

# UNMERITED

DISCOVERING THE DEPTHS OF  
GOD'S GRACE



GABRIEL & PARAH ORAKPO

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DISCOVERING THE DEPTHS OF GOD'S GRACE



*This book will help you declutter your  
mind and thoughts and get you  
on the right path*

BY GABRIEL & PARAH ORAKPO

# UNMERITED: DISCOVERING THE DEPTHS OF GOD'S GRACE.

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Gabriel Orakpo  
and  
Parah Orakpo  
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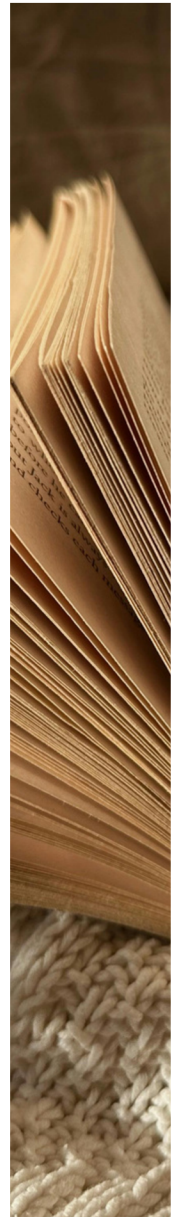
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# Dedication

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This book is dedicated to the embodiment of all grace,  
Jesus Christ, to our Father and Mother in the Lord,  
Rev Joe and Pst (Mrs) Florence Olaiya  
for their lives of evidential overflowing grace

To the people of grace and to our beloved graceful  
daughter, Christiana.

May God be eternally gracious to you!

**Gabriel & Parah Orakpo**  
**2026**



# Foreword

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The word 'Grace' is common in the parlance of believers and unbelievers alike; it is a staple of our daily language. Yet, despite all that has been written on the subject, Gabriel and Parah have demonstrated that the depths of grace are truly inexhaustible, a profound reflection of God's work in all its forms.

Gabriel and Parah have delved into the depths of God's unfailing and unmerited favour. This work is clearly a revelation of God's heart, demonstrating that grace is not a dry theological concept or something we qualify for, but a gift from a God who is compassionate and slow to anger. This book will help you gain a deeper understanding of God's ways and provide the practical reflections needed to begin intentionally enjoying a walk of grace with the graceful God Himself.

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*I highly recommend this book, knowing it will bless and enlighten your understanding of what Christ has done for us*

# Foreword (Continued)

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This book will help you declutter your thoughts and set you on the right path. *Unmerited: Discovering the Depths of God's Grace* includes reflections and questions after each chapter to help you personalise the work of grace in your own life. This is not a purely academic work; rather, it is borne out of the authors' personal experiences and a deep study of Scripture. As such, it is an ideal study material for the entire family.

I highly recommend this book, knowing it will bless you and enlighten your understanding of what Christ has done for us, where we stand in our walk with God, and the eternal glory that awaits us beyond the here and now.

Rev PJA Olaiya  
President: Living Faith Foundation

# The Authors

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Gabriel holds a Master's degree in Missional Leadership, a Professional Development Diploma in Management Studies, and is a Business Education graduate. From trading, business consultancy and construction, he was ordained a Pastor in 2003, took up foreign mission's work in 2009 and took over from inception as Lead Pastor of Living Faith Foundation, Fountain of Grace Church, Birmingham UK. Gabriel is presently the Diaspora Lead Pastor for Living Faith Foundation (LFF) including UK and USA.

Parah holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Sunderland, a Professional Development Diploma in Management Studies and is an experienced Project/Programme Manager with a Prince2 Practitioner qualification. In her secular career, Parah has held diverse senior positions within the Oil and gas, transportation, charitable and healthcare sectors. Parah currently works in the healthcare sector as a Business Relationship Manager (Programmes) . She is an ordained Pastor in the Living Faith Foundation.

**Gabriel & Parah Orakpo**  
**2026**



# Introduction

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From the moment God breathed life into dust, the story of grace began. It is a consistent, unbroken thread that runs from the silence of Genesis to the cry of a baby in Bethlehem, proving that God's favour has always been ahead of our failures.

Grace. It's a word we hear often sung in hymns, whispered in prayers, and spoken from pulpits. Yet, the reality of grace has long sparked controversy and fuelled theological debate, even as it remains the ultimate source of human reassurance. That grace cannot be fully explained does not diminish its reality; rather, its very mystery proves its divine origin. While many volumes have been written on this subject before—and many will follow—no single book can exhaust it.

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*...it became painfully clear that our only hope was a total dependence on God's unfailing grace. God allowed our strategies to fail*

# Introduction (Continued)

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This speaks to the expansive, mystical nature of grace: it is a well that never runs dry, manifesting in infinite dimensions across the diverse lives of everyone it touches.

What, then, exactly is grace? To truly grasp its depth, we must look to the twin pillars of the biblical languages: Hebrew and Greek. In the Old Testament, grace is *Chen*—a word depicting favour and kindness, often visualised as a superior “bending down” to show kindness to an inferior. In the New Testament, it becomes *Charis*—a vibrant reality encompassing beauty, favour, and a gratitude that overflows. When we weave these definitions together, a stunning picture emerges: grace is not a static concept, but an active divine movement toward humanity. It is something palpable and profound; a beauty to be desired and a power to be experienced. Indeed, it is the ultimate, unmerited gift of God.

