can experience because of what you now know and understand. Think about all of the years of frustration that you've gone through because you didn't hear the true Gospel, which is the Gospel of grace. Something happens when you keep hearing it. Ultimately, you will receive more and more revelation about this great Gospel of grace that will change your life forever.

CHAPTER 5

OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

Deuteronomy 28:1-6 describes all the blessings we inherit if we obey God and keep His commandments:

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD THY GOD, TO OBSERVE AND TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, THAT THE LORD THY GOD WILL SET THEE ON HIGH ABOVE ALL NATIONS OF THE EARTH: AND ALL THESE BLESSINGS SHALL COME ON THEE, AND OVERTAKE THEE, IF THOU SHALT HEARKEN UNTO THE VOICE OF THE LORD THY GOD. BLESSED SHALT THOU BE IN THE CITY, AND BLESSED SHALT THOU BE IN THE FIELD. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.”

However, Deuteronomy 28:15-20 describes all the curses that will come upon us if we don't obey all God's commandments:

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD THY GOD, TO OBSERVE TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS AND HIS STATUTES WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY; THAT ALL THESE CURSES SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND OVERTAKE THEE. Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD SHALL SEND UPON THEE CURSING, VEXATION, AND REBUKE, IN ALL THAT THOU SETTEST THINE HAND UNTO FOR TO DO, UNTIL THOU BE DESTROYED, AND UNTIL

THOU PERISH QUICKLY; BECAUSE OF THE WICKEDNESS OF THY DOINGS, WHEREBY THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME.”

Under the Law, if you obeyed, you got the blessing. If you disobeyed, you got the curse. Unfortunately, this is what many Christians still believe today. They say things like, “If you do this or that, you’ll be blessed. But if you don’t, you’re going to hell by 12!”

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” Our righteousness is obtained through faith in Jesus, not by our works. When we made Jesus Lord and Savior of our lives, we were made right with God.

We are obedient to the faith when we are obedient to receive what has already been done, not when we are trying to do something to receive the blessing. You don’t have to try to make it happen. Under grace, all of the blessings have been made available. Simply receive them by faith.

Many Christians are still trying to obtain the blessings of God through works. They need a blessing so they decide to pray for five extra hours. There is nothing wrong with praying, however, we should not pray to try to get the blessings. That is wrong. God wants us to walk in the blessings because we receive what Jesus has already done. Therefore, you don’t have to pray to get God to manufacture something that’s already been manufactured. Let me explain.

When you go to the grocery store to purchase eggs, or bread, or any other items, you don’t have to ask someone to manufacture the items you want. They are already on the shelf. So what do you do? You receive them by exchanging money for the ownership of the goods. Likewise, the proper protocol for receiving things that already exist in the spiritual realm is to believe you receive them by speaking the Word, putting your faith in the faith of Jesus,

exercising patience, and thanking God for them before you ever see them.

If you're sick in your body today, receive your healing that's already been provided through the faith of Jesus Christ. If you need a job, receive your job that's already been provided through the faith of Jesus. If you need finances, receive your prosperity that's already been provided through the faith of Jesus.

“It is through Him that we have received grace (God's unmerited favor) and [our] apostleship to promote obedience to the faith *and* make disciples for His name's sake among all the nations” (Romans 1:5, *AMP*).

Refuse to frustrate the grace of God by trying to meet the requirements of the Law. Only Jesus could keep all of the Law. You are under grace. Therefore, I encourage you to make a conscious decision to be obedient to the faith by receiving the finished works of Jesus. It's already done!

OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

How do you respond in challenging situations? What do you do when lack shows up? Creflo Dollar answers these questions and more in *Obedience to the Faith*. You will discover:

- What it means to acknowledge and live by the faith of Jesus Christ
- Why obedience under grace gives birth to blessings
- How to partake of God's goodness every single day
- How to employ patience until you see the manifestation

Obedience to the Faith practically illustrates how to be obedient to receive everything that grace has made available to you through the finished works of Jesus Christ—healing, deliverance, soundness of mind, and prosperity!

