



Spirit of Grace Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
& BENEDICTA POLLOCK

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Spirit of Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070
(530) 712-4253

Email: grace@spiritofgrace.org
Website: www.spiritofgrace.org

Freedom in Christ

Throughout the early chapters of Romans, Paul demonstrates that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus. Fearing his readers might get so carried away with this concept of grace that they would assume it meant that they could live lawless, ungodly, lives and still be good Christians, he asks the question: **“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”** (Romans 6:1). Then he answers his own question with a forceful: **“Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”**

Knowing the tendency of men and women to run to extremes, the Holy Spirit clearly wanted to establish the fact that grace does not serve as a “sin-as-much-as-you-like” pass given to every Christian. Indeed, the rest of this chapter demonstrates that the grace of Christ does the exact opposite – it brings about victory over sin and temptation in a way that the law of God never could.

The first thing we notice is that Paul refers to Christians as **“we who died to sin”** (Romans 6:2). To be saved, to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior is to become one of that select company, the only people on our planet who can truly be described as **“we who died to sin.”** But this can present a real problem for Christians. Every one of us feels the tug of sinful desires from day to day, and sometimes it is more than a slight tug – it feels like a

powerful, almost irresistible pull to do things we know full well would not be pleasing to God. **If our sin nature has been crucified and “done away with,” why do we still feel these strong temptations and sinful propensities?**

Perhaps an illustration will be helpful. An airplane’s wings always are curved on the top side. That curve is not merely for looks; it is in fact vitally important. The curve on the top side of the wings means that the air rushing over that wing rises higher than it otherwise would, and a slight vacuum is created just behind the curve. Since the underside of the wing has no such curve the air pressure below the wing is greater than the pressure above the wing and a force that we call *lift* is created. As the pilot increases the plane’s speed on the runway, the air rushes over the wings, the lift factor is increased, and the plane is lifted gently into the air.



Larger planes sometimes fly over six miles above the ground. On those planes people are talking, some are napping, drinks are being served, and most people are paying no attention whatsoever to the fact that the law of gravity should be pulling that plane violently down to the earth. And why isn’t gravity doing its job? Has it ceased to exist?

No, gravity is every bit as powerful as it ever was. And should those jet engines be turned off, everyone on board will soon know it. But as long as the engines are doing their job, and the wings are doing theirs, the law of gravity has been overcome by the law of lift. This is precisely what the grace of Christ has done with respect to the old sinful nature that leads to death. Paul will write a couple of chapters later, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).

This is what God declares is the situation for every single Christian. In some manner that we may never fully understand, our selfish, sinful nature which has caused us so many problems, and still seems to raise its ugly, miserable head just when we are feeling really spiritual, has been retroactively crucified with Christ. It has been put out of commission and made ineffective through the death of Jesus on the cross and the power of His resurrection. As we abide in Jesus, depend completely upon Him, and follow His counsel, we shall know glorious victory!

This Month—Nigeria!

DENNIS AND BENEDICTA ARE SCHEDULED TO MINISTER IN ABA, NIGERIA THIS MONTH!



In just days, Dennis and Benedicta are scheduled to be ministering in the city of Aba, Nigeria.

At present we are in need of around \$2,600 to fully cover this mission, and pay off our flight tickets and hotel bills.

Dennis and Benedicta will be ministering in conferences for believers in the mornings and preaching outdoors in evangelistic meetings in the evenings. We have seen so much good fruit coming through these missions! Please consider a generous donation to help us go to Nigeria.



FRIENDS OF GRACE



Spirit of Grace Ministries is primarily supported by a small group of regular givers, whom we call “Friends of Grace.” These are the men and women God uses to enable us to do all that we do.

Friends of Grace are our supporters who contribute a minimum of \$25 per month. **When you give any gift of \$300 or more you are automatically placed on our “Friends” list for one year.** We will send you monthly Audio Devo CDs containing five audio devotional messages on each CD. Also you will automatically be sent our mission video reports on DVD as soon as they are available. Not only will you be blessed by the teachings we will regularly send you, but more importantly, you will be helping us spread the word of the Lord to the nations! If this teaching ministry has been a blessing to you, please pray about regularly supporting SOGM as a Friend of Grace.

EVER WONDER HOW DENNIS & BENEDICTA GOT TOGETHER?



We recently put together a video especially for African pastors, which explains the nature and purpose of our Spirit of Grace African missions. In doing this we realized that many would have questions about how an American man and Nigerian lady were joined to work in this rather unique ministry. So before we got to the nuts and bolts of what our missions are about, the video begins with a brief portrayal of the way the Lord brought Dennis and Benedicta together in marriage and in ministry. Although some of the video may not apply to you, you might enjoy the first part which shows pictures and video clips of Dennis and Benedicta in those days when they first met and later married. **We are sending a DVD of this special video to all who request it when they send a contribution to SOGM this month.** Ask for the Pastor’s Introduction Video.