In its simplest terms, grace is the unearned, unmerited, and undeserved favour of God. It is the divine exchange: God giving us what we could never earn, offering forgiveness, love, and acceptance freely, not because of who we are, but because of who He is. This grace is the very heartbeat of the Christian faith; it is the thread that runs through every page of Scripture and every breath of our lives. Simply put, Christianity cannot be divorced from grace. Because God is inherently gracious, He extends this favour to all humanity, reaching out to every person irrespective of who they are.

Yet, grace is not merely a doctrine to be studied or a word to be defined. It is an invitation. It is a divine beckoning to lay down our striving, our guilt, and our exhausting need to prove ourselves and instead, to rest in the embrace of a God who delights in showing mercy. This book invites the reader into the depths of that amazing, life-transforming grace. Together, we will explore how God’s grace was present before time began, how it meets us in our failures, and how it shapes the way we live and love.

# Introduction (Continued)

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We will discover how to respond to our Maker and how His power operates within our unique circumstances. Along the way, we will encounter stories from Scripture and contemporary life that serve as a vivid reminder: no one is too far gone, no heart is too hardened, and no burden is too heavy for God's grace to reach. The economy of grace knows no bounds; it is non-discriminatory, transcending race, gender, and nation. Whether you are new to the faith, weary of religion, or simply longing for a deeper understanding of God's heart, my prayer is that these pages will draw you closer to the One who is full of grace, mercy and truth. An encounter with grace—real grace—will change your life for good.

## **A Personal Journey: Encompassed by Grace**

The year 2009 began with high expectations. Parah and I had set our goals, trusting God for mighty moves. For years, Gabriel had felt the stirrings of a call to full-time ministry—a call he had wrestled with. It was an invitation to leave the known for the unknown, to trade our comfort zone for a path of uncertainty. By mid-2009, Gabriel made the decision to serve God full-time and convinced me to join him in a leap of faith: starting the first branch of Living Faith Foundation outside of Nigeria. That was how we found ourselves moving to Birmingham, UK. Though we had visited the UK on holidays since the early 90s, living there was never something we had desired. We knew challenges would come, but once the church began, it became painfully clear that our only hope was a total dependence on God's unfailing grace. God allowed our strategies to fail. The "keys" we thought we held—the people and plans we relied on for success—disappointed us woefully. Yet, it was in that place of disappointment that God enrolled us in the "School of Grace." Sixteen years later, we are still students. We are the direct products of His grace: fashioned, kept, and sustained by the gracious God Himself.

Gabriel Orakpo & Parah Orakpo  
2026

# 01 Grace Before Time - God's Eternal Plan

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While the story of grace became visible to us the moment God breathed life into dust, its origin lies even further back. Grace existed before the heavens and the earth were framed; it has always been the foundation of God's plan for humanity.

It is a staggering thought. We often view grace as something reactive, a divine response to our failure or a remedy for our sin. But Scripture reveals something even more profound: grace was woven into the fabric of God's eternal purpose from the very beginning. It was never a "Plan B"

Even as Adam and Eve walked in a sinless state, enjoying the perfection of Eden, they were existing within the goodness of God's grace. It is, and has always been, the very heartbeat of His dealings with us.



## Chosen Before Creation

Paul's letter to the Ephesians opens our eyes to this eternal truth:

“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.”

— Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)

Before the foundations of the heavens and the earth were laid, and long before the fall of man, God—in His infinite foreknowledge—had already made provision for our restoration.

He knew the trajectory of humanity, yet He chose us anyway.

Grace was never a divine afterthought or a backup plan; it was the very cornerstone of His eternal purpose.



“

He predestined us  
for adoption to  
sonship through  
Jesus Christ, in  
accordance with  
His pleasure and  
will

## The Graceful God

God is full of grace, and for that reason, grace flows freely from Him. It is not an intermittent response or a temporary mood; it is the very nature of God Himself. In Exodus 34:6, when God revealed His glory to Moses, He chose to describe Himself in these terms:

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.” (NIV)

Before the Law was etched in stone, before the commandments were issued or the covenants came into force, God defined Himself first as gracious. He is inherently disposed towards mercy, kindness, patience, and favour—not because of our merit, but because of His character. Grace is not just what He gives; it is who He is.



### Grace is the blueprint of Salvation.

A sober look at the design of creation—the intricate beauty, the breath taking wonder, and the sheer abundance of life—reveals the profound reality of grace. God did not create out of a sense of need or lack; He created out of an overflow of generosity. He painted sunsets, carved mountains, and filled the oceans, eventually breathing life into humanity, all as a sheer, unmerited gift.

Even more remarkable is the truth that God, knowing the future rebellion of humanity, still chose to call us into existence. He set in motion a world where the plan for our rescue was already prepared.

Grace was not an addition to the structure; it was written into the very code, woven into the blueprint of creation itself.

