



January 24, 2021

The God Who Answers
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

I ended my first book with the words No answer. I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer, Before your face questions die away.

C. S. Lewis

20th century British author, literary critic, professor, apologist,
and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*
in *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*

Trust in the
LORD, and do
good; dwell in the
land and befriend
faithfulness.

Psalm 37:3

I lay down and
slept; I woke again, for
the LORD sustained me. I
will not be afraid of many
thousands of people who
have set themselves
against me all around.

Psalm 3:5-6

It is possible that in praying Christians only go through the motions without faith that God will answer. There may be little interest in seeing how God might answer prayers. A lack of anticipation that anything will ever change can lead to spiritual languor, which, in turn, leads to a voice that is mute about the hope that God's promises awaken.

David Garland

biblical scholar and president of Baylor University

Effectual prayer is offered in faith... If our prayers are aimless, meaningless, and mingled with doubt, they will be unanswered. Prayer is more than a wish turned heavenward: it is the voice of faith directed Godward.

Billy Graham

20th century Baptist evangelist

He delivers the
afflicted by their
affliction and opens their
ear by adversity. He also
allured you out of distress into
a broad place where there
was no cramping, and what
was set on your table was
full of fatness.

Job 36:15-16

Trust in him
at all times, O
people; pour out your
heart before him; God
is a refuge for us.

Selah

Psalm 62:8

We all tend to prescribe the answers to our prayers. We think that God can come in only one way. But Scripture teaches us that God sometimes answers our prayers by allowing things to become much worse before they become better. He may sometimes do the opposite of what we anticipate... Yet it is a fundamental principle in the life and walk of faith that we must always be prepared for the unexpected when we are dealing with God.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

20th century Welsh pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

People: **When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**

Psalms 146

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: **whose hope is in the Lord his God,**

Leader: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

People: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

We praise the Lord, putting our trust in him

“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -



ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through
be his aid; he is blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his
pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less
ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es, of my God through



all my days. Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on
God is stayed. Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that
eyes to see. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the stran - ger
all my days. O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all ag - es



man de - pend; he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing,
they con - tain; he de - liv - ers from op - press - ion,
he be - friends, helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow,
he is King; un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on,



and his pur - po - ses shall end.
righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

We worship because it is what we were made to do. At no other time are we more human, more alive, more complete than when we approach our God in the wonder of who he is.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to -



not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for -
 na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness,
 day and bright hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten



ev - er wilt be.
 mer - cy, and love. Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 thou - sand be - side!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to confess our sin and seek his mercy

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1

We confess we are sinners whom Jesus came to save

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

We cry out to God because he has saved us by his grace in Jesus Christ. Our faith in his work for us is the reason that prayers of confession serve God's glory and therefore are worship.

God proclaims his mercy and grace

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ... For when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ephesians 2
Galatians 4

We come to Jesus Christ

"Jesus, I Come"



1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.



In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light, Je - sus, I come to thee.
In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross, Je - sus, I come to thee.
In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide, Je - sus, I come to thee.
In - to the joy and light of thy home, Je - sus, I come to thee.



Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health, out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,
Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm, out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
Out of my - self to dwell in thy love, out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,
Out of the depths of ru - in un - told, in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,



out of my sin and in - to thy - self, Je - sus, I come to thee.
out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm, Je - sus, I come to thee.
up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove, Je - sus, I come to thee.
ev - er thy glo - rious face to be - hold, Je - sus, I come to thee.

The Spirit of the
Lord GOD is upon
me, because the
LORD has
anointed me to
bring good news
to the poor; he
has sent me to
bind up the
brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to
the captives, and
the opening of the
prison to those
who are bound.

Isaiah 61

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

Psalm 4

- ¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- ²O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah
- ³But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- ⁴Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah
- ⁵Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"
- ⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bryan Chapell

The God Who Answers

Dr. Bryan Chapell has served the Church not only as pastor, he has also served as homiletics (preaching) professor and the President of Covenant Theological Seminary. In 2020, he was appointed as the Stated Clerk of the PCA, the chief administrative officer of the denomination.

Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.
Psalm 91

We turn to God, calling on him

“Call Jehovah Your Salvation”



1. Call Je - ho - vah your sal - va - tion, rest be - neath th'Al - migh - ty's shade;
2. From the sword at noon - day wast - ing, from the noise - some pes - ti - lence,
3. Since, with pure and firm af - fec - tion you on God have set your love,



in his se - cret hab - i - ta - tion dwell, and ne - ver be dis - mayed:
in the depth of mid - night blast - ing, God shall be your sure de - fense:
with the wings of his pro - tec - tion he will shield you from a - bove:



there no tu - mult shall a - larm you, you shall dread no hid - den snare:
he shall charge his an - gel le - gions watch and ward o'er you to keep;
you shall call on him in trou - ble, he will hear - ken, he will save;



guile nor vi - o - lence can harm you, in e - ter - nal safe - guard there.
though you walk through hos - tile re - gions, though in des - ert wilds you sleep.
here for grief re - ward you dou - ble, crown with life be - yond the grave.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We trust in God, giving our tithes and offerings to God

Leader: We believe that God, after he created all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to his holy will.

People: In this way nothing happens in this world without his orderly arrangement.

Leader: Yet God is not the author of, nor can he be charged with, the sin that occurs. For his power and goodness are so great and incomprehensible that he arranges and does his work very well and justly even when the wicked act unjustly.

People: We do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what he does that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend.

Leader: But in all humility and reverence we adore the just judgments of God, which are hidden from us, being content to be Christ's disciples, so as to learn only what he shows us in his Word, without going beyond those limits.

People: This doctrine gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father.

Leader: He watches over us with fatherly care, keeping all creatures under his control, so that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered) nor even a little bird can fall to the ground without the will of our Father.

People: In this thought we rest, knowing that he holds in check all our enemies, who cannot hurt us without his permission and will.

Belgic Confession, 13

Written by an itinerant pastor in the sixteenth century as a defense of churches being severely persecuted, the Belgic Confession expresses biblical doctrine with a warm, experiential, and personal spirit.

Prayer is the acknowledgment of God's sovereignty and of our dependence on Him to act on our behalf
Jerry Bridges

We use these words, based on Psalm 146, to do just that: acknowledge his sovereignty and cry out for him to act according to his grace..

We look to God, calling out to him in prayer

Our souls praise you, O Lord.

We will sing praises to you as long as we live.

We will not put our trust in our government or in influential people, for when they die, their influence and power are gone.

We are blessed because we hope and trust in you,
O God who created the world and everything in it,
who remains faithful to your promises and your people forever.

You uphold those of us

who are weighed down with the cares of this world,
and you feed those who are hungry with the bread of life.

You set prisoners free with the assurance that their sins are forgiven
and that you are in control of the events of their lives.

You give sight of understanding to those who are blind in their sin.

You lift up those who are bowed down,
and you love those who are righteous.

You watch over us, aliens in a sinful world,
and you are a father to the orphaned and a comforter to the widowed.

You do not allow the plans of the wicked
to flourish or to come to completion.

You will reign forever and for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Amen.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rejoice in the firm foundation that guarantees he answers

"How Firm a Foundation"



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed; for
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go, the
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie, my
 5. The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose, I



laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 I am your God, and will still give you aid; I'll
 riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow; for
 grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the
 will not, I will not de - sert to his foes; that



more can he say than to you he has said, to
 strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand, up -
 I will be with you, your trou - bles to - bless, and
 flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign your
 soul, though all hell should en - dea - vor to - shake, I'll



you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled?
 held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress."
 dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 ne - ver, no ne - ver, no ne - ver for - sake."

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 1 Corinthians 3

God promises his presence

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:



Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Brian Cosgrove
Paul Martin
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke

Credits

Cover artwork: *Psalms 4:1*, Dean Mitchell, oil, 1993.

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8:30 Service: Beth Almquist, *piano, voice*

10:30 Service: Millie Barnard, *piano*; Shannon Clarke, *voice*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*

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Everything is clamoring for the
volume control in your life.
Turn up the volume of grace.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory