

Ungodly

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3, KJV).

O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
(Rom. 7:24, KJV).

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness (Rom. 6:16, KJV).

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (yield) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1, 2, KJV).

...when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly(6) ...while we were yet sinners(8), ...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life(10) (Rom. 5:6, 8, 10, KJV).

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21, NASB).

AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11, KJV).

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death (Rom. 8:1, 2, NASB).

...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against him (Isa. 59:19b, KJV).

Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil... (Heb. 2:14, NASB).

See also: Eph. 4:24, 30; 6:10-18; Rom. 8:31b; 8:34; Rev. 12:10b; 1 John 4:4b.

GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

UNGODLY

PREVENTIVE GRACE: Qualifying for Grace; Submitting to God; Resisting Our Adversary; Grace by Design

This card is the “Ungodly” card—PREVENTIVE GRACE. We do not have to give Satan a foothold in our life, and we do not have to go down into the “Pity Pit” each time. Remember, Satan is the “Grace Snatcher.” He wants to snatch any kind of grace out of our thoughts. That is why grace is a hard concept to hang on to. For example, we get a good clear thought on God’s grace, and the next thing we know, it is gone! Where did it go? The “Grace Snatcher.” A good way to review what God’s grace is all about is to go back to the cross. How again were you saved? What did you do to come to know the Lord? Remember, it is nothing of ourselves; it is the free gift of God—by His GRACE! It is “ALL OF GOD” and “NONE OF US.”

Qualifying for Grace

We do not have to fear Satan, and we do not have to give him an inch. This study is how to **prevent** him from getting a toehold or a foothold in our life. Satan is our adversary. He is against us.

Look at the first frame:

He may come to discourage you by saying, “You really blew it.” “You really messed up.” “You are unlovable.” And if that is not enough, he thinks of worse things to call you, “You are a failure,” “You are disqualified.” Finally, he adds, “You are ungodly!”

Now move to the second frame:

The fellow is slumping a little bit, crying and thinking, “I am ungodly.” Bad news!

Now move to the third frame:

Above the cross it says, “*Christ died for the ungodly*” (Rom. 5:6). As the fellow thinks about Christ dying for the ungodly, he first thinks about others who are “really ungodly.” Then he thinks, “I am the ungodly one—and Christ died for the ungodly.”

Now the fourth frame:

Then it computes — “Hey, that’s me! I am the ungodly one that He died for! I qualify!” Now the fellow is smiling and clicking his heels! Good news!

Do you see that as a short cut? A **preventive**? Let’s review. What we need to do, when Satan comes in with an accusation, is to call it quickly by the worst name that we can—“*agree with thine adversary quickly*” (Matt. 5:25 KJV). Call yourself “ungodly” and then affirm, “*Christ died for the ungodly*. That’s me!” Thank you very much for the reminder, and on you go!

When Satan sinned, or made himself like God, he had “strike one” and he was out. The following illustration can be used to help our understanding. The man of the house is in charge of his home. Another man comes in and says, “I would like to take over now, why do you think you should have all this for yourself? I want to come in, not only be equal, but I want to take over.” Well, what do you think would happen? That is not an option! He has no right to be there! God had to remove Satan from His “house.” So one strike with Satan and he and all his angels were out of Heaven.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were given an opportunity to come back, and be returned to relationship. They were given ‘grace.’

Now for us, we have “four strikes,” but we are still in! It is so amazing about God’s grace. When we look at Romans 5:6-10, we find the following:

- Christ died for the ungodly
- Christ died for sinners
- Christ died while we were yet enemies
- Christ died while we were yet without strength

What a motley crew—ungodly, sinners, enemies, without strength (powerless and helpless). It looks like it is “four strikes” against us. But He is for us! Jesus is our advocate. This is what God’s GRACE is all about.

In the third frame, note the verse inside the tomb next to the cross. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul says, “*He who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” That was the trade-off—all our sin for His righteousness. See how happy the fellow (fourth frame) is, clicking his heels? Jesus took our ungodliness, He took our sin, He accepted us while we were His enemies, and while we were yet without strength, He died for us. Amazing GRACE!

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in my Saviour’s blood.
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine.