## Reflection Question

1. How does your view of God change knowing that His grace was provided for you before you even drew your first breath?
2. Have you ever felt like you needed to perform to earn God's approval?
3. Looking back at your life, can you identify moments where God's grace was protecting or providing for you, even before you recognised it was Him?

# 02

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## The Fall and The First Act of Grace



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*In their panic, Adam and Eve had tried to cover themselves with fig leaves—a fragile, temporary, and inadequate attempt to hide their shame.*

If there was a moment when grace could have ended, it was in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had walked with God in perfect communion, possessing everything—beauty, purpose, relationship, and total freedom. Yet, in a single moment of distrust, they turned away from God’s goodness. Sin entered the world, and the harmony of creation was shattered.

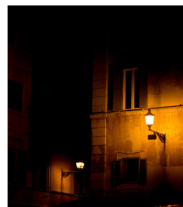
At first glance, the scene appeared hopeless. But woven into the ruins of humanity’s fall was one of the clearest and earliest pictures of God’s grace.

## Grace Amidst The Consequences

After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened—not to wisdom, but to shame. Realising their nakedness because the glory that once covered them was gone, they hid in the shadows.



But God came looking for them. He did not come to destroy; He came to pursue and show love. When God called out, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9), it wasn’t because He was ignorant of their location.



As the only One possessing the “Omni” qualities: omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent—He knew exactly where they were and what they had done.

He asked because, even in their failure, He was interested in their return. His first response was not a bolt of lightning, but a search party of one. Yes, there were consequences.



Sin opened the door for brokenness, defeat, pain, and death to enter the human story. But right alongside justice stood mercy. God did not abandon His creation; instead, He provided a covering.

*Sin opened the door for brokenness, defeat, pain, and death to enter the human story*

## The First Covering

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.” — Genesis 3:21

This small, quiet detail carries massive significance. In their panic, Adam and Eve had tried to cover themselves with fig leaves—a fragile, temporary, and inadequate attempt to hide their shame. It was the first human attempt at “self-help” or “self-justification”, and it failed.

But God didn't leave them to their own devices. He stepped in with a better covering. To get those skins, an animal had to die. Think about that: for the first time, blood was shed just to cover up human failure.

It was a shadow of the Cross—a sign that one day, God would provide a final sacrifice to take away our shame for good. Right there, at the very start, we see the true nature of grace: it's free for us, but it cost God everything.

## Grace Always Pursues

Isn't it amazing that God's grace shows up exactly where the failure occurs? He doesn't wait for us to fix ourselves; this is largely because He knows we can't. He doesn't leave us to wallow in our shame. Instead,

He steps toward us, providing exactly what we cannot provide for ourselves. This is the consistent rhythm of grace we see throughout the pages of Scripture:

- ▮ Grace pursues us when we run.
- ▮ Grace covers us when we are exposed.
- ▮ Grace restores us to our true identity.

## A Foreshadowing of Christ

This awe-inspiring moment in the Garden was a direct pointer toward Jesus. In Eden, man had sinned, and God Himself provided the sacrifice. The fig leaves could hide the nakedness, but they couldn't touch the guilt or the shame; only the shedding of blood could do that.

This was a preview of the Cross; a moment in time when, once again, God would step into the wreckage of humanity's failure. On that hill in Calvary, He offered the final, complete covering through His Son, Jesus Christ. What started with a temporary garment of skin in Genesis was fulfilled by the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world.

### Reflection: God Meets Us Where We Are.

Wherever you find yourself right now—whether you feel you've failed, fallen short, or run too far, know this: God's grace is not waiting for you at some distant finish line. It is right here, amid your mess, pursuing you.

It is ready to cover your shame and restore your heart to Him.

Grace doesn't begin when you finally "get it all together" or correct every mistake. It begins the very moment you realise you cannot pull through on your own. Like Adam in the trees, you don't have to find God; you only have to let yourself be found by Him.



You don't  
have to find  
God, you  
only have to  
let yourself  
be found by  
Him

## Reflection Questions

1. How do you relate to Adam and Eve's instinct to hide from God? Is there a thicket in your life right now where you are currently hiding from Him because of shame or failure?
2. What does it mean to you personally that God's response to sin is both justice (addressing the wrong) and mercy (providing a way out)? How does this balance give you confidence in His character?
3. How does the reality of God covering your shame—at His own cost—change the way you view yourself? How does it change the way you approach your relationship with Him today?



# 03

## Grace in the Old Testament – The Shadow of What Was to Come

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*It was grace that preserved humanity, pointing ahead to a  
future rescue.*

When most people think of the Old Testament, they often imagine stone tablets, strict judgments, and heavy commandments. It is easy to miss the golden thread of grace running through every page. Yet, from Genesis to Malachi, God's grace was constantly at work- patient, persistent, and always pointing toward a greater fulfillment.

Grace was not absent in the Old Testament; it was woven into every covenant, every act of mercy, and every second chance. These stories reveal that grace is not a New Testament invention, but a timeless, unchanging part of God's character.

## Grace with Noah: A Fresh Start

*"But Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord."*  
— Genesis 6:8 (AMPC)

In Noah's day, the earth was saturated with corruption and violence. While God's justice necessitated judgment, his grace provided a bridge. One man, Noah, found grace, or favour, in the eyes of the Lord. God did not abandon humanity to its own destruction; instead, He offered a fresh start.

