

# GRACE TRANSFORMS

WEEK 5

**WIN**

*To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak.  
I have become all things to all people,  
that by all means I might save some.*

**1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)**

# SERMON NOTES – WIN :: 1

TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_

SPEAKER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TESTAMENT  OLD  NEW SONGS/HYMNS \_\_\_\_\_

MOOD 😄 😊 😐 😞 😓 😴 \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY I AM GRATEFUL FOR \_\_\_\_\_

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KEY POINTS \_\_\_\_\_ SCRIPTURES \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What stuck out to you as you read this weekend's Scripture passages?

Did these verses raise any questions as you read?

Where do we see Jesus Christ in these verses?

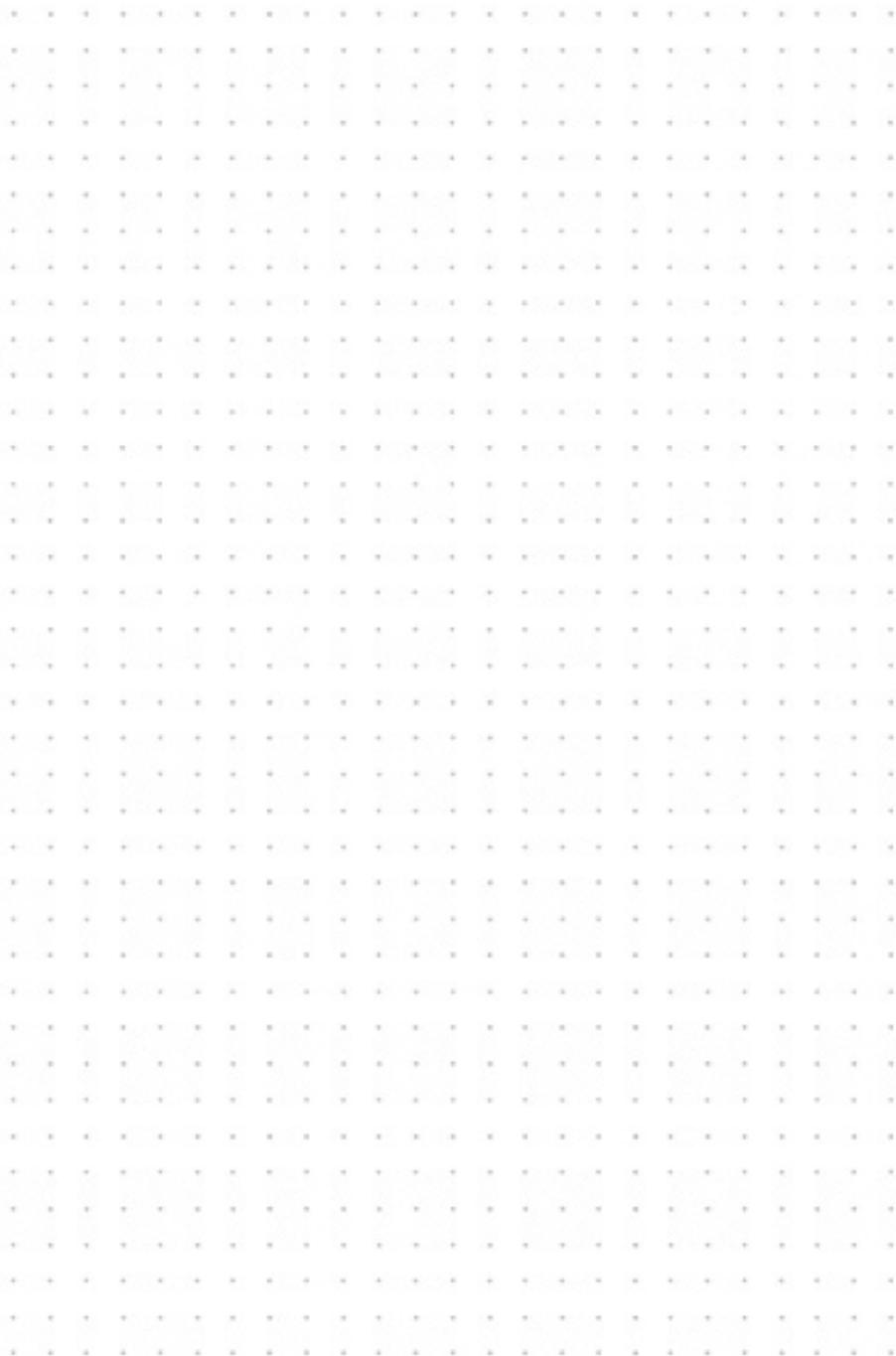
As you read this weekend's Scripture, ask yourself, "Are these verses...

