

The Access 7

Please refer to chapter 12 in the *Extraordinary* book, along with session 7 of the teaching series.

ACCESS

The capacity to enter or approach; a way of approach. To access something means to “get at or gain entrance.”¹ Synonyms for *access* include: the right to use, the way in, to get into, or admittance.

“Simply put, faith is the ‘pipeline’ of grace. Hear Paul’s words once again—‘we have *access* by faith into this grace wherein we stand.’ Faith is the determining factor of whether we *do* or *do not* partake of grace. This means the grace—the empowerment needed to please God—that we’ve carefully discussed in all our previous sessions cannot be accessed any other way than through faith!”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 12

1. Our **faith** is like a “PVC pipeline” that taps into and brings us the “water supply” of God’s grace. Consequently, it’s important that you keep your pipeline of faith connected to the Source and clear of all debris.

- a. Hebrews 11:6 gives us two indispensable ingredients to having faith. In your own words, describe what those are.

- b. What kind of things tend to “clog” your pipeline of faith, causing the flow of God’s grace in your life to be cut off?

Get quiet before the Lord and ask Him for His insight in this area of your life. Surrender any hindrances to Him in prayer and ask Him for wisdom and grace to overcome these obstacles.

Voice of the Ages

“**Faith** occupies the position of a *channel* or *conduit pipe*. **Grace** is the *fountain* and the *stream*.

Faith is the aqueduct along which the flood of mercy flows down to refresh the thirsty sons of men. ...The aqueduct must be kept intact to carry the current. Similarly, faith must be true and sound. It must lead right up to God and come right down to ourselves so that it may become a serviceable channel of mercy to our souls.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon²

2. Everything you need to live extraordinarily is contained within God’s Word—the word of His grace. *Meditate on the message of the scriptures below:*

Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to **the word of His grace**, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

—Acts 14:3

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to **the word of His grace**, which is *able to build you up* and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

—Acts 20:32

(Jesus) being the brightness of His glory and the express

image of His person, and upholding all things by **the word of His power**...

—Hebrews 1:3

[word in parentheses added for clarity]

- a. What does the phrase “word of His grace/power” communicate? How is it activated?

- b. How would the meaning be different if the verses were written “power of His Word”? (See page 123 in the book.)

“All of God’s power is contained in His Word. This is why the enemy has fought to get our churches to preach inspired messages out of newspapers or coaches’ manuals instead of the Word of God. ...We’ve gotten away from the Word; we’ve wanted to inspire and come up with something new, when in reality God is saying, ‘Why are you looking for something new when I have put all of My power within the *Word of My grace?*’”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from session 7

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3. God’s Word declares that salvation is available to all through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, according to Matthew 7:13-14, the majority of mankind is going to end up in hell, eternally separate from God, although this is *not* His will. Read 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9 and explain what God’s will is concerning the salvation of mankind.

Also **check out** Isaiah 48:9; Romans 9:22; 1 Peter 3:20, declaring God’s patience with sinners. Let all these scriptures encourage and motivate you to continue to pray for your lost loved ones. God wants them saved even more than you do!

4. Read Hebrews 3:12-4:12—a passage containing the story of the Israelites and the importance of having a right heart before the Lord.
- a. What did the Israelites consistently do that deeply angered God?

- b. What did they *fail to do* with the message of Truth they heard that canceled its power? What happened to them as a result? How does this speak to you personally?

5. Have you ever prayed and asked God, "What do I need to do to see Your works take place?" If so, you're not alone; in fact, that's exactly what Jesus' followers asked Him in John 6:28.

- a. Write out John 6:29—Jesus' answer to them, and consequently us, explaining what needs to be done in order to see His miracles manifest.

John 6:29

Also **check out** John 14:1 and 1 John 3:23.

- b. God can be trusted! Write what these truths declaring His faithfulness to keep His Word speak to your heart:

Numbers 23:19 • Psalm 18:30 • Matthew 24:35

Heaven's

APPEAL

...**Believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ [*give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping*] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.

—Acts 16:31 AMP

6. There are many rewards etched in Scripture for those who *believe* and *trust* God—both in this life and the one to come **Check out** these

verses and name the *benefits of believing* associated with each:

Scriptures	YOUR BENEFIT FOR <i>BELIEVING</i> GOD
Romans 1:16 / 1 John 5:1	
John 5:24; 6:47	
Romans 3:22; 10:4	
1 Peter 2:6 / Isaiah 28:16	
Jeremiah 17:7-8	
Romans 15:13	
John 7:38-39	

John 11:40	
Hebrews 4:3	
1 John 5:5	

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THE SOURCE & STRENGTH OF FAITH

“God specifically says that to ‘every man that is among you’ (every Christian) He has given a starting point in faith. We don’t have to generate the first little bit. God gives to each of us a *measure of faith* with which to begin.³

...Jesus is the *Author* and *Finisher* of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

He is the beginner and the ender, the *giver* and the *protector* of our faith. ...The essence of it flows out of Him to us. Faith is not generated by man. Faith is not conceived by a preacher, a denomination, or a philosophy. Jesus Christ is the Author of Faith.⁴

...Living faith is obtained individually by individuals from their *living relationship* with *God* and *His Word*. Testimonies related to faith inspire us. But they do not generate that force of power it takes to do the job in our own lives. That comes only out of the Word of God—by reading it, absorbing it, letting it come alive within us.⁵

—Dr. Lester Sumrall

7. Where do you initially *get* faith, the ability to believe? It comes from God Himself (Romans 12:3). How does your faith *grow*? Your “...faith comes by *hearing*, and *hearing* by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).
 - a. Explain what the word *hearing* means in both places of this verse and how it is connected with Jesus’ words, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Voice of the Ages

“[Abraham] was ‘fully assured that what [God] had promised He was able also to perform.’ Ah, child of God, for every look at the unlikelihood of the promise, take 10 looks at the promise: this is the way in which faith waxes strong. ‘*Looking unto the promise of God, he wavered not through unbelief, but waxed strong*’ (Romans 4:20, R.V.).”

—F.B. Meyer⁶

- b. What conditions are needed to be able to *hear* and *receive* the Word of grace?

Check out Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

8. Abraham led an amazing life of faith. He believed God would honor His word and give him a son in his old age, making him the *father of many nations*. Yes, the thought of his age and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb did cross his mind, but He did not focus on it. Instead, *he focused on God’s promise* to him.

- a. Share of a time in your life when God spoke something to you and you had faith in what He said until He made it a reality.

- b. How is this experience still affecting your faith today? How about the faith of others?

- c. Like Abraham, have you ever experienced a time when God asked you to do something that seemed would cause the *death of the dream* He promised? If so, explain what happened and what you learned from it.

APPEAL

...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (NKJV). A good man's speech reveals the rich treasures within him. An evil-hearted man is filled with venom, and his speech reveals it (TLB).

—Matthew 12:34-35

9. One of the greatest *evidences* that we truly have faith in God's Word is found in the *words* we speak—especially when we are under pressure. (See Psalm 116:10, Romans 10:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 4:13.)

- a. What kind of words and phrases often come out of your mouth when times are tough?

- b. If your words have sounded more like what *ordinary* men would say under difficult circumstances, it's time to dig deep into God's Word for some *extraordinary* alternatives. Grab a Bible concordance and search for scriptures that address the situations you're struggling with; doing a keyword search may be helpful. Write out the verses that come alive in your heart, and begin to *speak* them aloud over your life and the situations you face. Also, *get quiet before the Lord* and ask Him for a specific word for your current situation.

Use a Strong's Concordance, a concordance in the back of your Bible, or an online search engine like www.biblegateway.com to look up key words for the issues that seem to steal your faith like worry, fear, disappointment, anger, etc.

APPEAL

Now **FAITH** is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

—Hebrews 11:1 AMP

10. Abraham's trust in God was so great that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His corresponding *actions of obedience* were evidence that he truly feared God and **believed His Word** over everything else.

- a. What promise has God made to you that you are presently trusting Him to bring to pass?

- b. What **words**—especially scriptures—are you speaking aloud that *agree* with the promise?

- c. Most often, our job leading up to receiving God's promise is simply to wait and allow Him to bring it to pass. Occasionally He will call us to action and require our obedience. What (if any) **actions** has He prompted you to take? Have you taken them? If not, why?