God instructed Noah to build the ark, creating not just a vessel of escape, but a powerful symbol of salvation. It was grace that preserved humanity, pointing ahead to a future rescue that would come not through a wooden boat, but through a wooden Cross.

## Grace with Abraham: The Unconditional Promise

“All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”  
— Genesis 12:3b (NLT)

Abraham’s story is a masterclass in grace. God called him out of a pagan background—not because of Abraham’s inherent righteousness or impressive qualifications, but because of God’s sovereign plan.

Despite Abraham’s moments of doubt, his half-truths, and his missteps, God remained fiercely faithful. He promised him descendants, land, and a legacy that would bless the world, sealing it with a covenant that depended on God’s word alone.

Abraham didn’t earn God’s favour. He simply believed, and it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). This is the Abrahamic rhythm of grace: it is always rooted in God’s initiative, never in human performance.

### Grace with Israel: Mercy in the Wilderness

The very existence of Israel is an act of grace. God rescued them from Egypt, looking past the dark history of how the sons of Jacob had treated their brother Joseph. Even after their miraculous deliverance, as they journeyed toward the Promised Land, the people repeatedly grumbled, rebelled, and turned away. Yet, God did not withdraw His presence.

His grace was tangible and daily:

- ✓ Provision: He rained Manna from heaven when they were hungry.
- ✓ Protection: He defended them against enemies on every side.
- ✓ Sustenance: He brought life-giving water out of a dry rock.
- ✓ Guidance: He led them by a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

Despite their repeated failures, God extended mercy. He renewed His covenant repeatedly, refusing to give up on His people. His patience is astounding—a vivid picture of a grace that persists through every season of human weakness.

## Grace with David: A Man After God's Heart

David's life is a masterpiece of grace. Chosen as king while still a shepherd boy, David was neither the most obvious candidate nor the most qualified. While he experienced incredible victories, his story is also marred by deep, public failures—adultery, the pride of a forbidden census, and even murder. Yet, when David repented, God's grace was immediately made manifest. Psalm 51 remains the ultimate cry for mercy, and in response, God restored him. Despite his profound flaws, God called David “a man after My own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14).

This is the essence of grace: it does not demand perfection; it invites a repentant heart to turn back toward its Creator.

## Grace in the Prophets: A Call to Return

Time and again, the prophets warned Israel of coming judgment. But woven into their sternest messages was always a redemptive thread—a promise of restoration, forgiveness, and healing. Grace was always standing at the door, waiting for the children of Israel to embrace it.

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore,  
he will rise up to show you compassion.” — Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)

Even when Israel broke their covenant, God's heart remained steadfast, longing to restore them.



## A Shadow of the Greater Grace

All these Old Testament stories are echoes and shadows of the ultimate grace to come. The ark, the covenants, the manna, the sacrifices, the kings, and the prophets—all were prophetic signposts pointing toward God's greatest act of favour. Grace has never been a "New Testament correction" to an Old Testament problem; it has been the heartbeat of the story from the first page to the last.

## Reflection Questions

1. Which Old Testament story of grace resonates most with your current season of life, and why?
2. Before reading this, did you view the Old Testament primarily through the lens of “Law” and “judgment”? How does seeing grace in these “law-heavy” sections change your view of God’s heart?
3. If God’s grace has been a consistent, unbroken thread throughout thousands of years of human history, how does that reality shape your ability to trust Him with your specific needs today?

# 04 Jesus Christ – The Embodiment of Grace

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If the Old Testament is filled with glimpses and shadows of grace, then Jesus Christ is the full, radiant light. In Him, grace is no longer an abstract concept or a distant promise; it has a face, a voice, and outstretched hands. The grace that hovered over creation pursued the fallen in Eden, and patiently guided Israel through the wilderness now walks among us in flesh and blood.

## Grace Became Flesh

John captures this mystery beautifully:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one  
and only Son, who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.”  
— John 1:14 (NIV)



Jesus didn't just teach about grace; He embodied it. Every interaction, every miracle, and every word He spoke carried the weight of unmerited favour. He healed the sick, welcomed the marginalised, touched the “untouchables,” and forgave the unforgivable.

To encounter Jesus was to encounter grace in its purest, most concentrated form.

## Grace in Action: The Outcasts and the Broken

To understand the Depths of this grace, we only need to look at the people Jesus chose to engage with. He didn't seek out the “qualified”. He sought out the desperate:

▮ **The woman caught in adultery:** Condemned by religious leaders, she faced public shame and a death sentence. Jesus stood between her and the stones, responding with a grace that silenced her accusers: “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.” John 8:11 (NIV)

▮ **Zacchaeus the tax collector:** Labelled a traitor and hated by his community, Zacchaeus was the last person anyone expected God to visit. Yet Jesus chose to dine at his house. This single encounter of unmerited acceptance led to instant repentance and radical restitution.

▮ **The thief on the cross:** A criminal at the very end of his life, with no time left to perform good works or “clean up” his act, he simply asked to be remembered. He received the most staggering promise in Scripture: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43 (NIV)

Grace flows freely to the least deserving. It is never reserved for the morally upright or the religious elite—it is extended to anyone humble enough to receive it.

## Grace at the Cross: The Ultimate Gift

The Cross is where the story of grace reached its climax. Jesus—sinless and perfect—took upon Himself the crushing weight of our failures. He bore the punishment we deserved so that we might receive the life we could never earn.

Paul and John explain this exchange plainly:

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.” — 1 John 4:9 (NLT)

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” — 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

The Cross was more than an act of sacrifice; it was an act of unthinkable grace. It was the place where justice and mercy kissed, and where love won the final victory.

## Grace After the Resurrection: A Continuing Invitation

The story of grace did not end at the grave. Even after His resurrection, Jesus continued to extend the same unmerited favour that defined His earthly ministry:

▮ He restored Peter: After Peter’s public and painful denial, Jesus didn’t fire him; He sat with him by a fire, restored him, and reaffirmed his calling.

▮ He met Thomas in his doubt: He didn’t condemn Thomas for needing proof. Instead, He offered His scars as a bridge to belief.

▮ He commissioned the imperfect: Jesus entrusted the most important message in history—the Gospel—to a group of flawed, fearful men and women. He didn't wait for them to be perfect; He filled them with His Spirit and sent them out.

Jesus' grace wasn't a one-time event at the Cross; it is a continuous invitation. It is the steady call of Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

## Reflection: Grace Has a Name

When we talk about grace, we are not merely discussing a theological theory or a religious doctrine. We are talking about a Person. Grace is Jesus Christ—alive, present, and actively offering forgiveness, freedom, and rest right now.

The question is never whether His grace is available. It is always flowing, always sufficient, and always free. The only question is: Are you ready to receive it?

## Reflection Questions

1. Of all the interactions Jesus had in the Gospels—the woman at the well, the thief on the cross, the restoration of Peter—which one most powerfully illustrates the Depths of grace to you personally?
2. How does understanding Jesus as the embodiment of grace—rather than just a teacher of rules—change the way you approach Him in prayer or invite Him into your daily life?
3. Grace is not just for our past; it is for our “right now”. In what specific area of your life—your work, your family, your secret struggles, or your health—do you need to receive His grace afresh today?



The Cross is where the story of grace reached its climax.  
Jesus—sinless and perfect—took upon Himself the  
crushing weight of our failures.

“For by grace are ye saved  
through faith; and that not  
of yourselves: it is the gift of  
God: Not of works, lest any  
man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

The truth is this: God’s saving grace  
is a gift. It always has been, and it  
always will be. It is a finished work,  
not a “work in progress.”

You cannot add to it with your  
efforts, and you cannot diminish it  
with your failures.

# 05

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## Saving Grace – Beyond What We Can Earn



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*We cannot cancel out our debts through moral effort. We cannot balance the divine scales with church attendance*

At the heart of the Gospel lies a truth that is both humbling and liberating: Salvation is a gift.

It is not something we achieve, not something we deserve, and not something we can ever repay. It is given freely, entirely because of the nature of the Giver.

This truth is foundational, yet it is completely counterintuitive. Everything in our world teaches us to strive, to compete, and to earn our keep. We are told that “there is no such thing as a free lunch”. But Grace flips the equation.

## By Grace Through Faith

The Apostle Paul makes the mechanics of salvation crystal clear:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

Notice the emphasis: “It is the gift of God.” We cannot earn salvation by being “good enough.” We cannot cancel out our debts through moral effort. We cannot balance the divine scales with church attendance, fasting, or acts of service. Grace means that God does the saving, while we simply provide the “empty hands” of faith to receive it.

## The Danger of Self-Reliance

Despite this, human nature gravitates toward self-reliance. Even after encountering God’s grace, many of us fall back into patterns of performance. We try to prove our worth or measure up to an invisible standard, secretly believing that God’s love is hinged on our behaviour. We fall into the trap of trying to complete in the flesh what was started by the Spirit.

But this mindset does more than just tire us out—it robs us of the ever-present power of grace. Paul confronted this struggle head-on when writing to the church in Galatia:

“Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?” — Galatians 3:3 (NIV)

Grace isn’t just the ignition switch that gets the car started; it is the fuel that keeps it moving and the destination itself. Salvation is not a reward for the diligent—it is a gift for the undeserving.

## Why is Grace Hard to Accept?

The beauty of grace is often obscured by the complexity of the human heart. We struggle to accept what is free for three primary reasons:

1. **Pride:** Deep down, we want to be the heroes of our own stories. We want to earn it so we can take credit for it.
2. **Shame:** We feel inherently unworthy, so we try to “clean ourselves up” before coming to God, forgetting that He is the only one who can make us clean.
3. **Control:** It is easier to believe we have a say in our salvation than to fully surrender to the sovereign mercy of another.

Grace calls us to let go. It invites us to rest, to trust, and to stop striving so that we can finally start believing.

## The Freedom of Receiving Grace

Grace does not only secure our eternity; it transforms how we live in the here and now. When you truly grasp that salvation is a gift, your entire motivation for living shifts:

- ▮ **From Performance to Presence:** You stop performing for approval because you realise you already have it in Christ.
- ▮ **From Fear to Security:** You stop living in fear of failure because your standing with God is based on His performance, not yours.
- ▮ **From Self-Interest to Love:** You start loving others freely because you have been freely loved.

