

Experiencing God's Grace: 7 Day Devotional

Grace is favor or blessing from God that is undeserved or unmerited. We can never earn it and we certainly don't deserve it.

The grace of God is in us, around us and exists in a real way. Journey with us over the next seven days as we recognize and appreciate the grace that has been extended to us. Let us read and meditate on God's words, let us engage in spiritual fast for greater revelation and connection to God, and most importantly, let us open the lines of communication with our God through prayer.

It is time to experience God's Grace in an authentic way from salvation, to revelation, to execution of God's will.

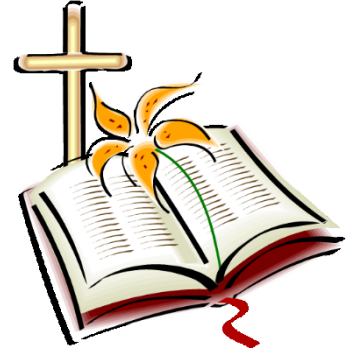
Journey with us over the next seven days, **"We are Experiencing God's Grace!"**



Day 1- Salvation: Saving Grace

The Bible says:

"For By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith, And That Not Of Yourselves; It Is The Gift Of God," - Ephesians 2:8 NKJV



Watch Word: Save

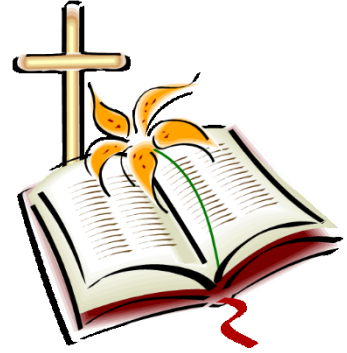
The word save is a verb describing an action that is taken. The word also signifies being protected from harm or danger. We were all born in sin and shaped in iniquity (*Psalm 51:5*). The wages for that sin is death (*Romans 6:23*). First spiritually death, that eventually leads to physical death.

But God so loved us that He saw it fit to give us a gift. God took action, and saved us through His Son, Jesus Christ, in spite of our sinful state. This is favor unmerited, blessing undeserved. We could not work for it or earn it.

Therefore, through the Son of God, Jesus Christ and our faith in Him, we received salvation and have been saved. God's saving grace abounded to many (*Romans 5:15*). We are now able to proudly declare that we have been saved and we are safe!

Pray with us: Lord we thank you for your gift. We thank you that through faith in your son, Jesus Christ, we can receive and accept the free gift of salvation. Thank you for favor unmerited. Thank you for life and hope, for the many that shall believe. Even as this prayer is being read, even as this prayer is being prayed, save a dying soul. We thank you and we praise you, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 2- Gift: Grace of One Man



The Bible says:

“But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.” - Romans 5:15 NKJV

Watch Words: One Man

Our creation story is recorded in the biblical book of Genesis. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. When God created the heaven and the earth. He gave man dominion over it. We talked directly with God and mankind lived in communion with God. But the narrative changed swiftly in Genesis 3. Through the first man, Adam, sin entered the world. Through this one act of disobedience to God’s commandment we were separated.

As a result of this one man’s sin, we were destined for death, separated from God. By one man’s offense all were born in sin and shaped in iniquity. There is no price that we would have been able to pay to cover our debt of sin.

But God so loved the world that He sent us His Son (John 3:16). Through one Man, we have been thrown a lifeline. Through one Man, Jesus Christ, we have the gift of salvation. Our sinful nature condemns us to a life of death but through Jesus Christ we have life!

Pray with us:

Lord thank you for favor. Thank you for not allowing the offense of one man to forever leaves us in a condemned state. Thank you for your Son Jesus Christ who came and paid the price for my sins. Lord we are grateful that through this one Man you saved the world. We thank you and we praise you, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 3- Identification: By the Grace Of God “I Am”



The Bible says:

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” - I Corinthians 15:10 NKJV

Watch Word: “I Am”

We often introduce ourselves beginning with the phrase “I am..”

“I Am” is followed by our names, our vocation, and a myriad of other nouns or other words we use to identify ourselves. We were made in the image and likeness of the Great I AM, God (Exodus 3:14).

We can only truly know who we are if we know and understand who God is.

Our sins and our sinful nature keep us in darkness and separated from the Great I AM. It is only through His Son, Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit we are able to serve God and truly know our identity. As a believer in Jesus Christ we become co-heirs to the kingdom. Becoming co-heirs doesn’t happen because of anything we do, in fact our sinful nature would lead us to death. But God loved us enough to grant us favor and give us the opportunity to claim our true identity, that is, we are children of the Most High God. By the grace of God, I am!

Pray with us:

Lord we thank you for your grace. Because of our sin and disobedience, we deserve death. But God, you saw it fit to save us, to give us an opportunity through your Son. You thought we were worth saving.

Great I Am, we are your children. Lord we thank you and we praise, in Jesus name. Amen.

Day 4- Humility: Grace to The Humble



The Bible Says:

“Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” - 1 Peter 5:5 NKJV

“But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”” - James 4:6 NKJV

Watch Word: Humility

Humility requires us to place less importance on self. A self-centered person believes in their mind that the world revolves around them.

