

*Making “Nothing” Count  
through the Power of God*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2000

Grace Publications is a ministry of  
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> .....	5
<i>Chapter 1</i> .....	7
<i>ZEROES ARE GOD'S HEROES</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i> .....	11
<i>THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i> .....	17
<i>FROM GLORY TO GLORY HE'S CHANGING US</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION</i>	24



## INTRODUCTION

This booklet presents a thought that could serve as a solution for every detail of our lives. It is meekness.

Meekness is understanding that all power in heaven and in earth was given to Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). Meekness is seeing that Christ is all and in all: that we are nothing, yet in Him “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28a).

God is everything: without Him we can do nothing and are nothing. Therefore, the Christian servant who is meek recognizes that he who plants, as well as he who waters, is nothing because it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). But he also realizes that meekness is the *opposite* of weakness. As a nothing, a nobody, he hears the Word of God and is not offended. How can nothing get offended?

Having meekness is being strong in a position of surrender to God. It is knowing that Jesus

Christ is omnipresent and that He is going to judge every individual alone. People who operate in meekness can avoid projections, condemnation, and intimidation because they know they are nothing and can do nothing of themselves. These people know who God is, and they simply get out of God's way and let Him work. In this booklet, we will study the principle of how God can use nothings to do great things in His Kingdom.

## *Chapter One*

# ZEROES ARE GOD'S HEROES

In Christ we live and breathe. He has all power. He is everywhere present. Without Him, we are nothing—zero. Zero cannot be explained; its value is nothing. Therefore, how can zero become offended when it is already zero? A person who is a zero cannot be condemned because he has nothing to lose.

A person has to think that he is something or somebody to be condemned or offended. But, Psalm 22:26 says that “the meek shall eat and be satisfied.” Psalm 37:11 declares that “the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way” with His Holy Spirit (Psalm 25:9).

The meek eat the Word of God and are satisfied; they have an abundance of peace. What's more, God promises to guide and to teach His way to the meek. If we can remember these

things, we will never become offended.

### *The Danger of False Fellowship*

In Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Jesus Christ addresses seven churches, each one representing typical characteristics found among Christians in churches today. For example, in Revelation 2:9, speaking to the church in Smyrna, Jesus says, “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”

Because he saw that some people only follow God superficially as Christians, Satan has set up a false congregation. The father of lies has said, “If you want to follow God outwardly, then I will set up a religious system where you can do your thinking.”

Revelation 2:13-15, referring to the church in Pergamos, says that Satan’s seat is there. Though some in that church are believers who hold fast to the Word of God and to His name, others there hold on to doctrines of demons, committing fornication, disregarding God’s doctrine, and corrupting others. They do not have the doctrine, so Satan dwells there.

In Revelation 2:24, Jesus confronted those in



the church of Thyatira, saying that those who do not have doctrine cannot understand the depths of Satan.

Here is how it works: Satan says, "If you want to live in areas of disobedience, I will help you out. I will give you a place to go where I will dwell, and there you can continue in your self-justification. I will always be there to help you go your own way, but you won't know that it is me leading you."

No one is ever taught or changed unless he understands nothingness and meekness before God. Without meekness, he cannot become mature because he will be offended. He may act like he is changing, but he cannot change, because it takes God's power to change someone who is a nothing.

### *To Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure*

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling:

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

"Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

“Holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all” (Philippians 2:12-17).

The Lord Jesus Christ is getting us ready for eternity, taking us through trials in time that we will never have to go through again in the billions and billions of years we will live with Him.

*Chapter Two*

THE MINISTRY OF  
RECONCILIATION

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge that, if one died for all, then were all dead.

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

“Wherefore henceforth know we know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling

the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them: and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

When congregations pray for their pastor several times a day in great faith, the pastor will get just the right message from heaven. The moment he gets up to preach, he will receive exactly what he is supposed to have for his people for that moment. If the pastor is prepared and the congregation is praying, watch out! There will be a real revival according to the Word of God (Psalm 119:154).

There are all kinds of people in the congregation, with so many different needs. Some of them are great Spirit-filled people. And though they are nothing, when they pray in faith, the pastor will be loaded. When a nothing prays by faith, that faith pleases God; He is a rewarder of nothings who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

For example, when individuals need reconciliation for a situation, if they are praying for

their pastor, he may get up and preach on reconciliation at the very next service. The only thing they have to do is to hear the Word of God without receiving condemnation, intimidation, or projections. Christ becomes all in all by grace toward “nothings,” and they have a provision to be reconciled.

