

GOOD NEWS

about

GRACE

Part # 5:

Living Grace

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God's saving, healing, sustaining and transforming 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. His transforming grace helps to transform our lives into the person He created us to be. In all cases, God through His grace more than provides what we need to walk in a personal relationship with Him.

When we respond by **faith** to God's incredible grace, we will see tangible **results** in our lives.

Continued **evidence** of our lives being transformed **depends** on our continued **responses**.

Responding to Grace

Just as important as our initial response to God's grace is our daily commitment to acknowledging our need and receipt of it.

Three Ways of Continued Response to God's grace:

1. **Gratitude** – showing and giving thanks to God

...through **worship**

Ephesians 5:20 “Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.”

Psalms 103:2 “Let all that I am praise the LORD;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.”

...through **works**

1 John 3:18-19 “My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.”

James 2:17-18 “So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. 18 Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

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

Luke 6:35-36 “I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.”

As I have received, I can be a source of:

- **Hope**

Romans 15:13 “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- **Healing**

James 5:16 “Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.”

- **Forgiveness**

Ephesians 4:32 “Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.”

Three distinct pledges:

I pledge to **relinquish** my right to get **even**.

Romans 12:19 “If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. “I'll do the judging,” says God. “I'll take care of it.”

I pledge to **respond** to evil with **good**.

Luke 6:27-30 “To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt,

giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.”

I pledge to **repeat** the process as long as **necessary**.

Matthew 18:21-22 “At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?” 22Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven. “

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

1 Timothy 2:4:7 “He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we’ve learned: that there’s one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free. Eventually the news is going to get out. This and this only has been my appointed work: getting this news to those who have never heard of God, and explaining how it works by simple faith and plain truth.”

Acts 20:24 “But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

When our desires are what God desires...

- ...we would rather **serve** than be **served**
- ...we would rather **give** than **receive**
- ...we would rather **discover** God’s plan than **chart** our own **course**
- ...we would rather be **holy** than **happy**
- ...we would rather see people **reconciled** to God than **estranged**

Turning Point...

To live in God’s grace is to **trust** Him to provide **daily** what we need to continue the **journey** to reaching our potential.

The **joy** that comes with living in God’s grace is when we **recognize** the areas of our lives that **mirror** the example of **Christ**.