

## October Devotional: Living by Grace: Humility and Faith By Jerry Furniss

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble . . . through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. (James 4:6, Romans 5:2)

How does a believer in Jesus Christ access the ongoing, sanctifying grace of God for daily godliness? It is accessed the same way that the initial, justifying grace of God was acquired, by humility and faith. We were justified, declared righteous in God's sight, when we humbly trusted in the Lord Jesus. We humbly agreed with the Lord's account of our guilty condition. We also put our trust in Christ concerning His offer of life. We accept the justifying grace of God, through humility and faith. This is how the Lord wants us to continue to relate to Him for sanctifying grace.

Our God wants us to walk in humility, because grace is what we need for growth in godly living. If we are unwilling to walk in humility, we will not enjoy this wondrous sanctifying impact of grace. When we live by self-sufficiency, God's resists us. When we function in humility, God gives us grace for living.

Our God also wants us to walk in faith, because faith accesses grace. Abundant grace is available for every step we are to take. This grace is received by faith. Whenever we trust in the Lord Jesus concerning any issue of life, we are reaching by faith into God's unlimited resources of grace, by which we live effectively.

So we see that living by grace involves two relational realities: faith and grace. We do not produce either. Neither are a work. Humility admits we cannot do the work (of being holy, loving, perfect). Faith relies upon the work of another, the Lord Jesus Christ. They are both relational realities, since they become real in our lives through a growing relationship with the Lord. The more we get to know the Lord Jesus Christ, to such a degree humility and faith will become realities in our lives. This is a great reason to have your devotional time. Let's all take time to read His word and nurture that relationship.