



# Morning Glory!

Oh God, thou art my God;  
Early will I seek thee:  
My soul thirsteth for thee



Psalm 63:1

## **The Marks of Christ-Centered Achievement: Keeping Your Eyes on the Prize #4 EMBRACE THE GRACE!**

**“...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind,  
and reaching forth unto those things which are before,  
I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”**

**Philippians 4:13-14**

If we are not careful we can slip into falsely believing that our progress in Christian living and ministry is the result of the stuff we do. We can become dangerously close to thinking that if we follow the formula or pursue the pattern of the latest popular Christian icon, we will arrive at our desired place of blessing. Doing the “right” thing becomes making sure we do certain things exactly like “Bishop So in So” or “Dr. So in So” or “Pastor So in So” said to do it. We turn our faith into a series of practices as though it were a science of some sort. By doing this we empty our faith of its personal nature, and betray the intimacy God desires for us to have with Him.

***Yes, let us celebrate our progress in discipline,  
our renewed focus and our divine direction.***

***But as we bask under the influence of the anointing;  
enjoying the blessed help God has given us through His people,  
let us not forget that every good thing we receive is a gift from God.***

***And remember, gifts are not earned, they are given!***

You can read all the right books and pray all the right prayers and exercise all the right formulas for success, but if God’s grace is not assigned, nothing will come to pass. Let us never forget that the first thing to embrace is God. The most important revelation is the revelation of His love and the intimacy He longs to share with us. Grace is God’s bestowal of favor and blessing upon your life and ministry which you can do nothing to earn. With God, you’re blessed like you’re blessed because of who you are (a child of the King), not because of what you’ve done. Once you embrace the grace, you rest in the confident assurance that goodness and mercy follows your every move. You understand clearly the key to your success. It’s not what you know, it’s Who you know. And more importantly, it’s really about Who knows you! Hallelujah!

**Pray this:**

**Lord of glory, I embrace your grace.  
Thank you for the irreversible decree of blessing and favor  
You have bestowed upon my life.**

**(COPYRIGHT DR. VERNON PERCY HOWARD JR.)**

