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Rooted in Grace, Growing in Faith

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KEY VERSE
“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” – Luke 17:5.

READINGS
Psalm 12

Introduction

Every tree that grows tall and strong has one unseen secret: deep roots. Likewise, a Christian life that bears fruit and withstands the storms of time must be deeply rooted – not in achievements or status – but in the grace of God. When we are rooted in His grace, we grow in faith, even when we feel weak, small, or unworthy. The scriptures for this Sunday offer a compelling journey through how God’s grace works in hidden places, how He sustains the faithful in troubled times, strengthens the weak with divine power, and calls us to obedient and humble faith.Let us reflect on today’s theme by meditating on four truths revealed through the Psalmist, the prophet Samuel, the apostle Paul, and the Gospel of Luke.

Grace in a Time of Chaos (Psalm 12)

“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now rise,” says the Lord. – Psalm 12:5. Psalm 12 gives voice to a society in moral and spiritual decay. The Psalmist cries out over the loss of godly people and the prevalence of deceit and arrogance. The faithful are few, and the poor are oppressed. Yet, in the middle of this lament, we hear the voice of grace. The Lord responds to the cries of the helpless and promises to act.Here we see the first movement of grace: God’s grace hears the oppressed and responds to injustice. Faith grows when we begin to trust in God not only in prosperity but in the silence of sorrow. When truth seems defeated and righteousness mocked, God still reigns.During the apartheid era in South Africa, many oppressed Christians clung to Psalm 12. Bishop Desmond Tutu once said, “God is not a neutral God. God is on the side of the oppressed.” Even when everything seemed against them, they trusted in the grace of a God who hears. And faith in such a God can move mountains.So, in our own context, when we feel surrounded by lies, injustice, or corruption, let us not grow cynical. Let us be rooted in God’s grace and grow in the kind of faith that still believes He will rise for the needy.

Grace That Sees Beyond the Surface (1 Samuel 16:3–12)

“For the Lord sees not as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” – 1 Samuel 16:7. The anointing of David is one of the most surprising acts of divine selection. Jesse’s strong and impressive sons pass before Samuel, but none are chosen. The youngest, a shepherd boy tending sheep, is not even initially considered. Yet, David is God’s choice.This reveals the second truth about grace: God’s grace chooses the least likely and calls them for His purpose. When we are rooted in that grace, we understand that faith is not about proving ourselves – it’s about trusting God’s call, even when others overlook us.

In the history of the Indian church, Sadhu Sundar Singh was initially rejected by his own

community. Dressed in a simple robe, walking barefoot, many dismissed him. Yet, God used him mightily across nations. It wasn't the outer appearance that mattered – it was a heart yielded to grace.Growing in faith means we embrace God's way of choosing and using us. Like David, let us not be discouraged if the world forgets us. If we are faithful in the small tasks God gives, grace will raise us for greater things.

Grace Perfected in Weakness (2 Corinthians 12:1–10)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." – 2 Corinthians 12:9. In this passage, Paul speaks of a thorn in the flesh – a painful, persistent affliction that he begged God to remove. Yet God said no. Instead, God revealed that grace is enough and that His strength is most clearly seen in our weakness.This is the third and most personal movement of grace: grace sustains us in suffering and teaches us humility. Faith matures not when we always get what we ask for, but when we trust God even when His answer is "no."

Joni Eareckson Tada, a Christian author and speaker, was paralyzed in a diving accident as a teenager. Though she prayed for healing, healing did not come. But she says, "I'd rather be in this wheelchair knowing Him than on my feet without Him." Her faith, like Paul's, grew through weakness. God's grace carried her beyond what physical healing ever could.So, in your moments of pain or discouragement, remember: God is still working. When you are weak, His power is resting on you. Your weakness is not a disqualification – it is a doorway for grace to enter.

Grace That Calls to Humble Obedience (Luke 17:5–10)

"We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty." – Luke 17:10. The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. In response, Jesus tells them that even a mustard-seed-sized faith can move mountains. Then, surprisingly, He tells a parable that reminds them they are only servants doing their duty.This final point teaches us that faith does not grow in pride but in obedience and humility. Grace is not permission for entitlement; it is the empowerment to serve without expecting praise.

Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." She never sought recognition, yet her simple acts of love changed lives. She lived as an "unworthy servant," and that is why God used her so greatly.Faith grows not when we seek recognition but when we daily, faithfully serve – whether anyone sees us or not. Whether you preach, clean, counsel, or encourage – do it in love, without complaint or entitlement. God sees.

Conclusion

To be rooted in grace is to recognize that we are chosen not because of merit but because of God's mercy. To grow in faith is to trust Him in suffering, serve Him with humility, and wait for Him in hope. Like David, we must be available for God's purposes. Like the Psalmist, we must cry out in hope. Like Paul, we must accept our weakness. Like the disciples, we must obey even without reward.May our roots go deep into the soil of His grace, so that even when storms come, we will not be shaken. And may our faith grow strong – not just for our own sake, but to be a witness to the world of God's transforming power.

Prayer:

Gracious Lord,We thank You that Your grace is deeper than our failures, stronger than our

weaknesses, and faithful even when we are not. Help us to be rooted in Your grace, and to grow in faith – faith that trusts You in hardship, serves You in humility, and believes You for the impossible.May we, like David, be willing to serve even when unseen. Like Paul, may we rejoice in weakness, knowing that Your power is made perfect in us. And like Your disciples, may we obey with the simple heart of a servant.Lord, increase our faith, not for our glory, but for Your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.