

position. We have been set free from legal obedience for justification and righteousness, and yet we have been commanded to live a life of love toward God and neighbor.

Moreover, the Gospel of free grace also undergirds us in the midst of our own **personal failures** and the **great trials** and difficulties that we face in our daily lives. The hope and assurance (the confident assertions of faith) that God is in control of our circumstances and that He is working everything for our ultimate good in order to conform us into the image of Christ, is a **bulwark against despair and discouragement**. The fact that our forgiveness and redemption is an accomplished reality that can never be changed gives us much faith in the midst of the doubt that personal sinfulness and failure can cause. The indicative promises of God's favor toward us in Christ and His ultimate triumph in sanctifying us **reminds us that God loves us** in spite of our struggle with sin and that **He forgives us** and is **using even our failures** to conform us into Christ's image.

1 John 1:6-10 - 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but **if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.** 8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** 9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 10 **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.** NASB

Romans 8:1-4 - 1 **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, **He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. NASB

Romans 8:28-36 - 28 And **we know that God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,** that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and **whom He justified, these He also glorified.** 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?** 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, **who also intercedes for us.** 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** NASB

1 John 5:4-5 - 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and **this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.** 5 And who is the one who overcomes the world, but **he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** NASB

See in these indicative promises the great triumph and victory that is ours no matter what we face or how we fail if we believe in Christ holding fast our hope in Him and His righteousness alone.

However, the **imperatives** are the fruit of having benefitted from the **indicatives**. They are the proper expression of the powerful grace of God that changes us into the ever increasing likeness of Christ. This is clearly taught in the New Testament.

Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For **the grace of God has appeared,** bringing salvation to all men, **12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,** 13 looking for the blessed **hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.** NASB