

Shout Grace!

by Jason Peebles

I want to share a powerful key that will help you overcome the mountains that at times seem to block your success. At first, the application of this key may seem a little different than you are used to, but let me urge you to keep an open mind. **I use this key in my life because: 1) it can be found throughout the Bible, and 2) I've seen it work so many times in my own life.** I call it "SHOUT GRACE!" as described in Zechariah 4:6-10.

Use Your Authority

Basically, when I face a big problem or hurdle, I've learned to take time to start speaking God's grace over the situation. Often, I do it with verbal force as an expression of the earnest intent of my heart (in my private prayer life). Keep in mind that I am not "shouting" at God as if He were deaf. No, I am speaking to the mountain to be removed! **The Bible clearly tells us to "speak to mountains" and "resist the devil" with our faith (Mk 11:23, 1 Pt 5:8,9).** Your enemy only respects one thing – the authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and earth (Mt 28:18) and He has commissioned us to be His legal representatives (Lk 10:19,20). Thus, it is YOUR responsibility to enforce the authority of Christ when you face problems. If you fail to do this, then you are giving the enemy a further foothold.

One of the definitions for GRACE that I like best is “GOD’S ABILITY AND ENABLING POWER.” You will gain wonderful insights if you will simply substitute this definition every time you read the word “grace” in the Bible. For example, Paul often said, “*Grace and peace be unto you*” (Eph 1:2). When you substitute the definition for grace you discover that he was saying “*God’s ability and enabling power and peace be unto you.*” **The apostle Paul was big on grace and we should be too! Thus, I’ve learned to speak (with authority and force) “God’s ability and enabling power” over the problems and mountains that try to block my progress in the will of God.** When I do, I’ve learned that breakthroughs come faster. When I don’t, then the answers that I need seem to be delayed.

Not By Your Own Power

One of the best places to study this key is in Zechariah (though the same idea can be found throughout the Bible). Let’s examine this passage and see how it can benefit your life . . .

Zechariah 4:6-10

*“Then he answered and spoke unto me saying, This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, **NOT BY MIGHT, nor by power, BUT BY MY SPIRIT** says the Lord of hosts. **Who are you, Oh great mountain before Zerubbabel? You shall become a plain; and he shall bring forth the headstone WITH SHOUTING, CRYING ‘GRACE, GRACE’ UNTO IT!** The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation and **his hands shall also finish it.**”*

Wow! This passage is full of awesome insights on how God can work in our lives. To begin, let’s review the historical situation. Zechariah was a prophet during the time when Israel returned to their homeland. They had been carried away as slaves due to constant sin and disobedience. In time, God performed a miracle and sent them back to their land to rebuild the temple. Zerubbabel was one of the key leaders in this mission, but a mood of discouragement had set in. **The group that returned faced all kinds of problems and obstacles. They lacked money, supplies, and materials. Does that sound familiar? Additionally, the surrounding people did not want them there and tried to sabotage their efforts. For these reasons,**



God’s people were discouraged and started doubting whether they could finish the temple. Yet, in the midst of the pressure, God began speaking a message of encouragement through Zechariah. Reread the verses above and look closely at what God was saying to them. Zechariah’s name means “THE LORD REMEMBERS” -- and that is exactly what the people needed to hear. God was saying, “*I have not forgotten you! I will help you FINISH the rebuilding project. I am the Lord of hosts (‘hosts’ means angelic armies) and MY POWER will carry you through. I want you to start speaking and shouting GRACE (My ability and enabling power) to these mountains! Release My ability to knock the mountains down that are in your way. Have faith in my ability and my power.*”

Can you see how all this applies to your life? Perhaps this is what you or a loved one needs to hear right now. **Maybe you are facing difficulties, problems, or seemingly “impossible” situations. It may concern a family member that you are worried about, a financial roadblock, or a health issue.** It’s easy to forget about God’s GRACE (ability) when we are in the middle of problems. We all have a tendency to lose perspective and try to take control and work things out on our own. The result is that we usually end up more frustrated. Regardless of your problems, let me encourage you to really study this key and start speaking GRACE over the situation. **Get your eyes off what “you” can do and what “you” can figure out on your own. The solution is to start speaking God’s grace (His ability) in the midst of the problem and let His power work on your behalf.**

But By His Spirit

The breakthroughs that you need will come as a result of God's power working. Look again at the verse quoted above -- "*Not by might nor by power **BUT BY MY SPIRIT.***" Your job is to speak GOD'S GRACE (His ability and enabling power) over your problems and then expect the Holy Spirit to work.

In over 34 years of ministry and missionary work, I have faced all kinds of problems in my own life. **Like the apostle Paul, I've seen hard times and good times (2 Cor 11:23-33).** I've experienced the joy of being a "hero" when a crusade went well and everyone in the village loves you. I've also felt the pain of being a "villain" when I've made mistakes in my life. I know the awful heartache that only a parent can fully appreciate of tragically losing a 19 year old son in 2004. I know the challenges of managing employees that come and go and the long hours of office work. There were times that we could not afford to hire someone to run the folding and inserting machines. Yet, thousands of monthly letters still had to go out for our missionaries -- so I operated the machines myself. As a pilot, I've flown various airplanes for the ministry through all kinds of weather. I've had mechanical breakdowns in faraway places. I've slept in expensive hotels and slept on the floors with native pastors. The point is -- we ALL face difficulties, discouragements, setbacks, and painful situations in life. Additionally, we all make mistakes that we wish we could take back. This is not a perfect world that we live in (Rom 8:18-23). **Yet, God's Spirit can help us overcome EVERY problem if we will learn to trust in HIS GRACE. Even death cannot defeat us! In Christ, we have the promise of resurrection and eternal life. Thank God, we will be reunited with our loved ones. Because of Christ, nothing will be lost (1 Cor 15:53-58).**

