

SAVING GRACE

Good News About Grace
Rick Warren

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."
Psalm 145:8 (NIV)

WHAT IS GRACE?

G

"All need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift ... through Jesus Christ." Romans 3:24 (NCV)

R

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

"People receive God's promise by having faith. This happens so the promise can be a free gift." Romans 4:16 (NCV)

A

"The promise is not only for those people that live under the law of Moses. It is for anyone who lives with faith like Abraham." Romans 4:16 (ICB)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13 (NIV)

C

"The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17 (NCV)

"Many people received God's gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:15 (NCV)

"Do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die." Galatians 2:21 (NLT)

E

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (NLT)

"The LORD longs to be gracious to you." Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)

How will I Respond to God's Saving Grace?

The rest of the series:

Restoring Grace - How God wipes out guilt and helps you start over.

Sustaining Grace - How God gives you the power to keep on going.

Healing Grace - How God does miracles in your life.

Liberating Grace - How to break free from perfectionism.

Assuring Grace - How to defeat your doubts.

Offering Grace - How to extend God's grace to others.

Growing in Grace - How to become what you are meant to be.

Next Steps

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SUSTAINING GRACE

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"God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished." Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

"My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that the grace of God is with you no matter what happens." 1 Peter 5:12 (NLT96)

GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE...

1. HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

"Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith."
1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

"The only temptations that you have are the temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to stand it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 (ICB)

2. IT HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

"It is God who enables us . . . to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts." 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NLT)

"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose." Philippians 2:13 (PHILLIPS)

3. IT HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

"So don't worry, because I am with you. Don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you; I will support you with my right hand that saves you." Isaiah 41:10 (NCV)

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." Psalm 46:1 (NLT)

HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE

1. CALL OUT FOR _____

"God . . . gives grace to the humble." So give yourselves completely to God." James 4:6-7 (NCV)

"When you draw close to God, God will draw close to you." James 4:8 (TLB)

2. FILL YOUR MIND _____

"I am completely discouraged. . . Revive me by your Word." Psalm 119:25 (TLB)

3. ACCEPT SUPPORT _____

"By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (NCV)

4. HOLD ON _____

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired . . . but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)

"So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:18 (TLB)

"I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But the Lord said to me, 'My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, then my power is made perfect in you.'" 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (ICB)

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LIBERATING GRACE

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"You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish." Galatians 3:3 (NCV)

Perfectionism:

"Trying to prove my worth by being perfect."

HOW PERFECTIONISM HARMS

- **IT DEFEATS MY** _____
"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."
Ecclesiastes 11:4 (TLB)
- **IT DAMAGES MY** _____
"Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends."
Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)
- **IT DESTROYS MY** _____
"Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?" Ecclesiastes 7:16 (NASB)

HOW TO R.E.L.A.X. IN GOD'S GRACE

REALIZE

"Nothing is perfect except [the Lord's] words." Psalm 119:96 (TLB)

"There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (GN)

ENJOY

"See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children—think of it—and we really are!" 1 John 3:1 (TLB)

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 (NIV)

LET GOD

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life." Proverbs 14:30 (TLB)

ACT

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith." Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him." Colossians 2:6 (NIV)

EXCHANGE

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest . . . Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." Matthew 11:28-29 (MSG)

"Be careful that no one fails to receive God's grace..." Hebrews 12:15 (NCV)

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OFFERING GRACE

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"Give as freely as you have received!" Matthew 10:8 (TLB)

FORGIVENESS QUIZ

- | | |
|--|-----|
| A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it. | T F |
| Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and the pain caused. | T F |
| Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. | T F |
| You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten the offense. | T F |
| When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. | T F |

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

1. IT ISN'T _____
2. IT ISN'T _____ THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENSE
3. IT ISN'T _____ A RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT CHANGES
4. IT ISN'T _____ WHAT HAPPENED
5. IT ISN'T _____ WHEN I WASN'T THE ONE WHO WAS HURT

WHAT IS GENUINE FORGIVENESS?

1. REMEMBERING _____
"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (TLB)
2. RELINQUISHING _____
"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it." Romans 12:19 (TLB)

3. RESPONDING _____

"Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

"[Love] keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

4. REPEATING _____

"Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'" Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

WHY OFFER GRACE TO OTHERS?

1. GOD IS GRACIOUS TO ME

Ephesians 4:32

2. THE ALTERNATIVE IS BITTERNESS

"Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others."

Hebrews 12:15 (PHILLIPS)

3. GOD EXPECTS ME TO DO IT

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

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RESTORING GRACE

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"Restore us, O LORD, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!" Lamentations 5:21 (NLT)

WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY?

Peter's Denial of Christ - Mark 14:27-72

1. _____
"Everyone else may stumble in their faith, but I will not." Mark 14:29 (NCV)
2. _____
"Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour?" Mark 14:37 (NCV)
3. _____
"Peter followed him at a distance." Mark 14:54 (NIV)
4. _____
"There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire." Mark 14:54 (NIV)

GOD'S RESPONSE: GRACE

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 (NLT)

WHY DOESN'T GOD REJECT BELIEVERS WHEN WE SIN?

1. **BECAUSE HIS LOVE** _____
"[The Lord's] compassion never ends. It is only the Lord's mercies that have kept us from complete destruction." Lamentations 3:22 (TLB)
2. **BECAUSE SALVATION ISN'T BASED ON** _____
"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Titus 3:5 (NLT)

3. **JESUS HAS ALREADY** _____
"When [Jesus] served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's." 1 John 2:2 (MSG)

4. **BECAUSE JESUS UNDERSTANDS** _____
"[Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin." Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

5. **BECAUSE GOD DOESN'T** _____
"[The LORD] will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. . . . The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him." Psalm 103:9-10, 13 (NLT)

"Come back to me, you unfaithful children, and I will forgive you for being unfaithful." Jeremiah 3:22 (NCV)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I SIN? _____

*"If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me."
Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)*

"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow." Isaiah 1:18 (TLB)

"With great compassion I will take you back." Isaiah 54:7 (TLB)

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation." Psalm 51:12 (NLT)

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LIVING IN GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

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THE BENEFITS OF GRACE

We are...

Saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)
Forgiven by grace (Isaiah 43:25)
Sustained by grace (Philippians 2:13)
Healed by grace (Psalm 147:3)
Liberated by grace (Matthew 11:28-30)
Given talents by grace (Romans 12:6)
Used by grace (Ephesians 3:7)
Kept saved by grace (Jude 1:24)
Transformed by grace (Romans 12:2)
Matured by grace (2 Peter 3:18)

HOW DO I RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE?

- **BY** _____
"The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
John 1:17 (NIV)

"Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins—making us friends of God."
Romans 5:11 (TLB)

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."
1 John 3:16 (NIV)

"You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich."
2 Corinthians 8:9 (MSG)

"So we beg you: Do not let the grace that you received from God be for nothing."
2 Corinthians 6:1 (NCV)

HOW CAN I SHOW GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S GRACE?

1. **BY** _____
"Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? . . . So let people see God in and through your body."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (MSG)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)
2. **BY** _____
"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)
3. **BY** _____
"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me -- to tell people the Good News about God's grace."
Acts 20:24 (NCV)

Who will I tell?

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