(Charles Wesley)

Remember that when everything in us feels like we have blown it, that is what qualifies us for GRACE. It takes a while for that to compute in our minds. Even Paul knew how wretched he was and in Romans 7:24 says, “Who will deliver me from the body of this death.” He asked the right question—Who? Not what, why, how, when, where, but, “Who?” He was delivered by the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual warfare is not a ‘power encounter,’
not a ‘truth encounter,’
but a ‘Person encounter’ (who embodies power and truth).

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15).

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy (undo) the works of the devil” (1 Jn. 3:8).

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you” (Rom. 16:20).

Read “MY ADVOCATE” by Martha Snell Nicholson (notes and quotes, at end of lesson).

Note that the first paragraph of the poem gives Satan’s true accusation. The second paragraph gives the superseding truth—the Lord’s final Word.

Note the poem in the middle of the card:

**I hear the accuser roar,
of things that I have done.
I know them all and thousands more,
Jehovah findeth none!**

Notice the “Tug O’ Warfare” rope under the cross. The left side is pulled by Satan, the right side by God. The rope signifies the battle. We will call the fellow the “chooser.” Which way will he choose—to the devil or to the Lord?

Romans 6:16, says, *“Know ye not that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness.”* It depends which way you yield at any given time. So Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, *“I beseech you, therefore, by the mercies of God that you yield your bodies a living sacrifice unto God and do not be conformed to the world, (or Satan, who is the prince of the world), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.”* This is the direction we want to go...to the right, to God!

The pulls in each direction are also shown in the six statements by V. Raymond Edman on the bottom left of the “Advocate” at end of lesson.

The battle belongs to the Lord. He has already won! Note these additional verses:

“...For the battle is not yours but God’s” (2 Chron. 20:15).

“...The battle is the Lord’s” (1 Sam 17:47).

“Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He that will tread down our adversaries” (Ps. 60:12).

So the battle is the Lord’s; just turn to Him. Do not start fighting or arguing with the enemy. It is not our battle—it is our Shepherd’s battle!

Let’s go back to the third frame:

We speak of Christ’s substitutionary death (our sin for His righteousness).

Fourth frame:

Here is His substitutionary life—His resurrectedLife living in and through us—His abundant Life (Jn. 10:10).

Submitting to God

Note the verses: *“Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (Jas. 4:7). Submit to God, means turn this way to God—to yield. By turning to God, we turn our back on the devil—*“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (Jas. 4:7).

“Submit to God, resist the devil” (cover the first frame), *“he will flee from you.”* Look at the joy on the fellow in the last frame. This is what we really want for our life, but sometimes we do the reverse: we submit to the devil, and we resist God. But then what happens? (Cover the last frame). Even though we resist Him, we have His promise in

Hebrews 13:5, *“I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.”* Remember He is faithful, even when we are faithless (2 Tim. 2:13). But what is missing? The joy and the victory!

Notice that it does not say, *“resist the devil”* first. It says, *“submit to God.”* In submitting to God, we resist the devil. It is good to get that in the right order. Likewise, it is *“walk in the spirit, ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* (Gal. 5:16). It never says, do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and you will walk in the Spirit. This is very vital as you read the Scriptures to always watch for that. It is always going to the Lord first, not trying to get victory over self, sin and Satan first. As you go to the Lord, He gives the victory and He takes care the REST.

Resisting our Adversary

Job speaks about God’s protection as a hedge. *“Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has?”* (Job 1:10). Note the verses around the bottom half of the card, making a **“hedge.”** In Ephesians, Paul gives us this **“hedge”**—**“Grieve not the Holy Spirit”** (Eph. 4:30) and **“Neither give place to the devil”** (Eph. 4:27).

An interesting verse in Ecclesiastes 10:8b says, *“...Whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him.”* Hedges are to keep out predators. Draw a serpent in the lower left corner slithering into the hedge.