1. teaching me something?"
2. telling me to stop doing something I am doing?"
3. correcting some wrong thinking or behavior?"
4. preparing me to live more effectively for him?"

Write down the name of someone who might benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible.

Why is this passage in this particular book of the Bible? What might the Bible lose if this passage was left out? What's the author's main point? *(Try to sum up your answer in one sentence.)*

# JOURNAL



# INTRODUCTION — WIN

## *Grace Transforms residents of earth into Citizens of Heaven who Win for Jesus Christ.*

The mission of our church is Love God, Love People, Make Disciples. This means we are a disciple-making church. We glorify God by helping neighbors in need find grace in Jesus Christ to love and lead for life. Winning people to Jesus Christ is essential to accomplishing our mission!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”  
2 Corinthians 5:17–20 (ESV)

There is victory in Jesus Christ and we are motivated to invite people to experience that victory for themselves. We want to win with Jesus as Jesus wins people to Himself! During Paul’s ministry in Ephesus, we see how he surrendered to power of the gospel message for his own life and the lives of the Ephesians around him.

“And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.” Acts 19:8 (ESV)

**NEXT STEP ::** *Are you living as a bold new creation in Jesus? Do you recognize the power of the gospel message for your own life as well as the lives of those around you? Share your story of how grace is transforming you to win for Jesus Christ.*

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

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## DAY 21 — WIN

# The Right Prize

1 Corinthians 9:19-25

The truth about our spiritual behavior is that humans relate to God based upon how we are trained to relate to each other, especially our parents (which is a scary thought if you are a parent). Our personal stories—including our connection to Jesus—is how God often connects the spiritual dots in others' lives. Did you know that 78% of teens will accept Jesus because of a trusted friend? That's how important it is for us to be "Jesus with skin on" to those who don't yet know Him!

As we continue to learn how to relate to God more authentically, transparently, and vulnerably, we can model for others how to do the same. Just think, your story and life could be the miracle that God uses in someone else's life as you show them—and eventually share with them—the God their soul is searching for.

**NEXT STEP ::** *What is your story with Jesus? Who needs to know that story? Stay on course, train faithfully, evaluate your motives, and run the race for the eternal prize. The right prize.*

# REFLECT

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## DAY 22 – WIN

# Difficult Circumstances

Philippians 1:12-18

Have you ever prayed “Not My will but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42)?

On November 27, 2017, I found myself being mostly carried, by my son Joel, into our church. The Elder Board was meeting, and I had requested to be anointed. As a pastor I had led many anointings but had never been anointed myself.

The Elders asked about my health, and what I would like them to ask of our Lord. I shared that while training for a marathon my heart had gone into atrial fibrillation. I had been rushed to the ER where I had a cardioversion procedure and was prescribed a blood thinner. A few days later I was flat on my back and shared with my wife Marti that I could feel my life slipping away. We discussed my memorial service while waiting for the ambulance. The CT scan revealed a bilateral brain bleed requiring emergency bilateral neurosurgery. While recovering, I developed a near fatal case of sepsis. Yet, through it all God was faithful and had a plan for good.

Although I desired my health to be restored, I realized that while flat on my back and helpless, I had met countless medical professionals that I would never have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. All the days I spent in ICU I had their full attention! I was able to share my hope in Christ, and His amazing peace. I listened to their stories and their heartaches and was able to pray for them. God gave me some of the most productive days of ministry when I was at my very weakest! So, my request to the Elders? God’s will!

Philippians 1:12 “Now I want you to know brethren that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel...”

The following March God graciously allowed me to complete my marathon.

**NEXT STEP ::** *Father, thank You that you have a plan and purpose for my life. Take my life and let it be consecrated for Your ministry. Please take the circumstances of my life and let them be fruitful for Your Kingdom work!*

*Contributed by Alan Boone, Pastor Emeritus*

# REFLECT

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## DAY 23 — WIN

### Press on Full Throttle

Philippians 3:12-16

Some days it is easier for me to sit back and count the perceived spiritual scorecard of the first fifty years of my life rather than keeping my shoulder to the spiritual plow. (Can I say that in a devotional?!) Don't worry—I'm rock solid in Jesus—but some days, I do need a nap. Maybe the Apostle Paul also needed a nap; I just find nothing in scripture that says such about him. It seems Paul lived full throttle both against the cause of Christ early in his life, and for Christ late in life.