“Faith deeply believes God will do what He says, and it subsequently produces *words of agreement* and *actions of obedience*. ...You can repeatedly declare, ‘I’m saved by grace,’ boast in God’s goodness, speak of love, and use other Christian clichés, but unless there are corresponding actions—a *lifestyle that pleases God*—your faith is empty chatter.”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 12

Heaven's APPEAL

...Does merely *talking* about faith indicate that a person really has it? ...Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? ...You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

—James 2:14,17-18
The Message

11. It's important to understand that true faith always displays itself in *actions*. God's Word says that we are not saved by doing good works; however, if we are saved, *we will do good works* as a result.

- a. Explain the difference between not working *for* your salvation and working *because* of your salvation.

Being saved by faith and not by works means...

Check out Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9.

Yet, my faith must be backed up by godly actions...

Check out James 2:14-26; Matthew 25:31-46.

- b. Read Hebrews 13:16 and 1 John 3:18 and write what they speak to you.

12. Galatians 3:1-14 explains the futility of trying to serve God and become a strong Christian by just following rules. Indeed, anyone who attempts to keep the requirements of the Law but fails in just *one area* is guilty of breaking it all and is under a curse.

- a. Trying to live right in your *own ability* is trusting in your flesh. According to John 6:63 and Romans 7:18, how valuable is your flesh?

- b. In your own words, write what Galatians 3:11-14 means to you.

Heaven's

APPEAL

For we hold that a man is justified and made upright **by faith** *independent of* and distinctly *apart from good deeds* (works of the Law). [The observance of the Law has nothing to do with justification.]

—Romans 3:28 AMP

Voice of the Ages

“Never make a *Christ* out of your faith, nor think of faith as if it were the independent source of your salvation. Our life is found in ‘looking unto Jesus’ (Hebrews 12:2), not in looking to our faith. By faith all things become possible to us. Yet *the power is not in the faith but in the God* in whom faith relies.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon⁷

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

...dropped out of Harvard to
work on a little business idea
Bill Gates—CEO of Microsoft

the bottom line

The awesome gift of God's grace is accessed through our *faith* in Him. Genuine faith is not only heard in our words, but also seen in our actions. As we continue in the Word, our faith grows, God's power is released, and we are able to live a life that pleases Him.

Heaven's

APPEAL

But if you are led by the Spirit,
you are not under law.

—Galatians 5:18 NIV

Journal Your Journey

Every God-begotten person conquers the world's ways.
The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith.
The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply
the one who *believes* Jesus is the Son of God.
—1 John 5:4-5 The Message

EYE-OPENERS

Without doubt, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you throughout this session. Take a few moments to jot down any eye-opening revelation(s) He's bringing to mind.

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

As the Lord tugs on your heart to climb higher in Him, in what *new ways* is He asking you to look at and operate in faith? Is He prompting you to set any *new goals*? If so, what are they?

Father, thank You for this foundational teaching on faith and grace. Please forgive me for the times when the words of my mouth have been more negative and fear-filled than faith-filled. I ask You to help me reprogram my thinking according to Your ways; as I read and study Your Word, help me find the specific scriptures to speak over my life until they become a part of me. Holy Spirit, show me what corresponding faith-filled actions I need to take and when to take them. I realize that I cannot fulfill Your promised plan for my life in my own ability. I need Your powerful grace, which is only accessed through faith. I believe my faith will grow as I feed on Your Word...in Jesus' name, Amen.

FREE ACCESS

In [Jesus], *because of our faith in Him*, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of **free access** (an unreserved approach to God with freedom and without fear).

—Ephesians 3:12 AMP

[word in brackets added for clarity]

Anytime, anywhere, about anything—that is the kind of access you have to Almighty God, the Creator of heaven and earth, through prayer. This free access is not just available to pastors, evangelists, and mighty men and women of state; it is available to *you* as a child of the Most High.

Again, faith is the access to God's grace, or divine power. Consequently, the foremost action demonstrating our faith is prayer. We can and should turn to God anytime, anywhere, about anything and seek His wisdom, direction, and intervention. Prayer should always be our first response, not our last resort. You are not annoying God by your requests; He yearns to be welcomed into every part of your life!

Heaven's

APPEAL

...The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us *yearns* over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love.

