



## Behind Enemy Lines Training Saints

Written by an Inmate

### Saved by Grace

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Brothers, first let me read the warning Peter said about Paul's words in his letters ...

#### **2 Peter 3:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

This holds just as true now as it did back then, maybe even more so. But one thing that is undeniable is **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not for yourselves; it is a gift from God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." There is nothing we could ever do to earn salvation; no amount of money could ever buy it. It's a gift from God paid in full by the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Brothers, be careful that you don't lose this gift. The Bible tells us in **Hebrews 4:1** and **Hebrews 12:15** that you can fall short of the grace of God ...

#### **Hebrews 4:1**

**4** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

#### **Hebrews 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

People take scripture out of context like **Romans 10:9** – just confess Jesus is Lord and you will be saved. Jesus said Himself in the sermon on the mount that not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord" shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Evil spirits confess who He is like in **Mark 1:24**. It called Him Jesus of Nazareth, the Holy One of God! But when you repent from your old dark ways, ask for forgiveness of your sins, confess He died and resurrected, sitting at the right hand of God, make Him your Lord and Savior, accept the gift of the Holy Spirit and let Him have control of your life you will start living by the Spirit. You will then be under His grace.

**Romans 6:15** says, "shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Certainly not!" **Romans 3:31** says, "Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." The word establish here in Greek is *histémi* which means to stand, to abide, to continue in. There is no law for living in the Spirit because the Holy Spirit can't sin. But our fleshly body will still try. This is spiritual warfare.

The Bible says we must be transformed by the renewing of your mind. We must retrain ourselves by reading scripture, prayer, surrounding ourselves with godly people, and watching what we put in our mind. Specifically, what we read and watch.

### **Matthew 6:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

But we have help! **1 Corinthians 10:13** says no temptation has overtaken you except such as in common to man. But God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation also provide a way of escape. When you are about to sin, the Spirit or your conscience will tell you. “I shouldn’t do this, it’s wrong and ungodly.” That’s your way out! Then it’s up to you to choose.

Remember what the Bible says of the willful sin: there no longer remains a sacrifice, but a fearful judgement and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries (**Hebrews 10:26-27**).

### **1 John 3:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's<sup>[a]</sup> seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Yes, we have a forgiving Father but He is also the God of Vengeance. Please don’t test God. Is gambling eternity worth a second of enjoyment followed by regret from the conviction of the Holy Spirit? You will give account for it on that day. Going back to falling short of the grace we received through faith takes us to the **Book of James** who said faith without works is dead. I love where it says “show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

The parable of the talents explains what happens to the man given one talent, grace, and does nothing with it.

### **Matthew 25: 26-30**

<sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

He took it away from him and threw him where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Jesus said in **John** that every branch in His vine that doesn’t bear fruit is cut off and thrown into the fire. You can’t be under grace and thrown into the fire at the same time. It’s clearly stated in the Word of God straight from Jesus’ mouth.

Now there is no condemnation of those who are in Christ (**Romans 8:1**). But are you really in Christ if you don’t follow His commandments, pick up your cross and follow Him daily, and walk as He walked? He said in **Luke 6:46**, “why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do what I say?” It’s all right here in this Word, but you have to be able to rightfully divide the Word of Truth. It says, “when I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” (**1 Corinthians 13:11**). Let’s do that from this day forward. Put away the lusts of the flesh and the ways of the world, which is enmity with God, and be grown men of God; doing the will of the Father, producing Spiritual fruit by our words and works. Let us rise up and use this talent God gave us so we don’t fall short and lose this precious gift God gave us.