Grace produces gratitude, not guilt. It leads to obedience, not obligation.

## A Timeless Picture: The Prodigal Son

Perhaps the clearest illustration of saving grace is Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15).

A son demands his inheritance, squanders it in a distant land, and finds himself broken and feeding pigs. In his desperation, he prepares a speech to beg for a servant's position, believing he must work his way back into his father's good graces. He thinks he needs to "earn" his way home.

But the love of God is found in the father's response: before the son can even utter his rehearsed speech, the Father runs to him. He doesn't wait for an apology; He embraces him, kisses him, and restores him fully with a robe, a ring, and a banquet.

The restoration wasn't based on the son's repentance speech; it was based on the father's lavish love. That is saving grace. No conditions. No negotiations. Just unmerited favour.

## Reflection: Stop Striving, Start Believing

Are you carrying the heavy burden of trying to earn God's approval? Do you wake up feeling that your standing with Him depends entirely on how well you performed yesterday?

The truth is this: God's saving grace is a gift. It always has been, and it always will be. It is a finished work, not a "work in progress." You cannot add to it with your efforts, and you cannot diminish it with your failures.

Today, the invitation remains the same: Will you stop striving and simply receive?

## Reflection Questions

1. Do you find it difficult to accept that salvation is purely by grace, without any contribution from you? What does that difficulty reveal about your heart's need for control or credit?
2. In what specific ways have you tried to “earn” God's favour in the past (e.g., through perfectionism, over-serving, or comparison)? How did those seasons leave you feeling spiritually?
3. How would your daily life—your stress levels, your relationships, and your internal peace—change if you fully embraced the truth that you are saved and sustained by grace alone?

This chapter is a vital “course correction” for many believers. You've moved beautifully from Saving Grace (the door) to Sanctifying Grace (the journey).

# 06

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## Growing in God's Grace

Many people believe grace is only applicable at the point of salvation—the initial act of God rescuing us from sin. But grace does not stop at the door. It continues to work in us ever single day, shaping us, transforming us, and empowering us to become more like Christ.

This ongoing work is often called sanctifying grace. It is the divine influence that helps us grow in holiness, maturity, and spiritual strength.

We aren't just saved from our past; we are being transformed into His image for our future.

*“So, all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us increasingly like himself as we are changed into His glorious image.”*

— 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)



## Grace Doesn't Leave You Where It Found You.

Paul describes the Christian life as a project managed by God:

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” — Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

Grace is not a one-time event; it is a life-long partnership. God doesn't save us and then step back to see if we can “figure out the rest” on our own. In our years of pastoring the Church, we have seen this grace encompass us through countless experiences.

It is what keeps us focused and resilient, even when the challenges of ministry and life seem overwhelming. The same grace that justified you is the same grace that will finish you.



## The Role of Grace in Spiritual Growth

We often slip back into the “performance trap”, thinking that spiritual growth depends solely on our willpower. We begin to measure our worth by the “perfection” of our Bible reading, the length of our prayers, or our ability to resist temptation.

But true growth is only possible because God’s grace is active within us. It is the “engine” of our development:

▮ Empowered Obedience: Grace doesn’t provide an excuse to sin; it provides the supernatural strength to resist it.

▮ Renewed Desire: Grace reshapes our hearts so that we want to follow God, rather than just feeling obligated.

▮ Persistent Perseverance: When we fall, grace doesn’t condemn us—it picks us up, brushes us up, and keeps us moving forward.

As Titus 2:11-12 reminds us:

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation  
to all people. And we are instructed to turn from  
godless living and sinful pleasures.  
We should live in this evil world  
with wisdom, righteousness,  
and devotion to God.”

Notice the order: Grace appears first, and then it instructs us how to live. Grace is not passive; it is an active teacher, guide, and empowerer.

## When Growth Feels Slow

At times, the process of sanctification can feel painfully slow. We live in a world of instant gratification, so we naturally want instant change, immediate victory over sin, and a flawless character. When we don't see it, we tend to get discouraged.

But we must understand that grace is patient. It recognises that true transformation is a lifelong journey, not a sprint. Like a master potter, God shapes us gently and persistently, working through our trials and even our failures to produce something beautiful.

Even the Apostle Paul—a man who understood grace perhaps more than anyone—confessed his own ongoing journey:

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

— Philippians 3:12 (NIV)

Grace is the voice that keeps calling us forward; it is never the voice that condemns us for where we currently are.



