

Sufficient Grace

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2 Corinthians 12:9

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

It is no understatement to say that this is a well-known go to verse. It and its context offers great encouragement to the Christian who is undergoing hardship. I am sure you have had your 2 Corinthians 12:9 moments when this verse ministered God's sufficient grace to you.

Well, then, what is new that can be said about it? Perhaps nothing new can be said. Nothing in my arsenal will be able to add more to this than you already know. But once again several of you need the healing power of this verse. Its familiarity is what you need; you need to once again dip into this healing stream. It's like the aspirin or ibuprofen in your medicine cabinet. You know it will work. You don't need to learn anything new about the properties of the aspirin, you just need those properties to work; you need relief and you know the aspirin will relieve the headache or the pain.

Or could it be that the familiarity with this verse has breed not contempt but unfamiliarity. This is a common problem. The more we think we are well informed about a particular subject, thing, or person, we lose our interest and assume that our knowledge is the same as the performance of that knowledge. How glibly we say the words, "My grace is sufficient for you," but we do not engage God's grace, we do not actively cooperate with it, all because we thoroughly know the subject, thinking that was all that was required. Oh, how the evangelical world has reduced the Christian faith to the mental adoption of facts and information. We have stripped the power from the greatest good news by making agreement with the facts of the Gospel the same as by faith appropriating, interacting, cooperating with the facts we know in our mind.

There is not a one of you that doesn't know that God's grace is sufficient. But how often you do find it sufficient in your marriage or family, at your job, or in your victory over temptation? Why is that? Either the grace is sufficient or it is not. I think we can say that it's not that the grace is inadequate but that we do not avail ourselves of this sufficient grace. We insufficiently act upon it. We insufficiently act, appropriate, trust, and engage the sufficient grace of God.

Why? Why do we not act upon the grace God supplies? Part of our problem that keeps us from acting on God's all sufficient grace is our misconceptions about grace. I don't believe we correctly

know grace. I don't believe we are correctly informed about grace. Too much of American Christianity has redefined grace in such a way that we don't know we're supposed to interact with God and His grace or how to do so. What do I mean by that? I mean exactly this, that we have shaved the grace of God down to the moment we are saved and there we leave it. We brag about being saved by grace through faith, but that same grace we believe saves us is the same thing that paralyzes us and stops us from acting in cooperation with it. The same grace that's supposed to strengthen us, winds up weakening us.

I think it would be wise for us to go back to our understanding of grace. What is grace? How does it work in our lives? What is our role in this thing called the sufficient grace of God?

Let's try to find a definition of grace from our text.

I. Definition of Grace

There are two words that stand out immediately and are most important—My grace. Jesus' response to Paul was this, "My grace."

A. Grace is Not Impersonal.

It is not an impersonal force, but that's what we see it as. It's like having a Star Wars mentality, we see grace as that force, having no dark side to it, just a good side. It's some impersonal force, some inanimate gift or power or strength that God gives to people. It's not impersonal, it's not inanimate. It's not a bequeathing of some spiritual resource. He says, "My grace."

That's why, when trying to define grace, we come to incomplete definitions. We say things like, "Well, grace is God's undeserved kindness." That's true, it is. But that doesn't tell you what it is or how it works. I think it falls far too short about what we really need to know about grace.

Is God's grace undeserved kindness? Absolutely. But what do I do with it? How do I interact with it? What am I supposed to do with this grace?

I love the acronym for God's grace but it leaves me with shallow understanding, inadequate to really know how to put the grace of God in my life. Have you heard the acronym? **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense. Again, that's not inaccurate. Everything we've been given by God comes through Christ and His sacrifice. The life He lived, His death, His resurrection, all of that, yes. But do you know anything about grace more than you did before you heard that? No.

Grace is not impersonal. It's not some force or cute acronym.

B. Grace is the Attitude and Actions of God on Your Behalf.

Look at the words “My grace.” It’s not something He simply bequeaths to you. It’s Himself. “My grace.” God is gracious. This is the whole point. Jesus was saying to Paul, “My activity in your life is sufficient for you. I’m not just going to give you a dose of strength, I’m not going to give you an injection of power and leave you to work with it by yourself.” No, this view of God makes Him separate from grace, but God is far from being uninvolved. He’s willingly active and engaged with you, He’s with you and He will never abandon you. The grace of God is God Himself active in you and on your behalf.