This is a true story from South America:

A tribal man was bitten by a snake on his hand, and his hand swelled up immediately. As he was trying to get his motorized boat started to go up river for help, somehow the sparkplug accidentally sparked and shocked his swollen hand. The electrical current from the sparkplug permeated his hand, but as he looked at his hand, he felt it was getting better right before his eyes. Sure enough his whole hand was healing! He was so amazed that he went and told his story to the missionaries in that area. Later a tribal man, who was bitten by a snake on his ankle four days earlier, was brought to the missionaries. The leg was already swollen up to the knee with red streaks up his thigh. The missionary was reminded of the sparkplug incident and the electrical current. So he rigged something up; it was a life and death situation. He zapped the electrical current right around the man’s thigh, above where all the poison had risen. It hurt, it was scary, but sure enough the leg began to heal!

Word spread. Soon after, as the pilot landed on an airstrip, a swarm of bees came and attacked his head and face. He immediately thought of the spark plug idea and tried it. It worked! This news spread fast. They found that the electric current works against the venom and renders it powerless. Now part of the overseas missionary outfit is a ‘stun gun’ or a similar device.

Let’s say, Satan comes in and bites us somewhere. Suddenly the poison seeps in. Now, we can look at this two ways. We can start analyzing all the poison, chart how fast it is spreading and possibly investigate it out under a microscope. It is reality! There is a snakebite! It is going to take our life! We can analyze it until we die. However, if we know of the option of using a ‘stun gun’ or of anti-venom, it would make sense to use that promptly! The urgency of the situation, calls for the ‘stun gun’. Why delay the healing by investigating the bite when time is of the essence?

The lesson here is submitting to God as soon as the snakebite comes, and not just delaying until you lose out. *“Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same that through death He might render powerless him, who had the power of death that is the devil”* (Heb. 2:14). So by using the ‘stun gun,’ which represents the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, He renders powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil. Since we have the resurrection power in Christ, why not use Him.

The main lesson is to remember where our power comes from. It is not in us at all. It is a wonderful thing that we can run to Him. The world does not know about Him. Where can they go? Our encouragement would be to get this message out as quickly as we can to people so they also have a remedy. Many lives would be spared from death by snakebites if we informed them about the ‘stun gun’ (resurrection power of Jesus). You can see their plight, their helplessness, their analyzing, and their trying to find help. It is not working. Our only answer is in Him.

Proverbs 23:22 states, *“In the end sin will bite like a serpent and sting like an adder.”* But, again, we have the victory; we turn to Him. This is the greater truth; Jesus can come in and re-correct anything that we may have gotten ourselves into. That is the hope that we have in Him. We have a redeeming and a restoring God!

One of the areas where Satan likes to get us is looking inward—to keep us from looking to Jesus. The enemy is working to keep our eyes turned within ourselves—what we have done, what we have not done. We should never expect to find any good in ourselves, *“For in our flesh dwells no good thing”* (Rom. 7:18). We will experience real relief when we stop analyzing ourselves and look to Jesus alone to transform us.

We are changed by beholding Him...not by beholding sin.

Grace by Design

Remember that He is our answer—turning to Him. He is our refuge, our shelter. Let’s turn to Him in time of need. Since we are always in need, we can turn to Him all the time. Instead of as a last resort, we can go to Him, as a first resort! It is Grace by Design; not Grace by Default. For those who believe, He is precious, for those who do not believe, He is faithful. We might as well enjoy the Lord by submitting to God, and resisting the devil.

“Cheer up, don’t be afraid. For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory. He will rejoice over you in great gladness; He will love you and not accuse you. Is that a joyous choir I hear? No, it is the Lord Himself exulting over you in happy song” (Zeph. 3:16b-18 TLB).

Prayer:

Thank You, Jesus, for this grand tradeoff! May we continue to turn to You when Satan comes with lies, and with truth—the truth about ourselves. Help us to agree quickly that, indeed, we are ungodly; that there is no good in us, and that there is no use trying to look for any good. We are just to turn to You, Who is totally good and righteous, and Who replaces our sin and failure with Yourself. Thank you for a wonderful answer to life and thank you that Life is in You. Continue to teach us the truth about your **Preventive GRACE**, as we look to You each day. Amen.

D.L. Moody tells this story:

I met a man once in Scotland who taught me a lesson that I shall never forget. He had been bedridden for many years. This afflicted saint comforted me and told me some wonderful things.