Herein lies a fundamental flaw that attempts to move God from the essential to a mere option. A self-centered person is unable to live within the confines of the great commandment, chiefly because they relegate God to what is left after we love ourselves and things.

Selfishness is one of the many works of the flesh (Galatians 5:20). It opens the door to pride, arrogance and disregard for people and their feelings. Selfishness brings out the ugly in people and like grandmother always use to say, “God doesn’t like ugly!” What God desires for us to do is to be selfless. We should love Him and love our neighbors. We should seek God first and His righteousness. In all our ways we should acknowledge God and He will direct. Walk in humility and you will experience God’s Grace!

Pray with us:

Lord we pray for the spirit of humility and gratitude. Help us to put nothing or no one above you. Help us to recognize that self-love is not wrong, but it is flawed if we don’t first love the one in whose image we were created. God, we thank you in advance for answering our prayers, we thank you for allowing us to be humble, we thank you for a chance to experience your grace!

Amen.

Day 5- Chosen: Grace to Execute



The Bible says:

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” - Acts 13:2-3 NKJV

“For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;” - Isaiah 44:3 NKJV

Watch Word: Set Apart

Prophecy has declared that God will pour out His Spirit on the descendants of Israel, God's chosen people. In case you were wondering... that chosen people includes you and I.

God fulfills this prophecy by allowing His Son Jesus Christ to renew and fix our broken relationship with Him. Secondly, Jesus left us with the Helper, the Holy Spirit. One of the roles that the Holy Spirit has is to execute the will of God. In the story of creation, the Spirit hovered and when God spoke, the Holy Spirit did!

What did we ever do to deserve or earn God's Holy Spirit?

The answer is nothing. It was favor that we couldn't earn. The Holy Spirit was left with us to always be with us. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us into action, we are led into all truth. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to execute God's will. The Spirit convicts, convinces, and converts. The Spirit sets us apart with our spiritual gifts and propels us into ministry. What did we ever do to earn this favor?... the answer is nothing. God gives us the grace to execute!

Pray with us:

Lord thank you for seeing pass our disqualifications and only focusing on the gifts and abilities your Holy Spirit placed within us. Thank you for separating us and setting us apart. God, we declare that because of your gracious mercy we now have the ability to execute your will. Lord we thank you and we praise you. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 6- Forgive: Grace That Forgives

The Bible says:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." - II Chronicles 7:14 NKJV



Watch Words: Wicked Ways

In his book *"I Surrender"*, Patrick Morley writes that the church's integrity problem is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior. It is revival without reformation, without repentance."

To summarize, we claim to profess Christ, yet we fail to change our wicked ways. We lie, we cheat, we murder, we are selfish, we don't love, we are mean, we worship things and put the creation before the creator. We worship our spouses, our kids, our jobs, our homes, we idolize things and place God as secondary. We disobey the great commandment, that is, we don't love the Lord with all our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves (*Matthew 22:37-40*). There are many other things that we do, there are many other ways we fall short, "But God!"

There is always a "But God" moment. Our God who is so rich in mercy and love has extended a chance, He has opened the door, for us to approach with humility, prayerfully, seeking His face. He desires that we turn from all the wicked things we do and then our God will forgive us and extend His grace. We are recipients of forgiveness and favor that we really don't deserve.

Pray with us:

O Lord, our God, forgive us today we pray. We have done wrong, we have sinned, we have done wicked deeds, we have transgressed your commandments. For everything that we did right we probably did twice as much wrong. If the scales were to measure right versus wrong, it would be tipped in favor of the wrongs. Lord we thank you for allowing us to receive the blessing, the favor of your forgiveness. Thank you for healing our land. Thank you for your forgiving grace.

Day 7- Strength: Grace for The Journey



The Bible says:

*“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
- II Timothy 2:1 NKJV*

“So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.” - Zechariah 4:6 NKJV

“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” - Ezekiel 36:27 NKJV

Watch Word: The journey

Life is one of the most unpredictable journeys. You plan but really can never plan for all eventualities. For as long as humans have existed, we have worried, pondered, and stressed about having what we need for the journey.

As a believer we strive to live our life in obedience to God and his statutes and with intentionality of doing God’s will to love God, love His creations, and make disciples. But in the face of all that we strive to do, we are constantly avoiding the traps and pitfalls of the enemy. But God, keeps us even in the midst of our mess ups and promised to strengthen us by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Jesus left the Holy Spirit with us, and we who are believers are able to walk in His statutes, walk in His will, not by our own strength, but through the strength that is available when we tap into His Spirit. We never earned that right but through the gift from God we have unmerited favor. We have access. We have strength by God’s Grace for the journey.

Pray with us:

Lord thank you for your Spirit. Thank you for watching over us. Even when we mess up you were no more than a prayer away. Lord you endeavor to lead us into all truth even when we are blinded by the lie. We chose darkness even though you sent us the light of the world. But God you remained only a prayer, only a confession, only a repentance, only a conviction, only a belief away!

Thank you for giving us grace, your undeserved favor when we needed it most. Thank you that by your Spirit you have allowed us to successfully navigate this journey called life. Thank you for your strength and your grace to successfully complete this journey. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.