This is the action of a Person—God Almighty. For example, if you injure me in some fashion, through words or physical pain, and I do not seek justice but grant you forgiveness, have I not made a decision? Have I not, in my heart and mind, come to a decision which would be an attitude? An attitude is a decision based on my inclination toward you and how I am inclined to react to you. I choose not to react to you seeking justice and retaliation but to redeem. If I follow that decision with actions of kindness, can you say I have been gracious to you? Yes. Can you say I’ve been kind to you? Yes. And you cannot separate my actions from me.

Can you say my forgiveness is some separate entity that has a life of itself, detached from me? No. It’s an act and attitude that I have followed through with lovingkindness. I’ve engaged and interacted with you by granting you this forgiveness. The same is true with God.

When God gives you grace, He gives you Himself. He imparts and engages Himself. He gets involved and becomes active based on a decision and attitude in His heart toward you. He relates that attitude through His actions.

God’s grace is this. Here’s the simple definition.

Grace = God’s unearned activity of lovingkindness doing for you what you cannot do for yourself.

That’s the grace of God and you need to learn that definition. “Oh, I’ve been hearing about grace for 50 years, I know all there is. I’ve sang *Amazing Grace* hundreds of times. I don’t need to pay attention to this.” Oh, yes, you do. In every one of us there is a ticking time bomb called the flesh that wants to resist God’s activity in us. The flesh despises grace. It hates it. It doesn’t want to cooperate with grace. The sooner I recognize that is always true about my natural self, the wiser and more prepared I will be when temptation comes.

How does God’s grace work in us?

C. God’s Grace Works in Many Ways.

There is a **universal grace**. This is the unearned activity of God showing lovingkindness to His creation and to His enemies. The Bible says that God upholds His creation by the word of His power. He sustains all that He has made. That is grace. God doesn’t have to do it. Creation certainly didn’t earn it and thereby deserve it. God sustains His creative genius.

Not only does He do that for creation at large but He does it for His enemies. He does it for those who are opposed to Him. God shows grace, undeserved kindness, God's unearned activity toward them doing what they could not do for themselves. He gives them life. He sustains that life. He feeds them as He feeds the birds of the air. No one sustains themselves by their own ability. The moment you believe otherwise, you believe a lie. Everything that breathes is sustained by this grace, this activity of God.

The Bible says you and I are to show grace to our enemies. Why? Because by doing so you show that you are sons of God, who is merciful to the unthankful and kind to the evil. He causes the sun to shine on the just and the unjust, the rain to fall on the good and evil. Why? Because He is gracious. He is loving and kind. This is the way of our great God—He is active in the lives of all of His creation, even those who resist Him.

Then there are those of us who know another kind of God's activity: **Regenerating Grace**. It is God's unearned activity giving Christ's life to a sinner. It was God's activity that came one day and invaded my soul. Did I earn it? Did I do anything to deserve it or make it happen? Of course not, no more than I could bring my own physical conception about.

It takes a man and woman to bring another human being into this world and Jesus likened the new birth, the spiritual birth, to physical birth. It's an impossibility for any of us to bring ourselves into right relationship with God. There is no way to take the life of God in heaven and deposit it into your very soul. The life of God in the soul of man is grace, God's activity.

Then there is **Justifying Grace**. This is God's unearned activity giving the believing sinner righteousness and forgiveness. Thank God for this kind of grace, where God declares the sinner forgiven. He removes our sins. He, by His own hands, lifts our sin and all of its burden off of us.

Where did He place our sin burden? He put it on His Son and there He exacted the proper payment for our sins in the life of Jesus Christ so that now God's activity in justifying the sinner is this: He declares he or she righteous. He even looks upon the new believer as obedient and as righteous as Jesus Christ. This is God's activity. You cannot do this for yourself.

