

GOOD NEWS

about

GRACE

Part # 4:

Transforming Grace

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God's saving, healing and sustaining grace is a resource of strength and guidance that makes living a life pleasing to God possible. When we acknowledge and accept God's provision of our deepest need through His grace, we can then begin to stand and journey toward the person He created us to be.

God's saving grace allows our old self to die, and a new life to begin. His healing grace allows us the opportunity to settle our hurts once and for all. God's grace sustains us when we commit to embracing and doing His will. In all cases, God through His grace more than provides what we need to walk in a personal relationship with Him.

Sadly, many of us only allow God's grace to give us new life, when His desire is to transform it.

Transforming Grace

Of all the miracles that God performs perhaps none is more miraculous than the transforming power of His grace. Not only are we able to go from being completely useless to God to being trusted by Him to be His instrument of blessing and grace in this world.

In order to allow His grace to transform us, we must first change our attitude:

Philippians 2:5 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: *6Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*"

Having a Christ-like attitude involves three areas of our lives:

- a. The thoughts we think.
- b. The company we keep.
- c. The problems we possess.

Our thoughts reveal our true perspective.

Matthew 15:18-20 *18 But evil words come from an evil heart and defile the person who says them. 19 For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all other sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. 20 These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands could never defile you and make you unacceptable to God!"*

Proverbs 4:23 "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

Proverbs 23:7

7 "Come on and have some more," he says, but he doesn't mean it. What he thinks is what he really is.

Our friends reveal our true character.

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Our problems reveal our true reliance on God.

Philippians 2:8-11 "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! *9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

Transformed Lives

If we desire God's grace to transform us, then our focus needs to change...

...from our burdens to our blessings.

Matthew 6:25-34 "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds. *27-29"Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. 30-33"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in*

God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. 34 "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

...from our **wants** to the needs of **others**.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

...from our **resources** to God's **riches**.

Psalms 121:1 "I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains."

Transformed Future

As God's grace transforms us by changing our attitude and focus, we can begin a new journey toward becoming the person He created us to be.

Three steps toward ensuring an obedient transformed journey:

1. Study and **memorize** Scripture

Psalms 119:9-11 "How can a young person live a clean life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I'm single-minded in pursuit of you; don't let me miss the road signs you've posted. I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt . . ."

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. **Personalize** Scripture

Example:

2 Timothy 1:7 7 God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

God did not give "**ME**" a spirit that makes "**ME**" afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

3. **Analyze** our lives in light of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:15-17 "There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."

Turning Point . . .

Transformation is a process. When we trust God and take Him at His Word, He will be free to transform our **hearts** and **minds**.

Allowing God's grace to transform us helps us to become more and more like **Jesus**.

Scriptures you can memorize this week:

Monday

Why should I be concerned about my future when the Bible says, "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." **Jeremiah 29:11**

Tuesday

Why should I be afraid when the Bible says, "God did not give us a spirit that make us afraid but a Spirit of power and love and self-control." **2 Timothy 1:7**

Wednesday

Why should I worry when the Bible says, "Let Him have all your worries and cares, for He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you." **1 Peter 5:7**

Thursday

Why should I feel worthless when the Bible says, "For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because He owns it." **1 Corinthians 6:20**

Friday

Why should I say "I can't" when the Bible says, "I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power." **Philippians 4:13**