For a guy who writes nearly half of the New Testament books to say that he presses on, that he continues to strive for a life worthy of the upward call – I love the focus of his life. Verse 13 speaks of "...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." As I understand this, Paul is encouraging us to not only forget our sins and failures, but also our achievements, successes, and spiritual triumphs. Don't focus on your past—good or bad—but like Paul, focus on Christ alone today!

Start today on the level...start flat. Not weighed down by the failures of yesterday or soaring perilously high on past success, but humbly striving for the real goal—the only goal that matters—the prize for which God is calling you heavenward.

Join the Apostle Paul in keeping your spiritual life full throttle today.

**NEXT STEP ::** *Heavenly Father, thank You for sending us examples like Paul. Help me to press on in this life full throttle for You today—forgetting what is behind whether good or bad. Jesus, I'm thankful for You and I love You.*

# REFLECT

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## DAY 24 — WIN

# A Privilege To Be An Ambassador

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

One of the motivating reasons for Paul's ministry was simply the joy of serving. "I get to be an ambassador," he exclaims! Well, we do too, my friend! We get to share the Word of God, the word of reconciliation, to give out the good news of the gospel, at any time we so desire!

As ambassadors of the kingdom, we get to tell the girl behind the counter at Mr. T's, the boy who bags groceries at Save Mart, the man who picks up our garbage, or even our next-door neighbor, that their sins—past, present, and future—are truly forgiven and forgotten.

As Jesus hung on the Cross, a spear was thrust into His side, drawing out water and blood. And by the opening of His side, we can, positionally, enter into Christ. Jesus opened the way for us through the giving of His life, His flesh. That is why we can share the Good News and tell others that they too can be tucked away "in Christ." That when the God of heaven and of all creation looks at them, He sees only the righteousness of His Son!

May the fear (the awe) of the Lord motivate us. May the love of Christ constrain us. May the joy of service thrill us. May we say along with the apostle Paul, "No matter the problems we face or the challenges that come our way, it is an unbelievable privilege to be an ambassador of the King!"

*On Him a mighty vengeance fell,  
That would have sunk the world to hell,  
He bore it for a chosen race,  
And thus became our hiding place.*

**NEXT STEP ::** *Since our citizenship is in heaven, we are ambassadors down here. One day He will call us home, and judgment will begin. Let us be fervent in telling others, "God can save you through His Son, Christ Jesus!"*

# REFLECT

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## DAY 25 — WIN

### “Follow Me”

Luke 5:27-32 / Matthew 9:9-13 / Mark 2:14-17

In Jesus' day, in Israel's village of Capernaum, being a tax collector was considered the worst. Tax collectors were hired by Rome to collect taxes and tariffs from its citizens. Tax collectors were often accused of charging oppressive rates, well more than what was due, and keeping the excess for themselves. Jewish people, especially the Pharisees, considered tax collectors sinners and were shunned. If you were a Jewish tax collector, you were considered a traitor. Matthew, a disciple of Jesus, was a Jewish tax collector...until Jesus extended His hand of grace and invited Matthew to follow Him.

Matthew immediately got up and left everything to follow Jesus. Matthew's response was quick and decisive. Perhaps rumors and tales of Jesus' miracles, His clear teaching, His absolute forgiveness made their way to Matthew before Matthew had ever seen Jesus in person? Perhaps Matthew recognized when he saw Jesus, that he was truly looking into the face of God? We know this, Jesus was preaching the Good News and Matthew believed.

When I have good news to share, I cannot wait to tell my friends. Matthew was no different. He decided to host a banquet. He invited Jesus to his house, and he invited all his friends. His friends were fellow tax collectors and sinners. It seems Matthew wanted his friends to meet Jesus and see that the Kingdom of God was near and available to them as well.

Matthew left his life to follow Jesus, humbly accepting God's Grace which changes you.

**NEXT STEP ::** *Thank You, Lord, for coming close. Thank You for Your forgiveness. Continue to show me Your ways and the places I need to change.*

# REFLECT

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