God involves Himself with you in such a way that He declares you right before Him, owing Him absolutely nothing for removing your sins and the guilt thereof. This is justifying grace.

My dear friend, if this is all you see of being saved by grace through faith, you have shaved grace too small. You've whittled it down too far because there is more, much more to grace.

There is also **Sanctifying Grace**. God's unearned activity transforming the Christian into Christ-likeness.

Salvation is not just the penalty of sin dealt with, and your guilt removed. That's phase one, but God's not finished yet. He's still saving us by conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ.

How does this sanctifying grace work? According to Scripture, God activates Himself in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what you cannot do alone—God’s will.

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)

Who works in you? God. Who gives you the ability to do the will of God? God. It’s in the sanctifying process that we become like the Savior. Those who have wrongly believed that salvation is limited to justification and do not see the grace of God in sanctification, have dealt a dangerous blow to the Gospel.

That’s why we have people, by the millions, in this nation and around the world who have heard a “Christian” gospel yet they are lost in their sins. It’s because they have relegated grace to this little, narrow point in time in their lives. They don’t see they need of grace beyond that point. They do not believe it is necessary for salvation for God to actively make you like His Son.

It’s here we have great difficulty believing. We can believe God for removing the guilt and penalty but we find it difficult to believe that even God can transform us and not give up until He’s finished. But He does work this way. He does not give up on us. This is His saving work in us.

Before we move on, what I want you to see is that grace is not inanimate, it’s not impersonal, it is God’s activity. This is God’s work. It’s not just some force sent to you that automatically boosts and empowers you. No. It is God Himself working for you on your behalf in and through you. That’s what grace is.

There’s another word here that needs to be discussed. “Sufficient.”

II. Definition of Sufficiency

What do you think of when you hear the word *sufficient*?

The word *sufficiency* in its base form means nothing more than having enough, an adequate supply of something for a distinct purpose. Well, then, the question is what purpose or purposes do we need grace? How do you need grace? This will tell us how sufficient God’s grace is and what it will do for you.

There are three areas in which we need grace. I didn’t invent this, this is all Scripture as you will see.

God is active in you so you can do what you need to do. Without God’s activity, you could not do these things. What are they?

A. Provision.

God's grace, His activity, is going to make sure you have everything you need in life. Everything.

“Adequate supply for whatever is needed.” That is what God has promised you and me.

*“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19)*

Who supplies? God. This is the activity of God according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. This means He will provide absolutely everything you need at the moment you need it, not before. You need to understand why Jesus would have said this to the Apostle Paul.

Paul tells us in this chapter that he knew of a man—he's speaking in the third person—whether in the body or out of the body we don't know, but he was caught up into the third heaven, paradise. There he saw things that were not lawful for him to talk about. It was so beyond his vocabulary and even if he could express it in words where people could understand, he was saying he wasn't allowed to do so.

As we keep reading, we discover that Paul isn't talking about someone else but himself. He had this awesome experience and he says that because he was shown such revelations that no one else had been privileged to see, not even Peter or John, that God loved him enough to give him what he called a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him. Why? Because that's what Paul needed.

Paul and Jesus knew something about Paul—he was given to pride, especially having seen things no one else had seen. He had been given the privilege of entering into heaven. He was able to see the glorious things we can only imagine. Well, that would cause any of us to be lifted up in pride. Therefore, Paul needed humility, and God gave him exactly what he needed: a thorn in the flesh.

We don't know what the thorn in the flesh was. Many suppose it was a physical problem, and I suppose that's what it was, although I can't prove it to you. He was given some impediment that would seemingly hinder him. Some believe it was not a physical illness but persecution, while others believe other things. Regardless of what it is, we know that Paul believed it would hinder him in his ministry.

Therefore, three times he prays and asks God to deal with this, and after the third time, God answered, “My grace, my activity in you, is sufficient because my activity is sufficient to provide you with everything you need, including thorns in the flesh.”

Normally, we think, “My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory,” means all of my physical wants and necessities. I would not dispute that; it does include those things. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things shall be added

unto you.” What things? He’s talking about food and clothing. “Don’t concern yourself with these things, that’s what the Gentiles concern themselves with. Concern yourself with God’s righteousness and I’ll take care of those other things. I’ll never put you in want. You’ll never be without what you need.”

