

SAVED *by* GRACE:

A Second Chance



By

Amachi Iheanyichukwu Emmanuel

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 DEDICATION 

This book is dedicated to the memory of my best childhood friend and brother, Mr. Ndubuisi Uchechukwu Emmanuel (Freeman BTW) who died performing an act of love and friendship, on Wednesday 26th November, 2014 (Black Wednesday).

 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 

To the Almighty God I give my sincere thanks for his mighty deliverance from a fatal accident, and this privilege He has granted to me once again to pen down a word of hope to many, may Him be praised now and forever. Amen.

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I got a great encouragement and strength, Pastor Ifeanyi Zechariah Onyebuchi, from the words you spoke to me when I was confined to the hospital bed, that was why I couldn't help but ask you to please tell it also to the world; and you wrote: 'A word to the reader, "Ebenezer"'.

Amy, thanks for your consolation and words of encouragement in the form of 'A Word to The Author'.

For your moral and financial support, I thank you, the entire members of Seventh-day Adventist Church, Nike, and I pray that the Almighty God will meet you all at the point of your needs.

My gratitude also goes to the Okike family, especially Mr. Ndubuisi Okike, who also read through this book, made some recommendations and encouraged me to forge ahead with the production of the book.

My sincere gratitude also goes to you, Silver, for taking time to narrate to me all that happened in the Hospital, those that I could not remember. This book would not have been complete without the information you gave me.

To my parents, Eld & Mrs. G. O. Amachi, and my siblings Dede, NG, and Ihy, thank you for your care and support in my endeavours. May God bless and keep you all for me.

I also commend the publisher, DLP Enugu, for a job well done.

This list is not exhaustive as there are numerous others who immensely contributed to the success of this work. My prayer is that the Almighty God in his infinite mercy and grace will grant you all your earnest heart desires, and do for you immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine in Jesus' name. Amen.

Amachi Iheanyichukwu Emmanuel



FOREWORD



Iheanyichukwu Emmanuel by publishing this book "Saved by Grace" has made known to the whole readers of this book that nothing is greater than God. Our God in his infinite mercy demonstrated his love in the life of the author.

In this book the author gives a clear illustration of God's kindness in granting everyone a 'Second Chance' in life. However, it all depends on every individual's response to the offer. Iheanyichukwu is a beneficiary of God's offer of "Second Chance". From this work, as you read it, you will really thank God for what He did in the life of the author.

It is very important to know how our great God saved the life of the author from a ghastly motor accident on the 26th day of November, 2014 when he and his childhood friend were traveling from Enugu to his village in Abia State for the burial of his grandmother. Many people in that bus lost their lives. The most painful was the death of his childhood friend, Ndubuisi Emmanuel.

In this book, you will read all about his hospital experience. All who through God's providence helped him during that agonizing period were appreciated. More so, you who will distribute, circulate and share this book with others is also appreciated.

I therefore recommend this book 'Saved by Grace' to those willing to know how wonderful our God is to all who honour and adore Him. Thank God. This book is highly recommended for your reading pleasure.

Pastor H. U. Nwosu
ENC

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 PREFACE 

Since the fall of our first parents at the Garden of Eden, God has always been in the habit of providing a second chance for all humanity. God's grace is not a matter of chance; rather, it is a well-intended attribute of God which He bestows on humanity because of His love for the latter. The grace of God is sometimes misunderstood by some people as they see it as a merited favour. The Bible teaches that God's grace is a 'gift'. (Romans 3:24)

Thus, grace is a prerogative of God, and not a product of science or personal influence or affluence. In fact, grace is still a marvel both to ancient and modern sciences. Current medical researchers have revealed some people with proven terminal diseases living their lives from their youth to old age. While we are finite, God and His grace are infinite. Grace is the power of the Almighty God to the finite, what no other can provide for the undeserving latter.

Our kind and loving Father in heaven has a plan for our lives, and this plan is very amazing. Even when we strayed or are confronted by destructive occurrences, He demonstrates His concern and love for us by providing a way of escape for us from such entanglements.

Each chapter of this book is a true exposition of God's grace towards the author. This second chance that He

gave him is surely not because of any significant thing he has done. His loving Father in heaven decided to rain His grace down upon him, traversing a gulf that he cannot possibly span. He intends that this incomprehensible grace (second chance) He granted him will be utilized meaningfully and righteously too.

