

## The Grace Filled Life

November 15, 2015

Grace is God pursuing us to bring us into His presence, relationship and communion, even though we deserve His wrath, rejection and judgment.

Judgment rightfully rejects us; grace freely accepts us.

Grace is all about relationship; the Law is all about performance.

### Ephesians 1:5–6

5 Having predestinated us unto **the adoption** (*huiiothesía - the placing as a son*) **of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

6 **To the praise of the glory of his grace** (*charis - good will, loving kindness, favor*), wherein he hath made us **accepted** (*charitoo - indue with special honor, to make highly favored*) **in the beloved.**

### Romans 5:6–8

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 **For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.**

8 **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

When we enter into relationship with Father by grace, sanctification begins and God begins to transform, cleanse and mold us.

We are His workmanship, not our own workmanship.

As we stay focused on the relationship where grace has brought us, God performs the transformation.

### Ephesians 2:4–10

4 **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 **Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 **That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding (*ESV - immeasurable*) riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

8 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

10 **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

### Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.**”

The same faith which initially accepted His grace is the same faith required to remain in His grace.

If we return to a focus upon performance instead of relationship, we have “fallen from grace” and will spiritually fail.

**Galatians 5:4**

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

**Romans 4:3–5**

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

The longer we are Christians we are prone to believe that now I have to produce, now I have to perform, now I have to prove myself, now I have to fix myself, now I have to carry my weight and earn my way.

A Christian of 50 years is just as helpless as a newborn infant.

**Galatians 3:1–4**

1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, **before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?**

2 This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**

3 **Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**

4 **Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.**

Compare the repentance of Peter to the repentance of Judas Iscariot. Who was more repentant? Judas tried to “fix” his sin; Peter threw himself into the sea to get to Jesus. Grace is not “fixing” your sin; grace is getting to Jesus at any cost; assured of His love, acceptance and cleansing.

**Matthew 27:1–5**

1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

2 And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 **Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,**

4 **Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.** And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

5 **And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.**

Like Adam and Eve and their fig leaves, Judas tried to “fix” his sin on his own, his way, in his wisdom, in his strength. Judas Iscariot fell under the hopelessness of suicide when he saw there was nothing he could do to fix himself nor his sin.

**THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE RESTS ENTIRELY UPON YOUR RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR HELPLESSNESS.**

**Matthew 5:3** *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

The more I concentrate on relationship the better my performance will be. The more I concentrate on my performance the worse my performance will be.

The more I try in my strength, my wisdom, my self-discipline, the greater in bondage I become, I have shut off the grace and life that comes from Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 5:2–6**

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, **that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.**

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, **that he is a debtor to do the whole law.**

4 **Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**

5 For we through the Spirit **wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.**

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.**

Peter didn't try to "fix" anything. He just wanted to get to Jesus. He HAD to get to Jesus; nothing else mattered. He was unashamed in his impulsive passion. He had no doubt Jesus would receive him, accept him and love him. He reacted just the opposite of Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned.

**John 21:1–7**

1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.**

**Isaiah 30:19–22 ESV**

**19 For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.**

**20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.**

**21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.**

**22 Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV**

**"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."**