“But wait,” you say, “hasn’t there been many Christians who have even died of starvation? God didn’t keep His promise to them.” Oh, no, they needed exactly what they received. Paul received a thorn in the flesh. Let’s suppose it is some sort of physical malady and ailment that even seems to slow the Apostle Paul down, Jesus says, “I will not take this from you, you need this, and I will provide what you always need.” Thus, if God knows that privation from food is going to refine me and make me more like Jesus, then that is what I need.

I don’t want to bring just the negative. There is a positive. God takes care of us! He has promised to provide for us everything we absolutely need. God is so sufficient in His activity of providing for you that He created the provision prior to the petition.

Before you ever asked or experienced need, God had already created the supply.

Before the appetite, He created the fruit.

Before He made the lungs to breathe, He made the air to fill the earth.

This is the principle of the kingdom and the activity of God. God always has the provision before you have the need.

Then what do we need the need for? Why do we need a need? You need a need because you need God’s provision.

To bring you to the supply of God, God allows needs to arise. If left to your own self, you could do quite well, at least here in this country. Even with the economic climate we have at this present time, which I consider subpar from what we have experienced in the past, most of us live with very little needs.

You don’t have to pray, “Lord, give me this day my daily bread.” You pray that because Jesus told you to do it, but it’s not really a concern, is it? How many of you are burning kerosene lanterns instead of light bulbs because you can’t afford electricity? And even if you were, you have the kerosene to light your home. You are not sitting in the dark. How many of you have everything to keep body and soul together? Every one of us. Our necessities are satisfied.

A man or a woman in this culture, in this economy, in this part of the world, can physically do that without Jesus. For that reason, God, in His grace, allows things to come into our lives, which you have no power or control to stop so that He can put you in line with His supply. And if it were not for these adversities or challenges, I would not see my need for God for my daily existence.

I am absolutely persuaded of this for myself. I'm convinced I am not enjoying the abundant supply that God promised in Psalm 81, the finest wheat, the honey from the rock, because I am too quick to rely on my own strength.

We really don't want to live by faith in God's supply completely, do we? There is something still in us that resists trusting God in desperate dependency for everything. I'm coming to see, not just with my head but with something far deeper—call it the soul, the spirit, the heart, whatever you want—that life at its best is trusting a God who has all provision, who has grace that is all-sufficient, and that life is more exciting, enthusiastic, and blessed when you're dependent upon God for everything. This includes depending on Him for food, clothing, shelter, because when you trust Him for all things, you see His more of His activity.

Isn't that what we often pray for? *Oh, God, we want to see Your hand at work. We want to see You do this, we want to see grace do that.* And yet we will not trust God for the provision. We would much rather trust our own powers. But, friends, this is what grace will do. Grace will give you all you need when you need it.

Grace provides and protects.

B. Perfection.

God's grace perfects us because that's what we need. This is where the message will become a little more difficult because, again, the American understanding of grace has virtually eliminated this part of the Gospel. We're afraid of coming within a mile's distance of works righteousness. We're afraid at the very least that we'd be telling someone they have some part of saving themselves.

Friend, I've already addressed that. Salvation is the work of God alone. That's God's activity. But God's activity is demonstrated by our activity. This is what I want to show you. He's not done working in your life. There's still too much corruption. It's an amazing thing that His grace is able, by justification, to declare you righteous and see you that way.

God doesn't play mind games with Himself. He doesn't pull the wool over His own eyes and pretend that you're righteous when you're not. You're as righteous as Jesus Christ and He sees you this way. But God also has the ability to experience you in everyday life, and in our everyday life experience we know there is still remaining sin, and so does He. There is still a lot about us that's not like Jesus. Thank God that His grace has promised to perfect us.

I'm not scared of the word *perfection*. I deny the doctrine of Christian perfectionism, entire sanctification on this side of heaven. I do not believe I will be perfect this side of heaven, I believe God's saving grace will continue until the very moment I'm presented to Him blameless and faultless, but that doesn't mean I'm going to sit on my hands and doing nothing, saying, "Well, I'm saved by grace through faith, not of works lest any man should boast." No sir. If I do that, I'll perish like

any sinner in hell who is now under the judgment of God. I will prove that God's activity, i.e., His grace has not been working in me.

Remember, God's grace is the activity of lovingkindness doing for you what you cannot do for yourself. How does that work in our lives? It gives you the desire and the power to do what you cannot do by yourself—God's will.

Listen to Scripture. May God give you eyes to see.

“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:13)

That is God's goal for you—to become a perfect man. What is perfection? The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. It's coming. We'll have to cross the river or Jesus return, but getting you there is His activity today. He will not wait from the moment of conversion and do nothing and then finally glorify you. In between is His activity of sufficient grace making you more and more and more like Him. If you are His child, He will not let you rest. He will not let you go.

To not be abandoned by God doesn't mean that in my hour of trial I'm not alone, it means much more than that. It means God's presence will be with you, He will never abandon you, and He will always be at work perfecting you, completing you, bringing you into the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ. He will not let your sins alone.

“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:10)

That's God's activity of grace in you, causing you to be fully pleasing to Him. Fruitful in every good work. That's amazing.

Stop listening to a just sermon and think. Is Paul praying that these Colossians, when they get to heaven, will be fruitful and pleasing for every good work? No. He's talking about right now. He's praying for them today. In that hour he was praying for this.

The Apostle knew it was no use not praying according to the will of God, and if it's not in the will of God for you to become fully pleasing and fruitful in every good work, then why would he pray this? Why would he pray contrary to the will of God? Not only is this the will of God, it's very possible for people to grow in grace so that they walk in a constant rest and never let an opportunity God gives to be fruitful go by. That's what you ought to be striving for.

If you're not striving for that, how do you know you are God's child at all? If this is what God said you will do and what grace is, then where is God's grace in your life? You say, “Oh, I've been saved by grace.” What you mean by that is that you've been justified, you've been declared right, forgiven of your sins, and the penalty of death removed. Yes, absolutely, thank God. How do I

know that's true of you? I will only know that is true about you if I continue to see the activity, God's grace, working this in you.

What does His activity in us look like? Mainly by making you a man or woman of godly sorrow. You will be penitent and turn from sin and toward God. This will actually grow and not decrease with time. Because we are still sinful and corrupt, God's grace works in us to produce a godly sorrow over our sins so we can be free from them. Is there, underneath all of your desires, this ultimate desire to be free from your sins and passions and carnal desires? Where did that come from? I certainly don't believe that came from you or me. That's God's activity—it's God's grace.

“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.” (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

This perfection is nothing more than holiness.

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

What does the Gospel tell us? That He saves us by removing ungodly lusts. But we have remade New Testament Christianity to say that any self-effort is works righteousness. How terribly wrong.

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:13)

Who is Paul writing to? He's writing to Christians at Rome. This is the Roman church in the midst of the evil empire. He says their testimony had gone out into all the world and they were shining light. This is not written to sinners. This is an epistle about the Gospel to saints. To these very same saints, Paul says, “if you live according to your flesh you will die.”

That means if you live according to your desires, fulfilling them by your natural abilities outside of the will of God, you will perish and die in your sins. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. “If by the Spirit [God's activity] you put to death . . .” If it read, “If by God's grace,” it would mean the same thing. There is no difference in saying by the Spirit or God's grace. God will give you the desire and the power to live a holy life and you working in cooperation with the Lord.

We think grace means God is just going to body slam us. There's not much of the World Wrestling Federation that I think is godly. I don't think God's grace is God body slamming me and doing all those somersaults and flipping me on my back. That is not how grace works in the heart of a believer. Grace is God giving you the desire and the power to do His will. “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you both to desire and do of His good pleasure.”