Thus, whenever we are faced with overwhelming fear, uncertainty, anxiety of life threatening situations, He urges us to: “Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”. (Mathew 11:28) If the burden seem insurmountable, He urges us to: “Cast all of our cares upon Him, for He cares” for us (1 Peter 5:7) In our earthly life, in spite of our best efforts and compliance with religious principles, we hardly can escape the lingering shadow of our mortality. But when one reaches across the gap between one and God, grace is born. Grace rattles the bars of the dungeons of death. Graves will yet yield to the persuasion of grace; science can help you improve the quality of your life. But if you desire to live eternally, it must be through the grace of God which is made possible in the person of Jesus Christ.

Eld. N. N. Nwachukwu.

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. " (John 3:16).

INTRODUCTION

You might have heard someone say to you or to another person; “this is your second chance”. Or you might have been the one that had in one way or another, at a particular time or location, and for a particular reason or another said to another person, “this is your **SECOND CHANCE**”. Well, whether you are the one that said it to someone, or someone said it to you, or you overheard someone else say it to another, the question is, what comes to your mind when you encounter the phrase- 'SECOND CHANCE'?

We will start in Chapter one by breaking the phrase into words, get the meaning of each word and then join them together again. I call it the 'divide and rule' method. Hopefully, after the mathematics, we will derive a generally acceptable meaning or thought about the phrase 'SECOND CHANCE'.

We will also in Chapter two look at what second chance is all about, and some perceptions towards the phrase.

In Chapter Three, we shall consider “Second Chance” and its application to life (What we ought to do with it). Taking into cognizance some cases in the Bible of some people, their encounters. The chances they had and what they did with them.

The author in Chapter Four tells the story of his experience after surviving a very fatal accident.

In Chapter Five, the author also gives in a nutshell what his relationship with his late friend used to be, before they were separated in a way most pleasing to God.

Chapter Six has the author's appreciation to everyone who in one way or another made his experience during the period bearable.

He also gives a pictorial representation of the event, and shared the words of hope and felicitations given to him by family, friends and well-wishers. And a glossary of some vernacular words used in the book.

Do not skip any chapter as you read through the pages of this book so as to get the full benefit of the message conveyed in the book.

Before you go over to chapter 1, consider this verse:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9).

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"And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? (Romans 2:3)

 **CHAPTER 1** 

**MEANING OF THE WORDS 'SECOND' AND
'CHANCE'**

Stop! If you've not read the Introduction, please go back to page 1 and read it before reading this chapter.

Welcome to chapter 1 of this piece of work. Here we will solve the mathematics behind the phrase 'second chance'. In the introduction I said we will use what I call the 'divide and rule method', which simply means to break the phrase into words, find their respective meanings, and then fuse them together again to get the meaning of the phrase.

SECOND:

The word 'second' from a layman's view is simply the "next after the first". Numerically it is written as '2', or 'ii' in Roman numerals, spelt in English language as 'two', and alphanumerically written as '2nd'. In the arrangement of numerical codes (numbers), it is the next number after the first which is written as '1', or 'i' in Roman numerals, spelt in English language as 'one', and alphanumerically written as '1st'.

From the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (6th Edition) we can derive four meanings of the word 'second', which are:

- 1 - "Happening or coming next after the first in a series of similar things or people".
- 2 - "Next in order of importance, size, quality, etc. to one person or thing".
- 3 - "In addition to one that you already own or use".
- 4 - "A unit for measuring time - e.g. 60 seconds".

In the context of our discussion, definitions 1, 2, & 3 are applicable.

CHANCE:

Personally, I will define 'chance' as an opportunity one has to do something.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (6th Edition) has so many meanings and applications of the word 'chance', but only two of them are consistent with our discussion. They are:

- 1 - "A possibility of something happening, especially something that you want".
- 2 - "A suitable time or situation when you have the opportunity to do something".

From my own definition and that of the Dictionary, one word came outstanding, and that is 'opportunity'; so one can simply say that chance is opportunity.

Chance is all about opportunity. When you have the opportunity, you'll then decide what to do with it. Either you carry out the plan or take the action for which the opportunity was created, or you devise a semi-new or an entire new action; or simply do nothing.

Before you go over to chapter 2, consider this verse:

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

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