

## GOOD NEWS

about

## GRACE

### Part # 5: Living Grace

God's "Grace" is more amazing than the human mind can comprehend. Part of the "Good News" is that we do not have to understand, but by faith receive it by Trusting Christ.

*God's Grace is amazing because we do not deserve it but God says for my own sake I will forgive you. Isaiah 43:25*

*<sup>25</sup> "I—yes, I alone—am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.*

Do not think you will work enough, live good enough, keep enough rules, be religious enough or give enough to buy your way to Heaven. There is only one way to a right relationship with God that will take you to heaven and that is to Trust Christ.

When you trust Christ by faith he begins to work the miracles we have talked about for the past four weeks.

Once you invite Christ into your life you are saved, then He can begin to heal your hurts, sustain you through tough times, and transform your life into an instrument that God will use in ministering to others.

#### **Before you begin:**

- 1. Identify and meditate on times you have experienced Grace.
- 2. Identify burdensome experiences where Grace sustained you.
- 3. Identify evidence that can be viewed by others that God's Grace has started the transformation?

### **Responding to Grace . . .**

#### **Monday:**

**Response # 1: Gratitude** – showing and giving thanks to God:

1. ...through worship

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#### **Ephesians 5:19-20**

*<sup>19</sup> Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. <sup>20</sup> Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.*

#### **Psalms 103:2**

*<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, I tell myself, and never forget the good things he does for me.*

a. Everyone has things in their life that create a burden, but list the things that are special, bring joy and you would not want to live without.

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b. What does God promise to do with all your experiences, both the pleasant and the uncomfortable? **Romans 8:28**

*28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

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#### **2. ... through work.**

##### **1 John 3:18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.*

*<sup>19</sup> This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.*

##### **James 2:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless. <sup>18</sup> Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds."*

a. Do those who observe your life see Christ in you by the way you show compassion for those around you?

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b. What actions in your life reflect Christ to those around you?

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### **Tuesday**

**Response # 2: Giving** – what God has provided to us for others.

##### **Luke 6:35-36**

*<sup>35</sup> "Love your enemies! Do good to them! Lend to them! And don't be concerned about the fact that they won't repay. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as sons of God: for he is kind to the unthankful and to those who are very wicked. <sup>36</sup> "Try to show as much compassion as your Father does.*

### **As God gives, you can give to others . . .**

#### **☺ Hope      Romans 15:13**

*<sup>13</sup> So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

a. As you anticipate what God has in store for you and you rest in the assurance that God will do as He has promised, Holy Spirit will put a hope in you that "overflows". How are you allowing this to make others want to know Christ as you do?

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b. How can you use James' suggestion to help you "overflow" your hope on others?

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☺ **Healing James 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

a. Believers need to work together in service for God. What differences do you have with a fellow believer that you need to let go of?

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b. Are you available to other believers to listen and encourage them as you help them experience healing from their hurts?

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**Wednesday:**

☺ **Forgiveness Ephesians 4:32**

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

a. What is God's instruction about allowing your anger to drive you to trying to get even with someone? Romans 12:19

<sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it", says the Lord.

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b. What response does God want you to make to those who wrong you? 1 Thessalonians 5:15

<sup>15</sup> See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to everyone else.

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**Thursday:**

**Response # 3: Generosity – my desire for others is what God desires.**

**1 Timothy 2:4-7**

<sup>3</sup> This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message that God gave to the world at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> And I have been chosen—this is the absolute truth—as a preacher and apostle to teach the Gentiles about faith and truth.

a. What is the number one thing that God desires for all humanity?

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b. Are there multiple ways that humanity can get to heaven. Why?

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c. If you are not busy telling people that there is only one way, one God and one person, Jesus Christ, through whom they connect with God of what value is your life? Acts 20:24

<sup>24</sup> But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love.

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d. How can you use your existing daily responsibilities as resources and channels through which you can share the Good News about Jesus Christ?

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**Friday:**

*Turning Point Prayer ...*

- Open my heart to share You with others.
- Open my eyes to see the needs of others.
- Open my hands to give my time and resources to help where needed.
- Give my mouth the words that will encourage others to know You.
- Give my feet the courage to go where you want me to serve.
- Give me the gifts needed to serve You.
- Give me endurance through hard times.
- Give me a thankful heart to recognize your blessings.

This needs to be more than a one-time prayer.

You would do well to daily offer to God all or parts of this prayer. Track the changes taking place in your life as you pray this prayer. Track the people who are changed by the changes in your life.