

SUFFICIENT
Grace
FOR THE
JOURNEY

*How a Carolina Tomboy
Became a *Woman of God**

MELISSA HALSTEAD



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Sufficient Grace for the Journey E-Book
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Jesus, for giving me the strength and courage to finish my journey. To God be the glory!

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A special thank you to my spouse, who endured late nights and countless revisions with me, and a smile to my daughter, who encouraged me for many years to write a book.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

i	Introduction	1
1	Chapter One	6
2	Chapter Two	10
3	Chapter Three	24
4	Chapter Four	33
5	Chapter Five	37
6	Chapter Six	41
7	Chapter Seven	53
8	Chapter Eight	62
9	Chapter Nine	67
10	Chapter Ten	82
11	Chapter Eleven	85
12	Chapter Twelve	94

INTRODUCTION

I will be the first to tell you how unworthy I am to write this book. But God's words are so worthy to be heard. Without Him I am nothing.

While I was laying in my bed praying about writing this book, I said, "God help me to write what we all need to hear and understand. Help me to be one of Your servants to Your word and help me to say only what You would have me to say." He responded, "Explain to others who are saved by My grace that they are only passing through this world to a better world."

We are not to get distraught and burdened down with the things of this world because it is not our home. You are only here as a witness and servant for God. You will never feel fully at home in this world because you don't belong here. We have all sinned and will continue to sin as long as we are here in this world, because this world is a sinful place that Satan has corrupted. This is no excuse, this is truth. This world is corrupt, violent, angry, and hostile toward the things of God and if you choose to follow God, the devils of this world will try to kill you. They

want your soul, your mind, and your spirit.

The difference between the saved and the unsaved is that the saved choose to walk with Christ, to believe in Him and His word. We choose to study Him through His word, and we know and believe that He took our sins to the cross with Him and died in our place. The unsaved choose not to believe in Him or that He came and took their sins with Him to the cross. Some even believe if they are good enough by being good to others and taking care of “mother earth” that their reward is Heaven when they die. This is a lie the devil has told them, and one they choose to believe.

As Jesus said to Moses in Exodus 3:14, “And GOD said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM,” He also says to us in John 14:6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by me.’” You can only be saved by believing in Jesus Christ. There is no other way!! You must believe for yourself and demonstrate your faith by the way you live your life. As James 2:26 says, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Think back to when you were a child and the belief you had in Santa Claus. No matter what anyone told you, you still believed there was a Santa Clause. This is the simple, child-like faith God wants you to have in Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the

cross. Believe that He is real, and believe that He came just to save you because He loves you. He is pleased with us just because we believed in Him. John 6:28-29 says, “Then said they into him, ‘What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.’” The one thing that is required of you is that you believe in the one whom God has sent. This is the first step of your journey, where it all begins by taking the first step toward Christ.

I'm so thankful He doesn't say clean yourself up and get your house in order then I will save you. He says come as you are right now. You may be in a state of confusion, you may be hurt, angry, or even broken, you may feel like no one loves you or ever will love you, but Christ is saying to you, “Come to me, come as you are, let me help you, let me love you, I can fix the brokenness you feel and put you back together with a love you have never known.” He is saying to you, “I can take away the confusion and anger and replace it with the peace and joy in your soul. I will replace the hurt you feel with happiness and love.”

You have one job to do to come to Him and believe that He can do what He says He will do. Most people will not do this, partly because of pride, partly because we often feel that we are too broken for anyone to fix, and partly because we have

always had to do things on our own and therefore, we don't trust anyone to fix it for us. We overlook the fact He is God and not man. He will not fail us the way that people have.

Personally, I was the one no one could fix. In my mind, I had made the mess in my life, and I was supposed to fix it. I was supposed to clean it up. I remember one time going to my grandma's as a young woman, I still called her Granny. At the time, my husband was abusing me and I had two young children at home. I never told her that my husband was abusive, I just told her that I needed a place to stay for a little while. Her response back to me was, "You made your bed; you lay in it." I was deeply hurt by those words for a long time, but I understood what she was saying. She was saying, "Don't give up just because things seem hard, you can make it work." If I could go back now and talk to myself then, I would tell myself, "When going through difficult times, give it to God. He will see you through, He will make things work for your good and His Glory."

