

GOOD NEWS

about GRACE

Part # 2: Healing Grace

April 27, 2008

Gerald Thurman & Wes Porter

The concept of grace, it's giving and receipt is very misunderstood. Surprisingly enough it is misunderstood equally among believers and seekers. This lack of understanding is not rooted in the definition of grace, but in the ways that it impacts our lives.

Grace defined is "God's unmerited favor". Simply put, it is God doing good for us that we do not deserve. Amongst ourselves, it is continuing to bless others who may not deserve the goodness that we share with them.

What We've Learned

God's saving grace can best be described as...

God's Gift to Me

Receive by Faith

Available to Everyone

Comes Through Jesus Christ

Extended Throughout Eternity

Salvation isn't based on my **performance**; it's based on God's **promise**.
Salvation isn't given based on my **goodness**, it's based on God's **grace**.

Grace That Heals

It is a given that nobody sails through life. We all have problems. We all have hurts. We have some hidden wounds. You have some emotional scars that nobody else sees but they're there and they hurt. Our hidden hurts can be from difference sources; rejection, betrayal, verbal or physical abuse. Regardless if your pain is recent, or if you have carried it for 20, 30 or 40 years, it is very real and it won't go away easily.

The remedy for our hidden hurts isn't **complicated**; it's our **approach** toward dealing with our hurts that makes the process more **difficult**.

Our desire is to make our pain **disappear**.

God through his grace desires instead to **heal** us.

Psalms 147:3 "God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

The major obstacle we place in the way of God's healing grace is refusal to change our **thinking**.

Proverbs 23:7 "For as a man thinks so he is..."

When our incorrect thinking produces incorrect beliefs within us, several things become twisted:

1. The truth about our **pain**.
2. The truth about how we see **ourselves**.
3. The truth about how we see **God**.

God's commitment in providing healing through His grace involves the **renewing** of our **mind**.

Romans 12: 2 "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

What God Believes About...Me

The crucial step in disbelieving **untrue** things about ourselves is embracing the **true** things that God through His grace believes about us:

I am acceptable.

Romans 15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Relying on **others** for acceptance usually results in an unhealthy **depression** of self-esteem.

Relying on **ourselves** for acceptance usually results in an unhealthy **elevation** of self-esteem.

Relying on **God** for acceptance through His grace results in an unbelievable **revelation** of self-esteem.

The surest cure for believing that we are unacceptable is discovering that we are accepted by the grace of the One whose acceptance matters most.

I am valuable.

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Two ingredients in determining value:

1. The significance of the owner.

1 John 4:4 “But you belong to God, my dear children.”

1 Timothy 6:15-16 *15 ---God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.*

2. The willingness of someone to pay the price determined by the owner.

1 Peter 1:18-19 ¹⁸ *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

God set and paid the price for our ransom necessary because of our sin...

1 Corinthians 7:23-24 “All of you...were once held hostage in a sinful society. Then a huge sum was paid out for your ransom. So please don't, out of old habit, slip back into being or doing what everyone else tells you. Friends, stay where you were called to be. God is there.”

I am lovable.

Isaiah 54:10 “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”

Romans 5:7-8

⁷ *Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Three distinct characteristics of God's love:

1. God's love is unconditional – it's not based on my performance.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ *Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! ⁹ We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! ¹⁰ No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.*

2. God's love is consistent – it's not going to change.

Hebrews 13:8 ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

3. God's love will never end – it's eternal.

Revelation 1:4 ⁴ . . . *Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, . . .*

I am forgivable.

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am the One Who takes away your sins because of Who I am. And I will not remember your sins.”

1 John 1:9 “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Forgiveness is...

...a **decision** – to receive, and to give to others

...a **tool** – for dealing with the pain of our sin

...**free** – the free gift of God's grace

...**honest** – being accountable

...the **beginning** of healing

Romans 8:1 “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.”

I am capable.

Philippians 4:13 “For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

1 Peter 2:10 “But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”

God through His grace makes us capable of experiencing miracles in our lives so we can witness Him doing the miraculous in the lives of others.

The Turning Point . . .

When we begin to **see** (and believe) how God sees us through His grace, we will begin to be **liberated** from the fear of rejection.

Understanding how God is able to **love** us when we are so **unlovable** allows us to love others the **same** way.

Accepting the forgiveness God grants us when we accept His gift of salvation ushers in the **healing** we desire from our hidden **hurts**.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ *For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*