## Practical Ways to Walk in Sanctifying Grace

How do we practically cooperate with this ongoing work of God? It requires a shift from “self-effort” to “grace-reliance”:

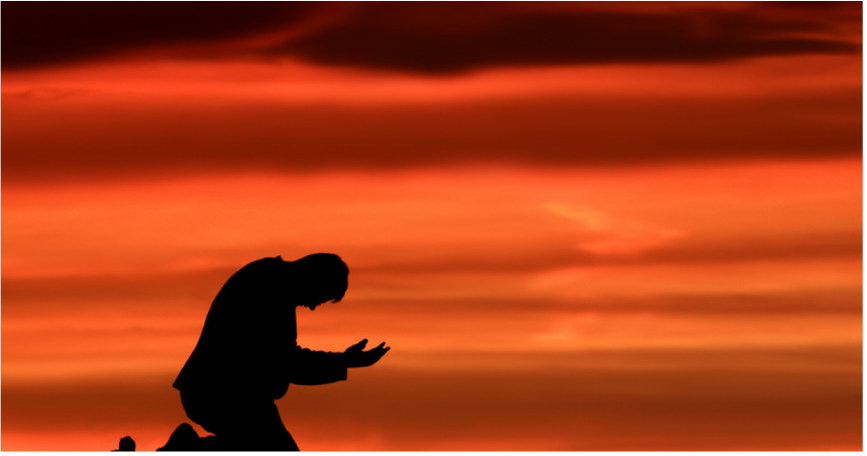
1. Rely on His Strength: Start your day by admitting you can’t “do” the Christian life alone. Pray daily for His supernatural help to overcome sin and grow.
2. Rest in His Patience: Trust that progress, not perfection, is the goal. If you are moving toward Him, you are succeeding.
3. Stay Rooted in the Word: We must meditate on Scripture daily. It acts as a mirror, reminding us of our identity in Christ and keeping grace at the centre of our minds.
4. Lean into Community: God often uses the Body of Christ as a channel of His grace. Through encouragement, accountability, and support, “iron sharpens iron”

## Reflection: Grace for the Journey

You don’t have to carry the heavy weight of your spiritual growth alone. The same God who was powerful enough to save you is committed enough to complete the work He began. His grace is sufficient—not just for the moment you believed, but for every single step of the journey home.

## Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever felt the crushing weight of trying to “grow” spiritually by your own willpower alone? What were the symptoms of that pressure (e.g., burnout, guilt, or frustration)?
2. How does viewing sanctification as a work of grace change your approach to spiritual disciplines like prayer and Bible study?
3. Looking at your character today compared to a few years ago, where can you see the “fingerprints” of God’s patient, ongoing work of transformation?



# 07

## Grace that Sets Free

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*It was grace that preserved humanity, pointing ahead to a future rescue.*

One of the most beautiful results of God's grace is freedom. It is freedom from the weight of our past, freedom from the poison of shame, and freedom from the exhaustion of striving.

The grace of God doesn't just rescue us from a destination; it liberates us in our current location.

Unfortunately, many believers live as if they are still bound—dragging behind them heavy burdens of guilt, fear, and religious obligation. They may believe in grace intellectually, but they haven't yet learned to walk in the freedom it offers. In this chapter, we will explore how grace breaks our chains and how we can finally live as people who are truly free.

## Freedom From The Power of Sin

A common misconception is that grace is merely a “pardon” for sin. But grace is much more—it is the power that breaks the control of sin over our lives.

The Apostle Paul makes a startling connection between our “ruler” and our “system”

“For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.”

Romans 6:14 (NIV)

Notice that sin loses its mastery the moment we stop trying to live under the Law. Before we encountered grace, sin ruled. We were powerless to resist, enslaved to patterns of selfishness, pride, or fear. But grace introduced a new reality. We are no longer defined by our failures.

This doesn't mean we will never struggle again, but it means that sin no longer has the final word. We are now free to live righteously—not because we are afraid of punishment, but because we are empowered by love.

## Freedom From Shame and Condemnation

One of the enemy's greatest weapons is shame. Even after receiving forgiveness, many believers carry lingering feelings of guilt—convincing themselves they are still unworthy, disqualified, or simply not “good enough” for God's love.

I recall a story of a seventy-year-old man who became born again later in life. Despite his new faith, he couldn't forgive himself for his past. He resolved to flogging himself at home, literally beating his own body because he believed that was what he deserved. It wasn't until he had a further, life-transforming encounter with the Depths of grace that he realised his self-punishment was actually an insult to the finished work of Christ.

Grace silences the voice of condemnation once and for all:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for  
those who are in Christ Jesus.”

— Romans 8:1 (NIV)

The scripture doesn't say “less” condemnation; it says no condemnation. Not now, and not ever. Grace means your failures no longer define you. Your past does not have the authority to hold you captive. In Christ, you are fully accepted, fully loved, and fully forgiven.



## Freedom From Performance and Legalism

Another subtle trap we often fall into is the mindset that we must “earn” God’s continued favour. Even after being saved by grace, we begin to strive—thinking that if we pray enough, serve enough, or fast enough, God will stay pleased with us. We treat His love like a wage we must earn rather than a gift we must enjoy.

But Paul warns us sternly against returning to that mindset:

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves  
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”  
— Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

Trying to live under a system of legalism or self-effort is actually a form of spiritual slavery. It ties us to a “to-do list” that never ends. Grace, however, invites us to rest—not in passivity or laziness, but in the deep security of knowing that God’s love and acceptance are constant, not conditional.

### What does Freedom Look Like ?

When the chains of performance fall off, a new way of living begins to emerge. Walking in freedom looks like:

▮ Joyful Obedience: You follow God out of love, not out of fearful compliance or a desire to avoid punishment.