—James 4:5 AMP

How often does God want us to pray? First Thessalonians 5:17 clearly declares His desire: "Pray continually" (NIV). Now, this doesn't mean you have to be on your knees, in your prayer closet or at your church 24/7. Prayer simply means staying connected to God in conversation—*talking with* and *listening to Him* throughout your day.

Jeanne Guyon, a well-known author of the 17th century, has influenced many, including John Wesley, Watchman Nee, and Hudson Taylor. Read this excerpt on "the prayer of simplicity" from her book *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*:

"Let me ask you, then, do you desire to know the Lord in a deep way? God has made such an experience, such a walk, possible for you. He has made it possible through the **grace** He has given to all His redeemed children. He has done it by the means of His Holy Spirit.

You see, the only way to be perfect is to walk in the presence of God. The only way you can live in His presence in uninterrupted fellowship is by means of **prayer**, but a very special kind of prayer. It is a prayer that leads you into the presence of God and keeps you there at all times; a prayer that can be experienced under any conditions, any place, and any time.

Is there really such a prayer? Does such an experience with Christ truly exist? Yes, there is such a prayer! A prayer that does not interfere with your outward activities or your daily routine.

...May I hasten to say that the kind of prayer I am speaking of is not a prayer that comes from your mind. It is a prayer that begins in the **heart**. It does not come from your understanding or your thoughts. ...Prayer that comes out of the heart is not interrupted by thinking! I will go so far as to say that nothing can interrupt this prayer, *the prayer of simplicity*."⁸

What is the Holy Spirit making alive in your heart through Jeanne Guyon's words?

APPEAL

When anxiety, worry or fear comes against you, the *first* thing to do is pray. Write out these inspiring instructions to help you maintain your faith when trouble comes.

EPHESIANS 6:18

For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and he gives attention when they cry to him. Yes, *the Lord hears the good man* when he calls to him for help, and saves him out of all his troubles.

—Psalm 34:15,17 TLB

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PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

The greatest element in *the prayer of simplicity* is God's Word. Isaiah 62:6 says, "...You who [are His servants and by your **prayers**] put the Lord in remembrance [of His promises], keep not silence" (AMP). As we learned earlier, God is not a liar; He keeps His Word. In Jeremiah 1:12, He says, "...I am alert and active, *watching over My word* to perform it" (AMP).

Meditate on the message of these verses and, in your own words, describe the importance and power of continuing in God's Word as it relates to prayer.

PENETRATE

To enter into; to pierce or permeate; to see into or understand; to affect deeply.⁹ Words synonymous with *penetrate* include: break through, access, seep or soak into, to infuse.

John 15:7 • 1 John 3:21-24; 5:14-15 • Romans 1:16 • Hebrews 4:12

“Only the **Word of God** has the ability to penetrate right into our heart—it’s the only thing that can pass through our conscious mind, intellect or emotions, and reach into our core being where true faith is spawned.

Knowing this causes us to realize how important it is to *speak the Word of God*—not to speak tradition, leadership principles, philosophical ideas, concepts of God, and so forth. *Only the Word can penetrate our hearts to produce true faith.*”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from session 7 and chapter 12

There are times when we are temporarily denied access. **Check out** these revealing truths and list some of the common conditions that “pull the plug” on your prayers.

Psalm 66:18-20 • Proverbs 28:9 • Isaiah 59:1-2 • Zechariah 7:11-14 • James 4:3

Do you feel like something is hindering your access to the Father’s presence? Is the Holy Spirit showing you anything from the scriptures you just read? *Get quiet before the Lord* and bear your heart. Repent of anything you need to, receive His forgiveness, and resume your free access of fellowship with Him!

