

Amazing Grace Part 3 - Frustrated but Faithful
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2 Corinthians 12:6-10 (NLT)

⁶ If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, ⁷ even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Frustrations

- Moments when things not going the way you wanted or thought they would
- Being upset and annoyed because you can't change the situation
- Also could be pain or suffering

Grace

- His goodness, His Power, His Favor, His Kindness and His Love

Questions

- When have you benefited from God's grace but did not realize it at the time?
- When has God's grace been obvious in your life?

Genesis 37:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed.

Genesis 37:8 (NLT)

⁸ His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

Genesis 37:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed.

Genesis 39:1-4 (NLT)

Joseph in Potiphar's House

¹ When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. ² The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³ Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴ This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

Genesis 39:6-14 (NLT)

⁶ So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph ¹³was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷ and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded.

⁸ But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹ No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

¹⁰ She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. ¹¹ One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. ¹² She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, ¹⁴ she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. "Look!" she said. "My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed.

Genesis 39:19-23 (NLT)

¹⁹ Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. ²⁰ So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. ²² Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. ²³ The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Questions

- When was the last time your frustrations led you to ask for God's grace?
- How can we remain faithful during frustrating times?

Numbers 11:10-15 (NLT)

¹⁰ Moses heard all the families standing in the doorways of their tents whining, and the Lord became extremely angry. Moses was also very aggravated. ¹¹ And Moses said to the Lord, "Why are you treating me, your servant, so harshly? Have mercy on me! What did I do to deserve the burden of all these people? ¹² Did I give birth to them? Did I bring them into the world? Why did you tell me to carry them in my arms like a mother carries a nursing baby? How can I carry them to the land you swore to give their ancestors? ¹³ Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people? They keep whining to me, saying, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴ I can't carry all these people by myself! The load is far too heavy! ¹⁵ If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!"

Numbers 11:23 (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Has my arm lost its power? Now you will see whether or not my word comes true!"

Questions

- Why was Moses finding himself to be frustrated with the Lord's path?
- What did Moses request of God?
- How can God's response apply to our lives today?

Luke 22:41-44 (NLT)

⁴¹ He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

How to remain faithful in your frustration??

Find Fuel in Frustration

2 Cor. 12:8-9

⁸ I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me.

Questions

- How has your frustrations strengthened you and brought out into God's grace?

Check Your Frustrations

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NCV)

¹⁸ and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

Questions

- How can your frustrations strengthen your life?
- How can finding God's grace help you?

Find Your Floaty

- We have to find our survival 'floaty', what helps us hang on.
- We should find God's grace and faithfulness that he is extending to us everyday, especially through times of troubles and frustrations, these are our 'floaties'.
- We should try to be better followers of Jesus, this will help us through our frustrations by holding on to him more and more every step of the way. By being in his presence and moving closer to him so we can get through anything.

Questions

- Feel like your drowning?
- Pray to find his amazing grace in your life?
- After praying over your frustrations, reflect on how your perspective gives you your fruitfulness.

When you fix your focus on your Saving Grace more than your frustrations, you will GET THROUGH IT!!

Discussion Questions

1. Explain a time in your life when you have been frustrated. How did you respond? Based on Sunday's message, how could you have responded differently?
2. Recap the ways that Joseph, Moses and Jesus remained faithful during their frustrations. Are there other examples in the bible? (Hint—Hannah, Abigail, Daniel)
3. Identify the floaties in your life—are they healthy? How can they be refined?