Living in The Now Sunday February 18, 2024 Dr. Pete Norris

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV)

Faith isn't something you do, and then God responds to you. Faith is not something you do to get God to do something. Faith is just your positive response to what He has already accomplished by Grace. Grace is what God does for us independent of us. Grace is something that is done by God before we ever had a problem. We forget that it takes faith on our part to release the grace of God.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV)**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:15, 17 NKJV)

God doesn't move when we believe Him. If you believe God for healing, He doesn't respond to you and heal you. By Faith in His grace, you are already healed.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3 NKJV)

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed. (I Peter 2:24 NKJV)

This scripture reveals that you were healed 2000 years ago. All the power that it takes to heal every sickness, infirmity, and disease of the entire human race was manifested 2000 years ago.

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (Colossians 2:13 NKJV)

Began putting faith in grace instead of faith in my ability to make God move. When you think that healing is over there and in the name of Jesus you are going to get it over there, you're in doubt. I refuse to let anybody take from me; what God has already given me. How can you not get what you've already got? How can you not get there, if you're already there?

And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, (Ephesians 1:19 AMP)

On the inside of every born-again believer is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (Romans 5:5-9 NKJV)

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:9, 10 NKJV)

You don't need God to do anything. You don't need God to bless you. He has already done it.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. **(Ephesians 1:3-6 NKJV)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **(Galatians 5:22, 23 NKJV)**

Those aren't things that are "out there" and if you pray hard enough, study the word, live holy, and do right, then God will give you love, joy and peace. No, in your spirit 24 hrs. /day, 7 days/week, 365 days/ year, every day of your life your born-again spirit has joy and peace.

It's much easier to defend what you've already got than it is to try to have something you don't have.

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV)**