He had fallen and broken his back when he was about fifteen years of age, and had lain there on his bed for some forty years. He could not be moved without a good deal of pain, and probably not a day had passed all those years without suffering. If anyone had told him he was going to lie there and suffer for forty years, probably he would have said he could not do it. But day after day the grace of God had been granted to him; and I declare to you it seemed to me as if I were in the presence of one of God's most highly favored children. There he had been lying all those years, not only without murmur, but rejoicing all the while.

I said to him: "My friend, does the devil never tempt you to doubt God and to think He is a hard master?" "Well now," he said, "that is just what he tries to do. Sometimes, as I look out the window and see people walking along in health, Satan whispers: 'If God is so good, why does He keep you here all these weary years? Why, if he loved you, instead of lying here and being dependent on others, you might now have been a rich man, and riding in your own carriage.'" "What do you do when the devil tempts you?" "Oh, I just take him up to the Cross; and he had such a fight there eighteen hundred [now two thousand] years ago, that he cannot stand it; and he leaves me." I do not think that bedridden saint had much trouble with doubts; he is so full of grace.

D.L. Moody, *Sovereign Grace*

Watchman Nee writes the following:

The accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accuseth them before our God day and night (Rev. 12:10).

Satan is a murderer and a deceiver, he entices and he attacks; but today he specializes in accusing. Heaven recognizes this, and so must every Christian. Night and day he accuses us, and his charges, which are not unfounded, are directed at our conscience—the very point where we most lack the strength to fight him. His object is to drive us to think in despair, "I am a hopeless failure! God can do nothing with me!"

Conscience is a precious thing, but to repeat endlessly, "I am no good! I am no good!" is not Christian humility. To confess our sins is wholesome, but let us never carry confession to the point where our sinfulness looms for us larger than the work of Christ.

The devil knows no weapon more effective against you and me than the creation of this illusion. What is the remedy? Plead guilty to God. Confess to Him, "Lord, I am no good!" but then remind yourself of the precious Blood, and looking away to His glory, add: "But Lord, I am abiding in Thee!"


Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.



My Advocate

By Martha Snell Nicholson

I sinned. And straightway, posthaste, Satan flew
Before the presence of the most High God,
And made a railing accusation there.
He said, "This soul, this thing of clay and sod,
Has sinned. This true that he has named Thy name,
But I demand his death, for Thou hast said,
The soul that sinneth, it shall die.' Shall not
Thy sentence be fulfilled? Is justice dead?
Send now this wretched sinner to his doom.
What other thing can righteous ruler do?"
And thus he did accuse me day and night,
And every word he spoke, oh God, was true!



Then quickly One rose up from God's right hand,
Before whose glory angels veiled their eyes,
He spoke, "Each jot and tittle of the law
Must be fulfilled; the guilty sinner dies!
But wait – suppose his guilt were all transferred
To Me, and that I paid his penalty!
Behold My hands, My side, My feet! One day
I was made sin for him, and died that he
Might be presented faultless, at thy throne!"
And Satan fled away. Full well he knew
That he could not prevail against such love,
For every word my dear Lord spoke was true!



The enemy emphasizes the past, with its mistakes and heartaches; the Comforter exalts the present help of our Lord (Psalm 46:1).

The devil delights in taunting us with our weaknesses; the Lord reminds us of the wealth of His riches in grace.

The father of lies magnifies our problems; the God of all grace reminds us of His promises.

The "angel of light" deceives us to walk by sight and earthly wisdom; the Lord, Who sees the end from the beginning, encourages us to walk by faith.

The enemy would keep us dwelling upon the injuries from others, the Victor reminds us to forget the things that are behind and press forward (Philippians 3:13, 14).

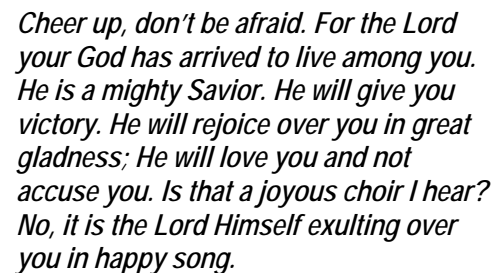
Satan focuses upon what we want, what we deserve, on our rights; Jesus points to what we can do for others, and what we can do without.

V. Raymond Edman

Who Is on the Lord's Side?

