



Ephesians 2:4-10 (NCV)

DO GOOD WORKS

DR. MARCUS CAMPBELL, SENIOR PASTOR  
ELECT LADY JAJUANA CAMPBELL, FIRST LADY



# Ephesians 2:4-6 NCV

<sup>4</sup> But GOD's mercy is great, and HE loved us very much.

<sup>5</sup> Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against GOD, HE gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by GOD's Grace.

<sup>6</sup> And HE raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens. HE did this for those in Christ Jesus



# Ephesians 2:7-9 NCV

<sup>7</sup> so that for all future time HE could show the very great riches of HIS grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from GOD.

<sup>9</sup> It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it.



# Ephesians 2:10 NCV

<sup>10</sup> GOD has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, GOD made us to do good works, which GOD planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

➤ **An obstacle is an event or occurrence in life that presents a challenge, or difficulty.**

✓ **Slow us down**

✓ **Stop our progress**

✓ **Used for motivation**



# Obstacles of Life

- **Obstacles:**
  - ✓ **Are allowed by GOD.**
  - ✓ **Help us develop strong character.**
  - ✓ **Primary purpose is to divert attention.**
- **Distraction is an object that directs one's attention away from something else; something that causes mental confusion.**



# Obstacles are Distractions

- **Every obstacle is a distraction.**
  - ✓ **Distractions:**
    - ❑ Change our ability to concentrate on GOD.
    - ❑ Shift our focus towards ungodly things.
    - ❑ Can be overcome with faith in GOD.
- **GOD IS FAITHFUL!**



# Faithfulness of GOD

***Deuteronomy 7:9 NCV, “<sup>9</sup> So know that The LORD Your GOD is GOD, the faithful GOD. HE will keep HIS agreement of love for a thousand lifetimes for people who love HIM and obey HIS commands.”***

***2 Timothy 2:13 NCV, “<sup>13</sup> If we are not faithful, He [Christ] will still be faithful, because He must be true to Who He Is.***

***2 Thessalonians 3:3 NCV, “<sup>3</sup> But The Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil One.”***



# Faithfulness of GOD (Page 2)

- **Obstacles are a distraction technique used by GOD as a development technique.**
- **GOD is preparing you for your next season.**
- **Vision is required for the journey not the next step.**
- **An enemy of vision is distraction.**
- **Focus is directed attention; a point of concentration.**



# Time to Focus

## ➤ **Stop:**

- ✓ **Tapping out;**
- ✓ **Quitting;**
- ✓ **Making Excuses;**
- ✓ **Blaming Others; and,**
- ✓ **Choosing Comfort**



## Time to Focus (Page 2)

***Proverbs 4:25 NCV, “<sup>25</sup> Keep your eyes focused on what is right, and look straight ahead to what is good.”***

***St. Matthew 24:12-13 NCV, “<sup>12</sup> There will be more and more evil in the world, so most people will stop showing their love for each other. <sup>13</sup> But those people who keep their faith until the end will be saved.”***

***Romans 12:21 NCV, “<sup>21</sup> Do not let evil defeat you, but defeat evil by doing good.”***



# Remain Focused

➤ **Remaining focus on Christ positions and protects us.**

***Romans 5:1 NCV, “<sup>1</sup> Since we have been made right with GOD by our faith, we have peace with GOD. This happened through our Lord Jesus Christ,”***

***Hebrews 13:6 NCV, “<sup>6</sup> So we can be sure when we say, ‘I will not be afraid, because The Lord is my helper. People can’t do anything to me.’”***



# Character of Selfishness

- **Selfishness is a human trait displayed by all.**
- **Selfishness is a concern for one's own welfare, or advantage at the expense of, or in disregard of others; excessive interest in oneself.**

***1 Corinthians 10:24 NCV, “<sup>24</sup> Do not look out only for yourselves. Look out for the good of others also.”***

***Philippians 2:4 NCV, “<sup>4</sup> Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.”***



# Point 1 — We have been Saved by GOD's Grace vs. 5d

“<sup>5</sup> Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against GOD, HE gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by GOD's Grace.”

- ❑ **Saved** — *to be set aside; delivered or redeemed from sin*
- ❑ **Grace** — *a state of sanctification; unmerited assistance*
- **Good works accompany salvation.**
  - ❖ **Psalms 60:5 NCV**, “<sup>5</sup> Answer us and save us by YOUR power so the people YOU love will be rescued.



## Point 1 — We have been Saved by GOD's Grace vs. 5d (Page 2)

“<sup>5</sup> Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against GOD, HE gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by GOD's Grace.”

➤ **Good works accompany grace.**

❖ **Romans 6:14 NKJV**, “<sup>14</sup> For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”



## Point 2 — We have been Raised Up with Christ vs. 6a

“<sup>6</sup> And HE raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens. HE did this for those in Christ Jesus.”

□ **Raise** — *to cause or help to rise to a standing position; awaken or arouse*

➤ **GOD has helped us up.**

❖ **St. John 10:10 NCV,** “<sup>10</sup> A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.”



## Point 2 — We have been Raised Up with Christ vs. 6a (Page 2)

“<sup>6</sup> And HE raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens. HE did this for those in Christ Jesus.”

➤ **GOD has awoken our spirit.**

❖ **Romans 13:11 NCV,** “<sup>11</sup> Do this because we live in an important time. It is now time for you to wake up from your sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”



## Point 3 — We have been Given a Seat with Christ vs. 6b

“<sup>6</sup> And HE raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens. HE did this for those in Christ Jesus.”

❑ **Given** — *to grant or bestow; to put into the possession of another for his or her use*

➤ **GOD has predestined us.**

❖ **St. John 14:1-2 NCV**, “<sup>1</sup> Jesus said, ‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in GOD, and trust in Me. <sup>2</sup> There are many rooms in My FATHER’s house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you.’”



## Point 3 — We have been Given a Seat with Christ vs. 6b (Page 2)

“<sup>6</sup> And HE raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens. HE did this for those in Christ Jesus.”

➤ **GOD has promoted us.**

❖ **Psalms 75:6-7,** “<sup>6</sup> For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. <sup>7</sup> But GOD is the judge: HE putteth down one, and setteth up another.”



## Point 4 — We have been Saved through Faith vs. 8a

“<sup>8</sup> I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from GOD.”

**Believe** — *to consider to be true or honest; to accept the word or evidence of*

➤ **We are empowered by faith.**

❖ **St. Luke 1:37 NCV**, “<sup>37</sup> GOD can do anything!”

➤ **GOD leverages our faith.**

❖ **St. Mark 9:23 NCV**, “<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to the father, ‘You said ‘If you can!’ All things are possible for the one who believes.’”

A man in a dark suit and carrying a briefcase stands at the center of a crossroads. The road is paved and has four large white arrows pointing outwards in different directions. The background shows a hazy city skyline with various skyscrapers under a bright sky.

# DO GOOD WORKS

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