For a moment, let's consider how God's Spirit can work on your behalf right now. Well, there are many ways that God can work. I think that God works through very "normal" means most of the time. He may send a key person to help you at a critical moment. He can give you favor in the eyes of someone who opens the right door for you at just the right time. **I've learned to take a broad view of how "miracles" come. For me, key people, divine coincidences, inspired ideas, and God-ideas are the wings of miracles.** Additionally, I've seen answers come through supernatural means as well. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11



gives us a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You may receive a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom that is very specific to your situation. You can also pray in the Spirit and receive the interpretation of what God is attempting to communicate to you. The gifts of the Spirit are wonderful "tools" that God has given us to gain the victory. Thus, in my mind, God can work through very "normal" means or through spiritual means as well.

All these things are merely CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH GOD'S GRACE CAN FLOW. Remember what God said through Zechariah -- "*Not by might, nor by power; **BUT BY MY SPIRIT** says the Lord of hosts.*" **This is why it's important for you to start speaking God's grace. Yes, you will still have to work and cooperate with God -- but the point is you are not working on your own. God wants to be your partner to remove the mountains that stand in your way.**

As you begin using this key, let God guide you in how to pray and speak His grace, but let me give you an example of how I do it. This may help you get started in making this a habit in your life too. For example, I might pray like this --

"Jesus, I thank you that you are LORD and that means that you are 'over' all these things that I am facing. I proclaim YOUR ABILITY and YOUR POWER over my problems. I proclaim that your power is moving on my behalf. I ask you to send key people, orchestrate circumstances, direct my steps, and help me hear what you are saying. Give me a God-plan and a word of wisdom. I thank you that you are working in the hearts of everyone involved, whether they know you or not. I thank you that you are helping each one to desire and do your will. I rebuke the mountains! I rebuke the

enemy! I speak GRACE! GRACE! GRACE! I SPEAK GOD'S ABILITY AND ENABLING POWER OVER THIS SITUATION! I command the enemy to take his hands off my loved ones and off all my affairs – in Jesus Mighty Name!"

The truth is, I may go on and on like this for several minutes. I normally include various promises and passages from the Bible when I pray – because God's Word has power (Heb 4:12). I may even open up one of the Psalms and pray it out loud – not just read it, mind you – but personalize it and "pray it" aloud. This is how I release my faith and focus my attention on God's ability. Dear friend, this is more than "positive thinking" – it is a wonderful key for releasing God's awesome grace and power in your life.

Jesus Taught the Same Thing

Let's look at a very similar passage in the New Testament. In fact, you might say it's the "sister-passage" in the New Testament to the one in Zechariah.

Mark 11:22-24

"And Jesus said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things which he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

In these verses, Jesus gives us the "nuts and bolts" of how to use our faith. For me, this passage is extremely important because it is Jesus Himself (not one of his followers) telling us how to do it. **First of all, Jesus tells us TO SPEAK TO OUR MOUNTAINS (just like Zechariah). Jesus even went so far as to tell us to command them to be cast into the sea.** Let me ask you something. How many times did Jesus repeat the idea of SAYING and asking? Review the verses and count them. The correct answer is four. Why would Jesus repeat this point over and over if it wasn't important? Jesus emphasized the importance of SAYING, ASKING, AND COMMANDING mountains to be removed when you pray. As I said earlier, this may be an entirely new thought for you, but I encourage you to study these scriptures and draw your own conclusions.

There are forces in the spiritual realm that respond when we use the authority of Christ through prayer and faith. You need to be "saying" the answer and speaking God's grace.

Another key that Jesus highlights is the importance of "believing" in your heart. If you're going to take the time to pray this way, then you must be convinced of what God wants! In Zechariah's case, the people clearly knew that God wanted the temple finished. In your life, what does God want? Some things are self-evident. Certainly God wants you to have food, clothing, and shelter (Mt 6:33). God wants you to be able to pay your bills and live in peace (Deut 28:8-14). God wants you healthy (3 Jn 2). **Regarding your "assignments" in life, you must pray and discern the will of God -- and then start commanding it, speaking it, and thanking God for it.** Tell the mountains in your way to be removed! Jesus tells us to "receive" the answer (in our hearts) at the time of praying, and then expect to receive the answer (the manifestation of it) in the future – *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**"*

Shout Grace & Release Faith!

As we conclude this Study Guide, let me encourage you to do something that may be a bit different than you are used to. I want you to find a place alone and start speaking and praying God's grace aloud. You may need to go on a walk to find a place alone. When you do, release your faith as we are sharing here. I want you to pray in a similar fashion as I shared earlier. Keep in mind that it's not so much "how" you do it as the fact that you do it with all your heart. God sees your heart, even if your words get mixed up. Proclaim GOD'S GRACE (His ability) over your loved ones and over your problems. Don't be afraid to lift your voice as if you want all the angels of heaven and all the demons of hell to know where you stand. Release your faith in God's ability, in Jesus Mighty Name!

Dear friend, I pray that you will learn to release God's grace – His ability and enabling power -- every day of your life. ■ **Jason Peebles**

Key Memory Verse:

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6

Prayer for More Grace

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I want more and more of your grace in my life – Your ability and enabling power. I choose to SHOUT GRACE! over all my problems. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus’ Name – Amen.

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