

Reigning in Life despite our Weaknesses

Reigning in Life thru Super Abounding Grace

Romans 5:17

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in LIFE through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Not just after life – this life, not just “this” but have “life”

Zoe – always – phy life, fullness, life in it's

ORIGINAL form, what it should be – LXX – Adam – dust – dirty

1. Learn how to receive

No lah, take lah, ok lah – girl?

2. Receive God's Superabundant grace

MOST ch not against grace but abundant grace – such fear UNCALLED for!

D attack most - why
Romans 5:20

20b But where sin abounded, grace superabounded much more! JY

It didn't say – enc sins – where – ALREADY – don't have to look for impf situation

God's abundant grace is the KEY to turn greatest

weakness → greatest strength
Beautiful illus of this truth

1 Samuel 7:12

Why did God allow the ark to be taken?

Ark taken – used it as a ritual - amulet lucky charm

...manipulate God to act

Truth – you cannot use God or his name in vain – INVEST into my ... when

Oh invest into my business – Christian company – giving huge amt to God – anointed and blessed by many men of God - prophecies

Making all kinds of promises
When peo got to use God's name to get investors – RED light – no – you invest purely from the business point of view – and when you have the peace of God in your heart

– dagon – fallen face down – 2nd day – broken over threshold of door – as if running in fear – broken into pieces – great pestilences

Not that you cannot make PLEDGES – don't do it as a WORK – induce/use/control God to bless – work curse!

Dagon fell ... Sent ark back – bullock

– provoked to running wild – kids taken from them - amazingly

– amazing walk towards place later called Ebenezer

Go against nature

Cow – separated from kids – it should instinctively look for her young

– instead – go straight back to place it was captured!

Then Samuel took a stone and ... called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

God is able to protect his glory

You don't have to run around killing peo – becoss they blasphemed God

Ebenezer WAS the place of defeat.

Ark was taken from there.

God gave them victory in the same place of defeat

The PLACE of defeat can become the place of victory.

Ebenezer means - Stone of help – Christ

Christ – Living stone

1 Peter 2:4,9

1. Jesus can turn your greatest weakness into your greatest strength

Read of great man in hist – politicians – scientist

– missionaries – Eric Liddell – prob: idea

– great inspiration - but idea – God can only use such heroes - read Bible different

Hebrews 11:32-34

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 ... whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed armies. God can use all kinds of peo –

many weaknesses → superheroes

GIDEON - was a coward – yet God said,

"Gideon, you are a mighty man of valor,"

BARAK – refused to fight till a lady took the lead - pon

DAVID had struggled w lust yet called, "a man after God's own heart,"

and yet he struggled with lust
Moses Moses's great

weakness: temper

Threw the 10 commandments
Struck the rock

Yet he is the only other person whom the Bible called - meek

Only two in the Bible called meek

Moses and Jesus

Abraham was called the "father of faith," yet twice

twice he told his wife,

"Tell them you're my sister so they won't kill me in order to take you."

That didn't show too much faith!

Bro ANDREW – savage killer!

Jungles of Indonesia – fighting for Holland against the nationalistic forces
Killed mother and baby with one bullet
Struggled – conscience years – tilled – found release – realize Christ the stone of help taken all his sins on the cross

DARING 'smuggler' for God's Word
Bringing Bibles thru the Iron Curtain – Eastern Europe and Communist Soviet Union

Bad char is often the distortion of the good

Talkative – gossip – stubborn – spineless →

Expressive, soul winner – determine – flexible

2. Jesus can turn the worst situation into the greatest opportunity

If only ... better parent, body, talents, govt

Bible: CIRCUM don't have to be perfect bef God can bless us

Joseph – Esther – Ruth – Rahab Livingstone – not best of circum

– planned to go China – opium war – Africa – got to overcome mindset that you don't go interior

Driven by the vision – fire of a thousand villages

God can TURN worst situation into great oport

What we can expect in the worst of circumstances?

Oh – terrible situation – crisis of econ – now virus

D sent - BECOS

God about to send new wave of blessings

Send in virus to distract

TSUNAMI – God's time for Asia!

Same with HEROD

D knew a bit – sabotage -

Herold – seek to kill all babies below 2

Knew a bit but not exactly – sabotage

God can turn ... - One of the most extreme case - **Samson**

Nazarite – Timnath, Delilah
Great calling – backslidden
– driven by lust – trap by a lady – found the key to his strength – his hair- gorged out his eyes – chained him – make fun of him

Hope none need to exp what Samson experienced – don't need to

What they didn't realize hair begin to grow again – God is a God of **SECOND** change ...
Judges 16:28-30

28 Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."

29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,

30 Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Recently – world witnessed the tragic death of Michael **Jackson**
God didn't take him away - d

D – kill steal destroy
Even tho controversial – love hate

Either you love him – hate him

Told you find no profanity in his songs

AMAZINGLY – told by reporters – death going to do more to reverse fortune

overcome his debts then his life – amazing amt – would go **charities** – more **impt**

More **impt** – **millions** watch – Jesus' openly proclaimed

Mariah Carey – sang about Jesus
Lionel Richie sang: Jesus is love – **colorful** background?