FOR FURTHER STUDY

ACCESS TO GOD

John 10:9; 14:6
Ephesians 2:18-19
1 Timothy 2:5
Hebrews 10:19-23

GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

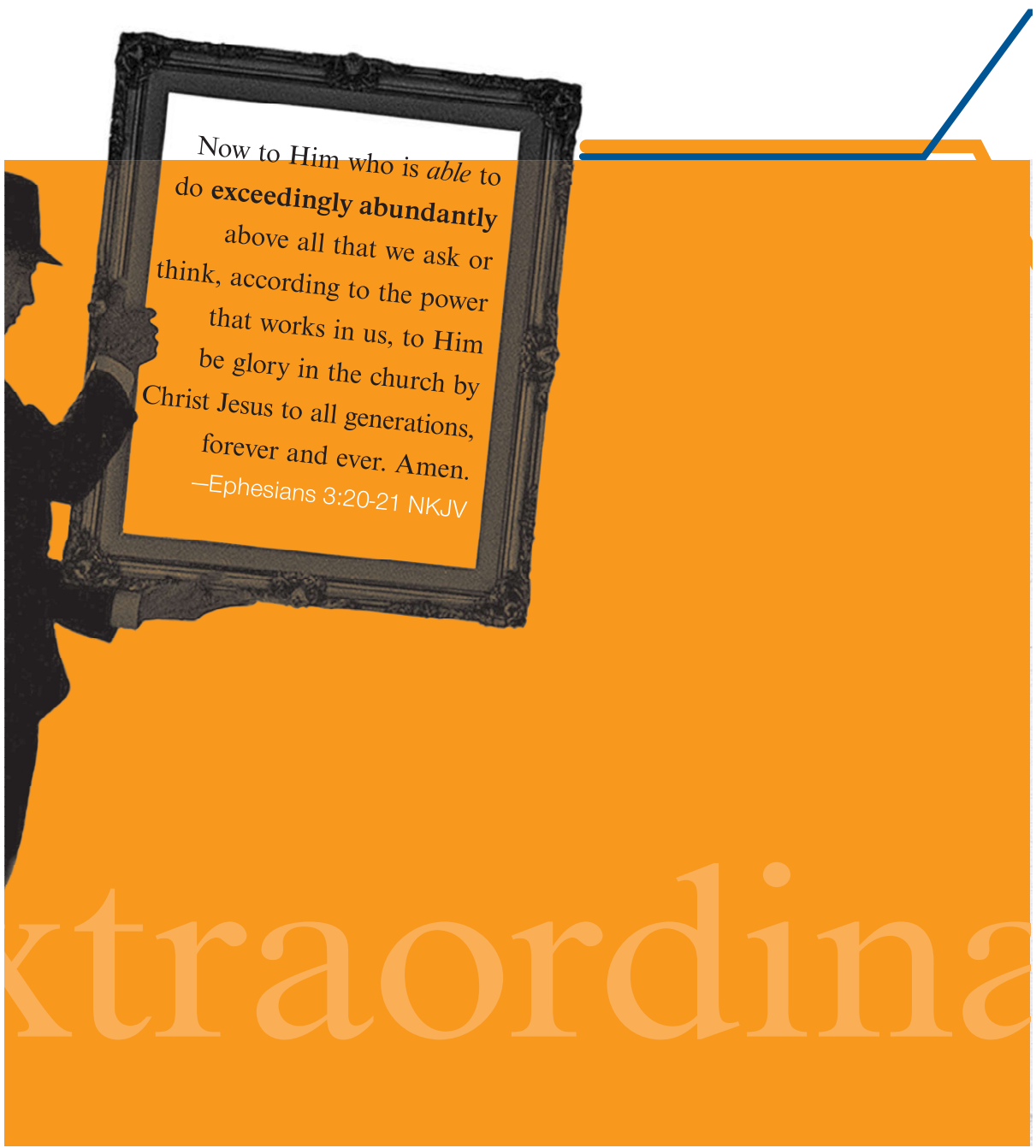
Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2
Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5
Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:25

PRAYER

1 Chronicles 16:11
Psalm 4:3; Proverbs 15:29
Matthew 7:7-11; 26:41; Luke 18:1
Colossians 4:2; James 5:13; Revelation 5:8

NOTES

1. Adapted from *Merriam-Webster's Desk Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: Merriam Webster, Inc. 1995).
2. C.H. Spurgeon, *All of Grace* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1981) pp. 56-57.
3. Dr. Lester Sumrall, *Faith Can Change Your World* (South Bend, IN: Sumrall Publishing, 1999) p. 24.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 66.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 13.
6. F.B. Meyer, *Abraham: The Obedience of Faith* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2001) p. 70.
7. See note 2, p. 57.
8. Jeanne Guyon, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ* (Jacksonville, FL: SeedSowers Publishing, MC-MLXXV) pp. 3-4.
9. See note 1.



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, to Him
be glory in the church by
Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.
—Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

xtraordinary