

# We Need God's Grace

## Scripture

"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel." (1 Chronicles 21:1 NKJV)

## Thesis

Believers are dependent upon God for protection and direction.

## Commentary

We probably don't give it as much thought as we ought, but we are dependent upon God for our protection and direction. Without the restraining hand of God, the enemies of the cross, always vigilant in their watch for weakness, seek to wreck havoc on our lives. If you are experiencing blessings of peace and comfort, it is because God is holding off the hoards of demons. Without that protection, we would surely fall.

David was exposed to Satan's attack so that we might learn the valuable lesson to trust God alone. David failed because he sought something beyond God. Pride, greed, or distrust in God moved him to number the people. The moment he embraced this wickedness, he forsook the Lord. The consequences were devastating taking the lives of seventy thousand men in Israel (1 Chron. 21:14).

There will always be temptations to take things into your own hands. I am not talking about letting go and letting God do everything. Some have allowed a good deal of harm to come from such foolishness. We must always act prudently. God does not want us to look for miraculous cures for issues when He has given us clear biblical directions. However, He does want us to bathe everything we do in prayer, and to evaluate all our actions in light of Scripture.

This admonition is summed up in the following passage. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV).

If you are being tempted to run ahead of the Lord, remember David's failure. He was unwilling to trust God at this point in his life and many were hurt. Whatever you are facing, make sure you spend some time praying and researching the clear teachings of Scripture. Advice from pastors and friends may be helpful to confirm a decision, but only time spent with God will deliver a good choice. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path!

## Prayer

God we are not very patient people. We want immediate gratification, and often run ahead of you. Forgive us when we take things into our own hands. Lord, we must make decisions in life, so give us opportunity to seek you whenever possible. Some things come at us so quickly that we have very little time to pray and meditate, but most decisions give us ample time to consult you. Teach us to depend upon your grace. We are unable to stand without it. Keep us from the tempter that our foot should not slip, amen.