



# Spirit of Grace

## Herald

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### Spirit of Grace Ministries

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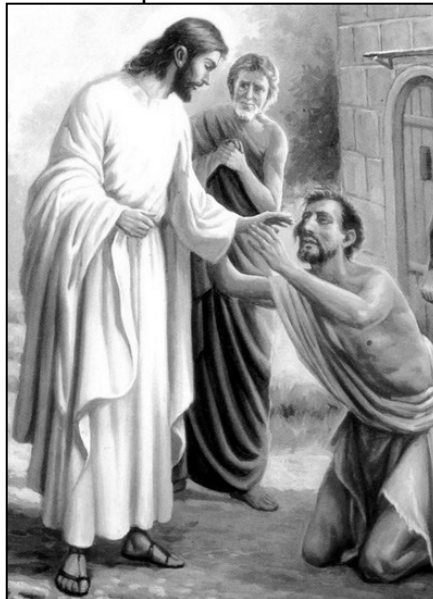
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### Jesus Checked All the Boxes

I sometimes think about the joy God's children must experience as they exit this life and are translated into the presence of our Lord. While on earth, we face many challenges and have numerous anxieties over the multiplicity of things that can go wrong.

But by God's grace we get through those scary and challenging times, year by year and decade after decade, and finally our time comes to exit this life. Surely it must be a time of fantastic joy and peace. We have fulfilled our "life mission," a mission that has lasted 70, 80, or 99 years. We have served the Lord and followed God's leading as best as we could. We have pursued whatever type of ministry or calling we felt God was encouraging us to do. We have loved our spouses and our children and served them in a kind and caring way. We have lived responsibly, treated people with respect, worked hard in our career, and shared Jesus with others, as much as we were able. And now it is over. Although we have sometimes cried in our earthly life, there are no tears where we are going. We have sweated and feared and sometimes been depressed, but now we are in a place where these things are not allowed to enter. As the old hymn says, "Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice." Somehow, I am convinced we will probably feel something like this when our earthly life comes to an end.



And I'm sure Jesus must have felt this joy as He ascended to heaven. He was the one Man who fulfilled his divine To-Do checklist perfectly. All that the Father had given Him to do had been done. Be born of a virgin – check. Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary. Grow up without sin, showing respect for His earthly parents and obeying the laws and commands of His Heavenly Father – check. The Bible tells us that Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15). Teach our world about the nature of the Heavenly Father – check. One simple phrase that we find in the gospels, spoken of Jesus is this: "And He began to teach." Once, when His enemies sent police out to arrest Jesus, they came back without Him. When the religious leaders asked why they did not bring Him back with them, they replied, "No one ever spoke the way this man does." (John 7:46).

Heal the sick – check! Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil." (Acts 10:38). Cast out demons – check! Mark writes: "He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons." (Mark 1:34). Raise the dead – check! Jesus commanded a dead man named Lazarus to "come forth," and Lazarus had no choice but to obey. He also raised a widow's son and a 12-year-old girl. Die for the sins of the world – check! The Bible says, "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness..." (1 Peter 2:24). Rise from the dead after three days – check! After His resurrection Jesus told His disciples: "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to

suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations." (Luke 24:46-47).

Jesus had done all that the Father had sent Him to do. No errors, no sins, no fouls. Now He sits at the right hand of the Father, drawing people like you and me to Himself. One day He will return, but until that Day, we will serve Him and proclaim Him to a wicked and unbelieving world. Like Jesus, we have our own, much smaller to-do list, and we must check those boxes, and do the will of God.

# December Ministry in Nigeria

**"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out..." (Isaiah 58:6-7)**

God is big on ministering to people who do not have the advantages that most people do. And He calls us to feel the same way. As we do missions in Africa, we always look to help two special groups: the orphans and the widows. We provide specifically for them and let them know that they are not forgotten by our compassionate JESUS!



**Orphans received backpacks with school supplies**



**Over 300 Africans received medical treatment**



**Jesus was preached and people responded**



**Widows received needed food**