Let me just say here, abuse is never acceptable, but you must be honest with people when and if you need help. You must tell them the whole truth. I didn't tell my granny the whole story, so she just thought I was having normal marital issues and wanted to quit, to give up. She didn't have all the details, and I was too ashamed and embarrassed to tell her everything that

was happening to me. I was also too prideful to admit that she was right, I was too young for marriage and motherhood, and too stubborn to listen to her godly wisdom.

One of the best things about serving the LORD is that He already knows and sees *all* that is happening to you, and He can fix it when you cry out to Him. Pray for the LORD to show you where to go and what to do next. He will open doors for you and if the door closes, then He will open a window. He will always make a way for you. My granny was a God-fearing woman who loved the LORD and always tried her best to do what His word says. There was always a peace about her because of her walk with the LORD. I felt this peace from her and craved it in my life but in my youth, I didn't understand that the peace she had was coming from her walk with the LORD.

My hope and prayer is that by reading this book, you will be stirred in your heart to want the peace that my granny had and that thankfully, I now also have because I am fully walking with Christ. I will share with you my story and how God rescued me from myself, the one no one else could fix...but Christ could, and He did. I want the same for you.

CHAPTER ONE

My grandma, which is to say my mom's mother, died when I was 6, almost 7. It was June. I had seen my grandma in a dream, in Heaven. She was dying of cancer in her bed at her home. She had taken a turn for the worse, and they called my mom to drive her to the hospital. Of course, I had to go with my mom. They placed my grandma in the back seat of my mom's car. On our way to the hospital, I was looking over the front seat into the back seat, I remember Grandma throwing up on the way to the hospital.

That night was when I had the dream. I dreamed that Grandma was in Heaven. She was standing on the other side of the small river. I looked down at the river and it was crystal clear. I could see all the small smooth rocks in my dream, and the water looked to be about 10 feet wide. She was wearing a white flowing gown. I could see beautiful flowers everywhere, of all colors. Colors I didn't know and had never seen before. There were rocks piled on each side of a small waterfall on my right. Grandma was standing directly across the water from me with her

arms opened wide, smiling. She was in a field of flowing grass. She would open her arms like this when we would go visit. She would say, “Don’t let the screen door slam!” as we would come running through the back door and down the hall of the old house. She always seemed to be standing in the kitchen. The door to the kitchen was on the left just down the hall and it was always open. Grandma would always hold her arms open wide, and I would wrap my arms around her waist as she wrapped her arms completely around me with a hug. That very same night that I had this dream, she died at the hospital.

A few days later when we were at her graveside, I couldn't cry because I kept seeing her across from me at the river. She wasn't sick or throwing up, she was happy with a huge smile on her face, and her arms were open wide waiting to hug us. How could I cry over that? Several of my family members said to me, “Why are you not crying?” That was when I told everyone about my dream. I don't know if they believed me then, but I know they will see her when they reach Heaven.

In my life, this is how I have pictured Christ. He is standing with his arms open wide saying, “Come to me, join me in Heaven, let me hold you, let me comfort you, let me help you.” He is constantly standing there waiting and calling for anyone and

everyone who will only believe in Him. He is there at the door, as Revelation 3:20-21 says, “Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.”

The LORD is saying to us, “I stand at your heart’s door and knock. If you will open your heart’s door by believing in me, I will come into your heart to live with you.” When you have finished the work I have for you here on this earth, then you will come into Heaven and sit with Jesus in His seat. I picture this as sitting in an oversized chair waiting for my children or grandchildren to come visit. When they come into my home, which is their home, I want them to come right over and sit down with me so I can hold them, speak with them and especially, so I can love on them.

This is how your Father in Heaven feels about you. He loves you. If you want to know Him and what He can do for you or in your life, you must spend time with Him. Like any relationship, whatever time you put into it dictates how much it grows. Similar to a plant in a garden, if you want it to grow you must feed it, talk to it, and water it. This is what you must do with your relationship with Christ. You

must spend the time to get to know Him by reading His word, listening to music that glorifies Him, talking to Him, listening for Him to talk to you, and talking to others about Him. If you want the relationship to die, then just sit on the church pew, act like you are listening and go back out and do nothing. This is rejecting God's offer to have a relationship with you. You are starving your spiritual soul, and it will surely die. It is this simple.