



Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
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Appreciating the Love of God

Many years ago I watched some kind of circus movie, most of which I have long forgotten. But there was a particular dialogue that has stayed with me all these years. The lion tamer was explaining to someone about the difficulty of getting a lion to jump through a hoop of fire. He told how that the act had been seen so often that many people considered it a small simple feat of little significance. He went on to explain that training a lion to jump through fire was extraordinarily difficult, perhaps the most difficult of all circus acts, due to the lion's natural animosity toward fire. The lion considers fire his only real natural enemy, and has a powerful inbuilt aversion to it. To overcome this hatred of fire and make the lion willing to jump through a ring of flames requires tremendous patience and skill.

Without understanding the lion's hatred of fire, the jump means almost nothing. But when you grasp the lion's true nature, you can appreciate all that had to go on to make the jump possible.

When I read books like Paul's epistle to the Romans, I can't help but see this same principle demonstrated in God's grace extended to all humanity through His Son Jesus Christ. I

fear Americans have heard only the positive side of the gospel so often that the idea of God's willingness to forgive and accept sinners into His family has become humdrum to many. Too often the attitude of the unconverted seems to be, "Yes, of course God will accept me, if I should choose to come to Him. But I'm not sure I want to just yet. Perhaps later on – we'll see."

Such a blasé attitude is the natural result of those who are constantly told of God's goodness and love, but almost never hear of His severity and hatred of sin. The Scriptures tell us, "Behold the goodness *and* the severity of God..." Like the lion with the fire, our holy and awesome Creator has an inbuilt animosity toward sin. He who is "of purer eyes than to behold evil" hates sin in all its varied forms and manifestations. He who shows such tender compassion toward the weak is also "angry with the wicked every day."

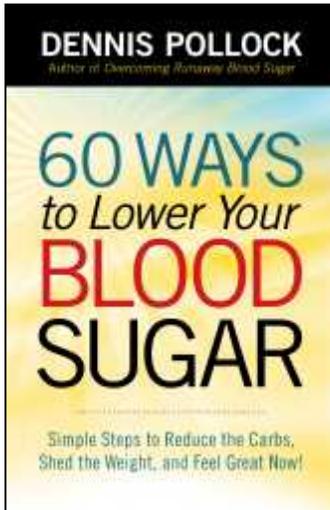
It is only as we consider the majestic and fearful holiness of God that we can fully appreciate His incredible love and mercy. Calvary is best viewed in light of Mount Sinai. The same God who extended forgiveness to the blaspheming and church-persecuting Saul of Tarsus struck Ananias and Saphira dead when they dared lie to the Holy Spirit in the presence of the saints. The same Jesus who refused to condemn the woman caught in adultery plainly told her to "go and sin no more."



By minimizing God's holiness and hatred for sin, pastors often think they are doing people a favor. They can draw them with honey, and later on the new converts can learn that God may still get upset about certain things. But we do people no favor when we withhold from them the very essence of the One we yearn for them to know. The cross never shines so brightly as when it is portrayed in the light of God's majestic holiness. Indeed, it is that very holiness that made the cross an absolute necessity.

The concepts of repentance and the holiness of God are not antiquated notions no longer relevant to modern Americans. **As long as people still sin, and as long as God is still holy, there will be a need for preachers and teachers to emphasize these things.** And having made plain that "the way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord," we can then proclaim the glad tidings, "For God **so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."

Special Gift Offer



Request this book when you make a donation to the ministry this month of \$20 or more:

We are offering Dennis' latest book, "60 Ways to Lower Your Blood Sugar." This book has been a best-seller for Harvest House Publishers, and Dennis has received numerous emails from grateful readers who testified of victory in the area of blood sugar:

"Dennis...Other than my nephew, this is the first time I have contacted an author of a book. I have just completed reading your book "60 Ways to Lower Your Blood Sugar." Since I've been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, I have read close to 20-30 books on the subject. I finished reading (your book) this morning and it is the first book on diabetes I've read that has made sense. You have a down-to-earth way of communicating...very straight-forward and easy to understand. Plus, your humor was an added bonus. I have been making changes daily, as I read your book. I just want to let you know I appreciate you. I can finally understand the dangers of diabetes and what I need to do on my part. I thank you so much." (Chris)

"I was recently diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and when the Doctor told me, it was (as) if he had just told me I was going to die in a short time and I was really down on myself. I picked up a copy of your book (*60 Ways to Lower Your Blood Sugar*) and after reading it I changed my mind completely about my situation. I started counting carbs and testing my blood sugar and with the change in diet, exercise, medicine, and a lot of prayer within a month my fasting blood sugar is normal (down 32 points) and my A1C is normal (down 6 points) and I feel really great both mentally and physically." (Carl)

"I just finished reading your book, *60 Ways to Lower Your Blood Sugar*, and wanted to tell you that it was one of the best (down to earth) books on the topic that I have ever read, and I enjoyed immensely. I have been a Type 2 diabetic for over 15 years and have gone up and down with the numbers..... I learned more from your, hands on, book than I did from these (so called) professionals in the field." (Ann)

"Last year, an A1C test revealed my score was 13. My blood sugar had been out of control for years and my doctor kept prescribing more drugs that clearly did not work. I began following your diet advice three months ago and retested today. My score is now 6.2. I continue to read other books about controlling diabetes. Some have all kinds overly technical, vague and/or conflicting advice. Your recommendations are clear and, most importantly, work. I can't thank you enough." (Rich)

Again and again we hear testimonies from men and women, declaring that the principles Dennis shares in this simple book really work! If you have diabetes, or are pre-diabetic, or if someone you care about is in one of these categories, request this book when you donate to SOGM!

FRIENDS OF GRACE



Spirit of Grace Ministries is primarily supported by a small group of regular givers, whom we call "Friends of Grace." These are the men and women God uses to enable us to do all that we do.

Friends of Grace are our supporters who contribute a minimum of \$25 per month. When you give any gift of \$300 or more you are automatically placed on our "Friends" list for one year. We will send you monthly Audio Devo CDs containing five audio devotional messages on each CD. Also you will automatically be sent our mission reports on DVD as soon as they are available. Not only will you be blessed by the teachings we will regularly send you, but more importantly, you will be helping us spread the word of the Lord to the nations! If this teaching ministry has been a blessing to you, please pray about regularly supporting SOGM as a Friend of Grace.