

GRACE

“Thank God for His grace, for without it we would have no hope.”
- Billy Graham

Why is grace so amazing? Why is grace so important for us to understand? Write down a time in your life when someone showed you grace? What happened to you and how did it impact you?

The definition of grace is unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor.

Have you ever wondered why God grants (grace) freely to us? Our culture often says we should give people what they deserve and what they earn. Let the punishment fit the crime and no free handouts.

Read: Ephesians 2:8-9. Then consider how these verses depict the definition of grace and write down three thoughts or words from these two verses that stand out to you.

The Bible has much to say about grace. Jesus said to the apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

It is important to understand that God isn't demanding or waiting for us to get our act together before He will love us and offer us His grace. In fact His power comes to its fullest power when we are weak, because then we rely on Him. We don't have to do anything to obtain His grace. He gives it freely. It's His gift to us.

Reflect: When you first put your faith in Jesus, did you do so knowing it was a gift from God to receive and open? Or did you feel like you needed to “do something” or clean up before accepting His marvelous gift of grace?

Grace and faith are related. When we accept God's free gift of grace, we discover God has also sparked our faith. It too is a gift.

Reflect: How well do you understand the grace that has been given to you, through Jesus-his life, his death on the cross, and his resurrection? What questions do these ideas prompt?

Share: it easy to accept what Jesus has done for you, or do you struggle thinking you need to “work” at, or “earn” your relationship with God to please him and gain His love?

Read: Romans 5:20 Where sin increased, grace increased all the more. You can't out-sin grace. There isn't a place where God won't let grace win.

Share: Do you experience God's grace when you mess up, or does shame take over? Share your experience with grace and performance and shame.

“In the midst of our failed attempts at loving Jesus, His grace covers us.”
- Francis Chan, *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*