

THE STRENGTHENING OF YOUR FAITH

EPHESIANS 1:2

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: You have seen that you are a saint, one of the faithful, and your life in Christ is mentioned in Ephesians numerous times.

IT STARTS WITH GRACE at the beginning. You cannot understand grace until you understand what you are like without it. As a believer you have been given God's grace—His gift, His undeserved favor, and His power to live the Christ life. It happens as you, by faith, give up and allow God's grace to have control. (Ephesians 1:2, II Corinthians 12:6-10, fn 12:9, fn 12:10, Philippians 4:11-13, fn 4:13, I Corinthians 15:9-12, fn 15:9-10, Philippians 2:12-13, fn 2:13[1st], fn 2:13[2nd], Ephesians 3:14-21, fn 3:19) *Why is it important for you to admit your weakness?*

IT ENDS WITH PEACE WITH GOD. When you, by faith allow the grace of God to work in your life, you experience peace with God—His forgiveness and a vital union with your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As you trust Him and believe Him, He gives you assurance that you are forgiven, in union with Christ, and belong to Him. (Ephesians 1:2, John 14:25-27, fn 14:27, II Peter 1:2, fn 1:2, Romans 5:1-2, fn 5:1, fn 5:2, John 16:31-33, fn 16:31-33, John 10:25-29, fn 10:28-29) *How could you have God's peace?*

IT BEGINS AGAIN WITH THE PEACE OF GOD. Your faith is strengthened as you meet daily with the Holy Spirit spending time in praise, worship, reading His Word, or just sitting and meditating on His Presence. It is at this time that you should let no sin separate you from experiencing His Presence. This is a time to let the Holy Spirit open your heart to experience the peace of God that will guard your heart and mind. With the peace of God, grace begins again and again. (Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 4:4-7, fn 4:7, Psalm 5:1-3, fn 5:1-3, I Corinthians 2:13-15, fn 2:15-16, Isaiah 26:3, fn 26:3, Colossians 3:15, fn 3:15) *How could having no peace lead to grace for you?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?