### *Overcoming Ought*

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

“Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).

Notice the point Christ is making here: It is not that *I* have ought against my brother, but that *he* has ought against me. The problem isn’t my fault—it is the other party’s. Still, I leave my gift and go to him to be reconciled. On the way, I agree with my adversary quickly (Matthew 5:25). In this case, the adversary is the Holy Spirit because He may have been quenched and grieved in an area of my life, perhaps due to resentment (see 1 Thessalonians 5:19 and Ephesians 4:30).

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that

I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

If I don’t agree with the Holy Spirit on the message that the pastor preaches and work it out through meekness and faith, then I will be delivered to the Judge (Jesus), and Jesus will deliver me to the Word (John 12:48). The Word is the officer, and it puts me in prison because I don’t want to receive the truth in that area. Instead of being a nothing, I acted like a “somebody,” trying to change self.

Oh, if people could understand the futility of living like this, trying to fight and win battles on their own, when we have a Savior who has already won for us. If Christians would appropriate the Finished Work in our daily lives, we would revolutionize the world of Christianity.

We should not consider a division to be someone else’s problem. Even when we don’t have anything against anyone, we are to purpose to be reconciled to those who have ought against us. Reconciliation within the Body of Christ always glorifies Jesus (Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31). We have a ministry of reconciliation because of the love of God, because of the New Creation, because old things are passed away. How did we get this ministry? Christ died

for us and reconciled us unto Himself through the blood He shed on the Cross (Colossians 1:20).

God gives every believer a ministry of reconciliation, and then He gives *the* word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Indicated by the definite article, “the word” refers to the precise words that will work in the situation at hand.

In the original text of 2 Timothy 4:6, the apostle Paul, soon to be executed in Rome, wrote, “I am ready to be poured out.” If we hear a message and God works it in us, then we are ready to pour it out to others. We offer up the sacrifice of Calvary (Philippians 2:7-8) to serve others.

Jesus said, in Matthew 11:30, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” According to Romans 8:1, there is no condemnation. When a person believes the Word, he gets delivered—just by believing (Proverbs 14:15). And when Philippians 2:12 says to “work out your own salvation,” that doesn’t mean *you* work it out. Rather, “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

God will perform what He asks us to do (Job 23:14). Let God work it out. We work out our salvation with reverence and trembling, for it is God who works in us both to will and to do of

His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

God works out what we call impossible, for nothing is impossible with Him (Luke 18:27). God not only does things through us, He also makes us willing to do them. He works these things out of nothings. But in Christ, a nothing is changed to a something.



### *Chapter Three*

## FROM GLORY TO GLORY, HE'S CHANGING US

A woman who had not been married very long was being beaten by her husband. She began going to church and listening to tapes and radio messages about the Finished Work, and she fell in love with God. She found out that Jesus died so that she could have His life in every situation. She also discovered that He loved her husband and had a plan for their lives. This woman, who could have continued to live as a victim, became such a servant.

After hearing a particularly powerful positive message, she went home, took her husband's hand, and said, "You are such a sweetheart—I adore you." As she hugged him, he broke and wept. The next Sunday he came to church and was saved. Now they come faithfully every Sunday.

What did this woman do? She left her gift at

the altar and went to be reconciled with a husband who abused her. In this case, the love of God she expressed was able to penetrate the old wounds that made him angry and hurtful. That love brought in an amazing deliverance.

Let me give another true story. In another situation, a woman was having an affair and her husband found out about it. Instead of becoming bitter, his heart began to be softened by the messages he was receiving in church.

He went home one night and said to his wife, "Honey, I am taking you out on a big date." They both dressed up and went out to one of the nicest restaurants in town. While they were driving home, he said to his wife, "I'm sorry that I haven't been a good husband, please forgive me." She was stunned. Later, in the middle of that night, she woke him up, got on her knees, made things right with God and with him, and was changed. They are always together in church, serving God faithfully now.

What did this husband do? He exercised a ministry of reconciliation through the Word of God as an ambassador here in Christ's stead. That is what Paul was saying to the Philippians, "I am ready to be offered up—to be poured out. I am going to offer the sacrifice of Calvary.

Christ laid down his life for me, so I am laying my life down for you” (see Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6).