That verse is where I acquired this definition. I struggled with this very thing for years. I knew I had been saved by grace, but I also wrestled with what I was taught, that I could lose my salvation. The doctrine I learned as a child was that you could be saved and then lose it based upon your works, which meant you then had to get saved all over again. I thought, that cannot be, but I also felt my pride, carnal desires, and remaining corruption. I would pray, "Lord, what can keep me from backsliding? What can keep me from going away from you?"

God showed me that the grace that saved me is the grace that sanctifies me. He will not stop working in me. How do I know I have this grace? Because there's something in me that will not stop though I sometimes want to. God's activity is working in me. How do I know? Because I'm cooperating with His grace trying to put to death the deeds of the body, that is seeking to fulfill my desires in my way contrary to God's will.

How could you hope to love God and keep His commandments without divine and sufficient grace? How do you expect to do that without God's activity in you? It's an impossibility.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

It's God's grace that saves us by producing in us godliness.

The last thing God's grace will provide is not just provision and protection but also the power to do it.

C. Power.

It's His energy and strength.

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." (Colossians 1:29)

Grace is opposed to earning but not opposed to effort. God is working in me to please Him and do His will.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Does that sound like activity on Paul's part? Yes. But his activity was being empowered by God's activity. Think about Jesus' yoke. Jesus said salvation wasn't a free ride. It was a life of relationship, being yoked, that's how He put it. He said to everyone under the law and the condemnation of not being able to keep it, He said, "All who are weary and heavy laden, come to Me and I will give you rest, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." He didn't say there was no burden. He said the burden was light.

A yoke is always about activity, but He's the one who is bearing the burden, and He energizes our work. So I say to you: God's grace is sufficient. It's God's activity giving you provision, perfection toward holiness, and power.

Don't ever forget that God has promised His activity in your life so Paul could say:

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

You can do what God is wanting you to do. Yes, He wants you to do it but He wants you to cooperate with His activity in you and together it can be done.

This is why the Gospel is good news, not just to the saint but to the sinner. Salvation is not God giving you a free ticket out of hell and saying, “Now, hold onto that ticket, don't lose that ticket.” This is not *The Polar Express* revisited. Remember the little boy? He had that magic ticket that would give him the ride all the way to the North Pole. He lost it temporarily. What an amazing scene. But that's not salvation. It's not the saving grace of God.

Salvation is not, “You've got your ticket but hold onto it the best you can, and if you lose it you're in trouble.” That's not it. God's amazing grace is this—not only will He save you, but He will hang in there with you. He isn't going to turn loose of you. How do you know He's not turning loose of you? Because you don't like your sin like you used to. You're not happy when you're out there doing life in your own strength. You're miserable when you can't sense the activity of God in your life.

He's going to hang in there with you and whittle and polish and sand you. You're never going to be perfect this side of heaven but you're a whole lot closer to it than you used to be. Please listen, dear friend. If you think when you give your life to Christ that you're going to have to do the best you can because you've seen people give their life to Christ and they didn't finish the race and you don't want to be one of them. I understand. I don't want to be one of them either. The only way to keep me from being one of them is by me engaging, cooperating, and participating in God's activity in my life.

I have God's activity and I've seen Him work. I know He's kept His promise to me and I can tell you that He will keep His promise to you also. If God does a good work in you, says the apostle, He will finish it. Some translations say He “will accomplish it.” That's God's activity, His grace, until He brings you to that day where He finishes it.

If you're worried about whether or not you can keep it, you don't understand grace. What God wants to save you from ultimately is not hell or your sins, He wants to save you from you. He wants to bring you into a relationship, a personal, vital, real relationship.

You've heard of the word *atonement*. There are three syllables: at-one-ment. When Adam and Eve sinned we were separated from God. We were born separated from God, but Jesus, in the

atonement, brought us to be one with Him, at-one-ment with God. That's salvation. So from that moment on, He's going to be active whether you are or not. When you're not active, you won't experience His activity, even though it's there, and you decline.

At this moment, God wants to pledge Himself to you. Reach out and, by faith, grab hold of Him. Believe Him when He says, "I will save you and none shall perish, neither shall anyone pluck them out of My hand." It's a real salvation. You can put your confidence in Christ today. In His grace, He will never let you down but He will be sufficient to get you all the way home. Amen.