Francis R. Havergal

*Fierce may be the conflict,
Strong may be the foe,
But the King's own army
None can overthrow.
Round His standard ranging,
Victory is secure;
For His truth unchanging
Makes the triumph sure.
Joyfully enlisting,
By Thy grace divine,
We are on the Lord's side,
Savior, we are Thine.*



Cheer up, don't be afraid. For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory. He will rejoice over you in great gladness; He will love you and not accuse you. Is that a joyous choir I hear? No, it is the Lord Himself exulting over you in happy song.

(Zephaniah 3:16b, 17, 18, Living)

Where Do We Look?

"...If you look at yourself, you only look at failure, and the more you look at yourself, the more you will see failure. So why bother to look at yourself? Paul truly said, "For I know that in me dwelleth no good thing." When we look at ourselves, we contemplate a worthless object. Why not look to Jesus? The more you look at Him, the more you will become like Him. Recently I made a little mistake. I at once acknowledged it, and then said: "Lord, I will look away from that entirely. Just take a bigger hold on me, that I may not repeat the blunder." Immediately I began to praise Him. The enemy is working to keep our eyes turned within upon ourselves, -- what we have done, what we have not done. It is time we renounced all his work. Let us look away to Jesus as we never have before. Begin to praise and adore Him for all He is, -- His love, His gentleness. Let Him fill the [your] vision and all else will be crowded out. Praise His dear name!

Helen Harriett Markham

A young girl was trudging along a mountain path, trying to reach her grandmother's house. It was bitter cold, and the wind cut like a knife. When she was within sight of her destination, she heard a rustle at her feet. Looking down, she saw a snake. Before she could move, the snake spoke:

"I am about to die," he said. "It is too cold for me up here, and I am freezing. There is no food in these mountains, and I am starving. Please put me under your coat and take me with you."

"No," replied the girl. "I know your kind. You are a rattlesnake. If I pick you up, you will bite me, and your bite is poisonous."

"No, no," said the snake. "If you help me, you will be my best friend. I will treat you differently."

The little girl sat down on a rock for a moment to rest and think things over. She looked at the beautiful markings on the snake and had to admit that it was the most beautiful snake she had ever seen.

Suddenly she said, "I believe you. I will save you. All living things deserve to be treated with kindness."

The little girl reached over, put the snake gently under her coat and proceeded toward her grandmother's house.

Within a moment she felt a sharp pain in her side. The snake had bitten her. "How could you do this to me?" she cried. "You promised, and I trusted you!"

"You knew what I was when you picked me up," hissed the snake as he slithered away.

Ann Landers 3/28/89

"In the end, sin will bite like a serpent and sting like an adder" (Proverbs 23:32).

The natural man cannot bear the thought of being searched by God; he cannot stand to think of being found out in his true condition and character. But to the truly hungry believer it is a positive comfort to be assured that God knows everything about us; He knows the very worst that can be discovered. He has searched out all that we are, and in spite of all, He has thoughts of blessing concerning us. There is, therefore, no fear of anything coming to light that might cause Him to change or reverse His thought of blessing and acceptance.

C.A.C.

"Our acceptance with God in Christ is perfect, and therefore unimprovable. It never alters; never varies."

J.B.S.

**Introspection is like garbage;
the more you stir it the more it stinks.**

UNGODLY – Not having a regard for God.

It includes all that is done without taking God into account. Many speak of the unsaved as ungodly, but fail to realize that everything that a saved person does without taking God into account is also ungodly. Every act in a believer's life that does not take God into account is ungodly. Everything we cannot ask God to bless is ungodly. W. H. Strombeck

Are you under accusation, under condemnation? Are you fretting and worrying about the badness of your own heart? What is the matter? You are still looking for something from nature, from the old man. You had better give it up as that is the only way out; repudiate it.

"Tell yourself and tell the accuser once for all that in you, that is, in your flesh, dwelleth no good thing, and you never expect to find anything. The enemy knows it, and yet he is trying to get you on an impossible quest for something he knows you will never find, and that is how he worries you. Years of it! Then why not come onto the Lord's ground and out-manuever him? Let us settle it that we can never expect to find any good in our old nature. All our good is in Another, even our Lord Jesus. It is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2). T. Austin Sparks

The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

A. W. Tozer