### *Persistence Pays Off*

Years ago, a little girl in Maine would wait for me after every service and ask me to come visit her alcoholic parents. I had visited a couple times, but the couple would not respond.

“Are you coming today?” the little girl asked one Sunday.

“No, I am not coming today,” I said, and she walked away.

The next Sunday, she was waiting again.

“Are you coming today?” she said.

“No, I am only going to come once a month,” I told her.

“You must come today!” she said.

“But your mom and dad aren’t ready for Christ,” I told her.

“How do you know?” she said.

Convicted, I went to the house that day. I had been going off and on for about a year. This time, however, the father wasn’t drunk and the mother was still asleep. I started to share the Gospel to her daddy, but in the middle of it, I was broken by God. I said, “Sir, we just love you

and your family.”

That man, who had been so difficult to reach, was broken, too, and he went to get his wife. They both became gloriously saved. Later they were baptized and have been coming to church for all these years.

That little girl had a ministry of reconciliation. Then, God gave *me*—a real nothing in all of this—a word of reconciliation that brought her parents to Christ.

### *Let the Veil Be Taken Away*

“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

“Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:15-18).

When we look into the mirror of the Word, God changes us into the next step of His reflected image. This is what the original Greek indicates. And I love to sing that chorus that says,

*“From glory to glory, He’s changing me,*

*From earthly things to the heavenly....  
The love of God shown to the world!"*

You may not know it, but He is changing you as you read this. You may not feel changed, but I guarantee that the Word is going into your soul. The life of God is being processed in you, and the Holy Spirit through God's Word is changing you.

"But I make so many mistakes," you say.

What if you are making mistakes? When "nothing" makes a mistake, he is still nothing.

When we turn to Jesus, and gaze upon Him, and obey Him, and love Him, then the veil that stopped us from obeying God is taken away by the Holy Spirit. The mirror of God's Word changes us so that we reflect the attributes of His nature: reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, and joy. "Nothings" are changed into the image of God just to glorify the all-powerful One who is also all-knowing and everywhere present. He is the precious, holy, loving, and forgiving One. We are changed into His Spirit of glory. God changes "nothings"—simply by grace, through faith.

A man doesn't change himself; he just lets God do it. Oh, what this message could do for pretenders. Instead of always trying to please

God and people, do you realize how different life would be if, when you wake up, you would get on your knees, and fellowship with God to start every day? It doesn't matter how little or how long a time you spend. God will begin the process of change.

*Emptied Out for His Glory*

“Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed” (Jeremiah 48:11).

The problem with Moab was that when he heard the truth of God, he didn't let God work it out. Therefore, because God didn't work His nature out of Moab, there was no reflection, no pouring out.

The most glorious thing in the world is to receive something by grace, to get something through love and mercy, and just to let it flow out like a river to someone who doesn't deserve it. That is the most glorious thing in all the world for a Christian to experience. This is abundant life (John 10:10b).

“Come unto me and drink, and you will

never thirst again. The water that I give you will be everlasting water,” Jesus declared in John 4:14. “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, and out of his emotions shall flow rivers of living water” (see John 7:37-38).

All we have to do is drink His water. What comes in has to go out. These are wonderful, deep thoughts from the heart of God to us! All we have to do is let God do the work in us. It is the most precious thing in the world to understand.

“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25).

“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee” (Isaiah 44:22).

Even if we fail in our process of living, God is in control. Our failure doesn’t go out to people: It returns to God, for He has redeemed us. It goes back to the omnipotent One, the omnipresent One, the One who redeemed us. And He supplies another opportunity of faith, another opportunity to be changed into glory, another opportunity to respond to forgiveness.

## CONCLUSION

If you have come to this point and are still feeling condemned and intimidated by projections, you must understand that nothing has been asked of you. Exalt the One who lives in you; that is all you have to do. Let God work things out His way with your capacity, and stop being condemned.

Just reading this message over and over again would do amazing things in your heart. You would be shocked at what that kind of repetition will do to a nothing. We offer up the sacrifice—which speaks of Calvary. He laid down His life for us, and we do the same through the very same Spirit that was in Christ's humanity (1 John 3:16).

This principle could revive Christianity, regardless of the denomination. This message could revolutionize an individual, a marriage, and a business. It could transform the soul of any believer who has God.



This settles everything. According to Psalm 119:38, we become established by having His Word established in us—“nothings,” used by God to do great things as we represent His kingdom.