Some of these celebrities have colourful background – yet – why not

– if God can speak thru Balaam donkey

More **impt** – message – of Jesus' love beam out to millions

Rev Al Sharpton, Baptist pastor:
Don't let peo set boundaries on you

Nothing strange about your dad, what he has to deal with

Lucious Smith, Baptist pastor:
Heavenly Father ... in Jesus Name
To resounding amen

Message: God can make a **difference**, change

Life is but dust
Have now – moment gone

Bring consciousness of eternity to hearts of millions
King of Pop will have to bow the King of Kings

Careful – **rush** to side of every celebrities – that proclaim born again

Sometimes – some place even give them the pulpit – long testimonies – speeches - performances

For their **benefit** - Give them **time** – grow up first

1 Tim 5:22

22 Be in no hurry to lay hands on someone to dedicate him to the Lord's service. TEV

Rely on self – rather anointing – Richard Claydeman

Here – **different** – not – but turning singing 'pulpit' – gospel rally

Not Inviting the celebrities into the pulpit

Not bring world to ch but bring ch to the world – **GOT to be God**

The worst of situation – opporf of millions to hear about God's love
Be honest over your mistakes
Learn more from failures than success

Some of the greatest psalms – pen in times of greatest failures
Psalms 51:1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailling love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Why is it wiser to learn from other people's mistakes?

OK to make mistakes – don't twice

Only got one life, one teenage years

Wise – learn from failures
Wiser – mistakes of others – costly – no time – only 1 - not 9 lives

No time to learn all mistakes – only one life – not like a cat – they say have 9 lives

Learn from the mistakes of others
1 Corinthians 10:11

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

What are some of the things we learn to avoid from the lives of people in the Bible?

2 Samuel 18:14

14 Joab ... took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while Absalom was still alive hanging in the oak tree.

Learn from **Absalom** – avoid- disloyalty – never works

Destructive – robbed of calling
We don't have **all the life** to make such mistakes - We have only **ONE** life

What a contrast to ... **Joshua** used – **BRING INTO** ... oh I want to be a servant of God

Why is faithfulness and a servant heart the key to fulfill God's calling in our lives?

Joshua 1:1

Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant ... NASB

Learn from **Joshua** – good armour bearer – ser (slave) 40 yrs – not **EASY** - **whispered**

People whispered: you wasted your life – camel driver for Moses

Considered serving as calling – happy - **not**

He considered serving Moses as his very calling
and are happily and faithfully serving Moses

He didn't regard serving under Moses as a kind of a stepping **stone** to his own ministry – miss calling

Joshua 24:29

Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD ...

Today – **fond** of going around – saying I am a servant of God – **BEF**

Before you can be a ser of God – got to be a faithful servant of the servant of God

Real test – not able to sing or preach – front – behind scene – serving faithfully – toilet, cell group ...

See this in **Paul** ... Called dramatically – yet chose to serve faithfully until **confirmed**
Acts 13:1-2

1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen and Saul. 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

KEY to success - not just the anointing – talents - **character** – reflected in submission

– don't take **SHORT** cuts – end **missing** way – as **DAVID** submit – found his destiny

A person learn to **avoid** mistake: **Samson**

– called to be different- **anointed** – **not surprised**

Amazing – if go Samson's house – wine press – obvious succumb to **peer** pressure

Imagine – kids can be cruel – festival – drinking and dancing (clubbing) – Samson hide behind bushes – went back crying – dad I want to drink

Bef you knew it, got a wine press in house

One of the greatest temptations – **peer** pressure
Isa 8:12

Do not be fearful of peer pressure but stay true to God. Do not fear what they fear and dread what they dread.

18 The children whom the Lord has given you and you are testimonies: signs and wonders in the Land. From the Lord of Hosts, who dwells in Zion. JY

Teens today – **exposed** to all kinds of pressures

Laugh at – can't do this that – missing out so much fun - **400** don't be embarrass – proud – 1 in 400 – uncommon – diff? diamond

What's **DIFF** bet **diamond** and stone – same elements - carbon

Valuable – diamond – rare – stone common

lower cloth line – sexy attractive

Studies show – what you conceal – makes you attractive
Song 4:12

12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed.

Same way: Don't let boy had yr **body**

Prob: once boy got you – treat you cheap

– just play only – wont want yo to be wife – want

one serious – be mother of kids

Why does God wants us not be unequally yoked?

Ano mistake learn to avoid - **Samson** – danger of unequally yoked

– lust after a girl of another faith
Whatever the reason - \$ - look - insecurity

Led to his destruction

Pas – OK – take risk – he can be **converted** – only one life

Oh say a prayer to accept Christ – see life and fruit

2 Cor 6

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. ...Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 ... What does a believer have in **common** with an unbeliever?

This provision – **common** good – **benefit** - both the unbelievers and non believer

Unequally **yoked** – cart will go round and round

XXL and XXS - round

No **common** vision – value – belief

Lots of **strives** – 133 – **miss** **commanded blessings**

1 in 2; 1 in 1286 - need God's power

Receive His super abounding grace

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble."

What does it mean to be humble?

Humility is not **denying** your strength but honest with weakness

99 ways to be humble and how I achieved it

Not this that – don't have this talent - that

Be careful - going around – all you **talk** about – failures – fears

Talk of self – even of it is your weaknesses – actually self centredness

Humility is not thinking lowly of self but to think nothing of self – totally of Christ

Jesus GDN – after vict won

Jesus in **GDN** – didn't tell disciples

– Oh no I don't think I can make it – **gong a little further** - tell it to Father only – just pray for me

Story was released after vict won
Stop **beating** yourself – why – start beating others

Stopping **condemning** yourself – condemn others

Honest about weaknesses – God can release **grace**