



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 129

## **To Him Who Is Able**

Jude 24-25

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

Brothers and sisters, as I was meditating on this scripture a thought came to mind. It was a thought that invokes the power of the Lord Jesus Christ into our lives through faith. I mean it in a way that beholds Him in his glory and the work that He accomplished on the cross at Calvary and just how significant it is in our lives.

Again, as I was reflecting on this, it brought me back to the moment I was saved, and of when I knew that I knew that I knew that God had spoken to me and also of that power that came into my life to bring a transformation to make me into a new creation. This reflection was of just how clear these things were in my life (the power of God to transform). Another part of this reflection brought me to how, now, many years later, it seems at moments that the things that were once so clear (the power of God to transform) are now a distant reality. Then as you yourselves are very well aware of, as time goes on, we begin to forget the power of God and forget to apply that power in our lives through faith alone. But we see the Word of God tell a different story, "*now to him, who is able to keep you from stumbling.*"

So not only was the power of God able to save you and to deliver you, but it is able to keep you from stumbling. Now I know maybe in today's Christian circles we see a lot of people where the common theme seems to be backsliding. I know of many people that had professed Christ and were delivered from sin in their life and then reverted back to it.

My wife and I were reflecting upon this idea in the church, and how you know,

it's so easy to fall away from understanding the true power of God through Jesus Christ and what He accomplished on the cross. Also how easy it was in the beginning to look to Jesus and say, *'wow, he is all powerful,'* and today we look at Him and just think well he is just all-forgiving. And while that's true, He is all-forgiving, there's another side to the coin brothers and sisters. And that is, He is able and powerful to keep you from stumbling.

There are many many today in our Christian circles that would say, *'well, that's impossible because we're going to sin in thought, word, and deed every day.'*

But when I read the Scriptures and I mean really take a step back from any theological construct that I was taught or understanding that I received prior and just rely on the Word as written, it very simply says,

*"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."*

Brothers and sisters when I read that passage of Scripture, I recognize that the other side of the coin is the power of God is not just there to save you, but also to keep you. It's not just forgiveness. Forgiveness is a major component, but it's not to be separated from the power of God to transform.

I reflect on all the biblical examples of people like the woman with the issue of blood who said, if I just touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed.

You know, I wonder if we would take that same pose about the sin in our lives. I wonder, brothers and sisters, if we would be able to reflect upon the power of Jesus Christ and stop just coming to him for forgiveness, but to come to Him for transformation through the power of the cross.

Jesus made so many radical statements such Like the one found in Matthew 10:38 that says,

*"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."*

And you know, when I reflect on that, and I reflect on the sinfulness that has just infiltrated Christ's church today, I wonder, have people forgotten about the power of God? We're so ready to receive forgiveness, but are we ready to receive power to deliver us from the power of sin?

You know, I think when we come to the cross initially that we profoundly experience the magnitude of our sin in light of the magnitude of God's grace and they just clash together and this heavenly power comes upon us and transforms us and makes us a new creation. But I wonder, are we living out of

that new creation? Are we living from within that new creation? Are we allowing the power of God to keep us from stumbling?

There's another passage of scripture that I like to reflect on in regards to this. It is something that the Apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:5-11, that says,

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence add to your faith, virtue to virtue, knowledge to knowledge, self-control to self-control, perseverance to perseverance, godliness to godliness, brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love."*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

We're so thankful to God for His Word that gives us the right perspective. It gives us the tools that, when applied through faith, can keep us from stumbling. When we keep our gaze upon the Lord Jesus Christ, the Scriptures say that He can keep us from stumbling and present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

Isn't that absolutely wonderful, in saying that it is a joyous thing for Jesus to work the work of salvation in your life? There is another Scripture in Philippians 2:13 that touches on this as well,

*"for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*

I think a common theme today that needs to be balanced correctly with the Scriptures, is that not only does Jesus forgive, but He also has the power to save us and keep us from our sins. And so brothers and sisters we want to approach Christ through faith and through the eyes of hope in what He has promised us in His Word, that He is able to keep us from stumbling.

This really encouraged me because there are times that my mind goes astray, that the flesh wages war against the Spirit of God within me and I feel the pressure as well as the groaning in the birth pangs from within the fight of good

and evil. We're not promised to be exempt from temptations, but we are promised to have the power of Jesus Christ to be able to overcome.

Sin today has just run so rampant that people just accept sin as normalcy as if forgiveness is a license to sin. And maybe we wouldn't say that with our words, but maybe we say it with our actions.

And so brothers and sisters, this is just a quick moment in the Word to reflect on what Jude said in verse 24-25, and also what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:5-11.

Along with this, we can understand what was said in 2 Peter 1:3- when he said,

*“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”*

That is to say that everything we need to overcome sin and evil has been provided for us through great and precious promises fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is able to save us and forgive us brothers and sisters, but He is also able to keep us for the day that He returns.

The question is for you and also for me, do we really believe that Jesus has the power to keep us from stumbling in the here and now? It's a question that we need to reflect on before the God of heaven so that we can renew our minds and be transformed by it.

As the Word of God says, He is able to keep us from stumbling, and I don't know about you, but temptation fights against me day in and day out and it's refreshing to be able to look to Jesus and say, *'wow, you already paid the price for me to be able to overcome this and it is not in my strength, but in Yours Lord.'*

All of us as believers in Jesus Christ can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

We're just so overwhelmed by God and His goodness and just want to share that with you. Blessings to you brothers and sisters! May God fill you with wonder and awe at His perfect work He is doing in and through you to the glory of Jesus Christ.

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In Christ's Love,  
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