

## Rhythms of Grace Part 2: Standing in Grace

*(Matthew 11:28 MSG) "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

### Struggling

*(2 Corinthians 11:23-28 ESV) Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.*

*(2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NLT) Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."*

### Standing in Grace

*(Romans 5:1-2 NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

#### 1. Make peace with God.

*(Romans 8:31 NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*(Romans 14:4 NASB) Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

*(Romans 5:3 NIV) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.*

## **2. Decide that persevering is my only option.**

*(Ephesians 6:10-11 NASB) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

*(Proverbs 3:34 NASB) Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.*

*(Romans 5:3-4a) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character.*

## **3. Build character.**

*(1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV) Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.*

*(Romans 5:3-5 NIV) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

## **4. Invite hope to live on the inside.**

*(Ephesians 4:4 NCV) God has called you to one hope.*