



Spirit of Grace Herald

The Ministry of Dennis
& Benedicta Pollock

May, 2025

Spirit of Grace Ministries

P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070

Email: denandben@yahoo.com
Website: www.spiritofgrace.org

Enemy of Faith

Almost everyone believes in some kind of faith. Often, when attempting to cheer up a friend who has experienced some type of misery, people will say something like, "Just have faith. Things will work out." But that means nothing. "Just have faith" – have faith in what? Have faith that the universe has a way of making bad situations better, eventually? But things do not always work out. Sometimes they get worse. Marriages collapse, people die of their illnesses, wealthy people become poor, friends become estranged. Cliches and generic, fuzzy faith do not solve things and are nothing more than wishful thinking.

Bible faith is specific, focused, targeted faith, and the object of our faith is God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. John writes: **"And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"** (1 John 5:4-5).

Jesus emphasized faith continually as He ministered on the earth. He was always telling people, "Your faith has saved you," "Your faith has healed you," and "Your faith has made you whole." And the implication of those words is that if these people did not exercise faith they would not be healed or delivered from their afflictions. James tells us that

faith is a major prerequisite for getting our prayers answered, writing: **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord..."** (James 1:5-7). And Jesus declared: **"Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."** (Matthew 21:22).

Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God. Americans use dollars to purchase what they need, Mexicans use pesos, the Swiss use francs, and Nigerians use Naira. But Christians receive grace blessings from their heavenly Father through faith. Just as an American with only a few dollars is in trouble, a Christian with a weak, anemic faith in God and Christ is in a perilous position. As James puts it: **"Let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord..."**



One of the greatest enemies of faith is an overemphasis on the sovereignty of God. Don't get me wrong – recognizing the sovereignty of God is a fundamental aspect of knowing God. Even King Nebuchadnezzar learned this lesson, declaring (after losing his mind for a while): **"He (God) does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"** (Daniel 4:35).

So yes, God is sovereign. He does what He pleases, and no one can withstand Him. But God's sovereignty can be overemphasized. We can get so enamored with the idea of God doing whatever He pleases, that we forsake our responsibilities. We might suppose that we do not need to go out and apply for jobs. We can just stay home and trust God to bring the right job to us.

And this can also affect our prayer lives. Many Christians refuse to ever pray with any kind of boldness or faith, because, after all, God is going to do whatever He wants to do, regardless of whether we pray or don't pray, or believe or don't believe. Let's picture a lady who has been stricken with a terrible disease and after church she asks her pastor to pray for her. But her pastor is so obsessed with the sovereignty of God that he prays something like this:

Enemy of Faith

"Oh, Lord, my sister has a terrible sickness, and I pray that if it is your will, You would heal her. But of course it may be that you want her to be sick for a good long while, so if that is Your will, please keep her sick, Lord. Keep her sick for many years to come. But of course, I know that You are going to do whatever You want to do anyway, so my prayer is, Lord do it. Do whatever you like, which we know You will."

What kind of prayer would that be? Does that sound like the prayer that James speaks about, calling it **"the prayer of faith shall save the sick"**? (James 5:15). The reality is this: There are some blessings that God will bestow upon us, without so much as an "If you please." But there are some blessings we are going to have to exercise faith for, if we are ever to receive them. And if all we can pray is some weak little prayer like, "Just do whatever you want to do," we will live out our lives without that blessing. There are going to be times in all our lives when we are going to have to ask God for blessings with confidence, quoting His word to Him, and even thanking Him in advance that the blessing is surely on the way. One man approached Jesus about his son, saying, "If You can do anything, have compassion..." It doesn't seem like Jesus especially liked the doubt expressed in that word "if", and He turned the matter around, telling the distressed dad, **"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."**

Yes, there are times for us to say to God, "Thy will be done," but there will be other times when we must come boldly before the throne of grace, reminding God of the promises in His word, and thanking Him in Jesus' name for the victory before we ever see it.

Another African Mission This Month!

We have scheduled yet another African mission for this month, May 2025 in Nigeria. This is part of our ongoing concern for ministering in the great continent of Africa. We will feature 20 video teachings by Dennis and Benedicta that will be shown on a large screen television, as well as sponsoring a free medical clinic and the distribution of food for widows. If we are asked, why the concern about Africa, we would answer: **"He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."** (words of John the Baptist).

In America we have an abundance of nearly everything: money, electronic equipment, computers, food, clothes, restaurants, Bible colleges... and on and on I could go. For most Africans there is great lack. It is the duty and calling for those with more than they need to support and help those with less than they need. Case closed.



To support SOGM: Send your check to SOGM, PO Box 2068, McKinney, TX 75070 or donate online by going to www.spiritofgrace.org, click on the "donate" button