▮ Deep Peace: You remain at rest even when you fail, because you know grace is there to restore you.

▮ Confidence in Prayer: You have bold access to God, knowing you don't have to "prove yourself" or "clean up" before you talk to Him.

▮ A Light Heart: The heavy weight of guilt and the pressure to be perfect are lifted off your shoulders.

▮ Generous Grace: You find it easier to extend grace to others because you are living in a massive overflow of it yourself.

## Reflection: Walking in Freedom

The freedom grace offers isn't just a theological theory; it is a practical reality meant to change how you think, how you breathe, and how you relate to the Father.

Jesus didn't just pay the price to get you into heaven; He paid the price to get the "heavy yoke" off your neck today.

Ask yourself honestly: Are you living as a person who has been set free? Or are you still carrying heavy burdens that Christ has already lifted?

## Reflection Questions

1. Do you struggle more with the weight of shame, the trap of legalism or the grip of sin (habits)?
2. How would your daily conversations with God change if you moved from “fearful compliance” to “bold confidence”, fully believing there is truly no condemnation left for you?
3. What practical steps can you take, such as Scripture declarations, a gratitude journal, to remind yourself daily of the freedom grace has purchased for you?

# 08

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## Extending Grace to Others – Becoming a Channel of God’s Favour



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*The more aware we are of our own daily need for grace, the more gracious we become toward others.*

Up to this point, we’ve explored how grace flows from God to us—saving us, sustaining us, helping us grow, and setting us free. But grace is not meant to stop with us. When we truly grasp the Depths of the unmerited favour God has poured into our lives, it naturally overflows into how we treat the people around us.

Grace received must become grace extended. We are called to be channels, not reservoirs.

# The Call to Be Gracious

Jesus makes the “Economy of Grace” very clear:

“Freely you have received; freely give.”  
— Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

The more aware we are of our own daily need for grace, the more gracious we become toward others. It softens our gaze. It changes how we view difficult people, how we handle offenses, and how we respond to the failures of those around us.

Paul echoed this rhythm in his letter to the Ephesians:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”  
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Our capacity to forgive, show patience, and offer kindness is not something we have to manufacture out of our own limited strength. It is already in us, placed there by the Holy Spirit, waiting to reach out to a world that desperately needs to see the face of God’s favour.

## Practical Ways to Extend Grace

Extending grace is often counter-cultural. It requires us to move against our natural instincts for “fairness” and “retribution”.

### 1. Forgiving Freely

Extending forgiveness isn’t easy. Our flesh wants justice, explanations, and grovelling apologies. But grace leads us to release others from debts they may never be able to repay—just as God did for us when we were bankrupt. “Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” — Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Forgiveness isn’t about excusing wrongdoing or pretending the hurt didn’t happen—it’s about trusting God to handle the scales of justice while we let go of the poison of bitterness.

## 2. Being Patient with Others' Growth

Just as God is patient with our slow sanctification, we are called to be patient with the people in our lives. Grace means giving people space to grow, stumble, and learn without hitting them with harsh judgments. It means offering the same “long-suffering” encouragement that God offers us.

## 3. Offering Unconditional Kindness

True grace isn't transactional. It doesn't ask, “What's in it for me?” or “Do they deserve this?” It gives kindness, time, and compassion freely. Jesus calls us to a radical, “non-math” kind of grace:

“Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them  
without expecting to get anything back.”

— Luke 6:35 (NIV)

## 4. Speaking Graceful Words

Paul urges us to let our speech be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6). In a world fuelled by criticism, sarcasm, and digital division, gracious words are a rare and powerful currency. How you speak—to your spouse, your children, your co-workers, or even strangers on social media—can be the very channel through which someone experiences visible, undeniable God's grace for the first time.



## Grace Creates Community

When we live this way, we do more than just act “nice”. We build a community where it is safe to be human, safe to fail, and safe to grow. Grace is the glue that holds the Body of Christ together.

This section provides a beautiful vision of what the “Grace Life” looks like when it becomes collective. It moves this book from individual transformation to cultural transformation. The “Signs of Community” listed below is to help you evaluate your own environment—not to judge but to lead in grace.

Grace Creates Community. Grace doesn’t just transform us as individuals; it is the architect of healthy, life-giving communities.

### **Signs of a community marked by grace:**

- ▮ Encouragement over Criticism
- ▮ Restoration over Rejection
- ▮ Welcome over Exclusion
- ▮ Burden-Bearing without Resentment

Imagine churches, families, and friendships truly shaped by this kind of unmerited favour. They become sacred spaces where people no longer have to wear masks or pretend to be perfect. In a grace-filled community, failure isn’t final, and love is never conditional.

## Reflections: Are You A Conduit of Grace ?

The more we soak in the reality of God’s unmerited favour toward us, the more we are called to become conduits, not cul-de-sacs. A conduit allows the water to flow through to a thirsty world; a cul-de-sac lets it pool and become stagnant. Grace is a living river; let it flow through you today.

## Reflection Questions

1. Is there a specific person in your life right now who needs to experience grace from you—perhaps through a long-overdue word of forgiveness, a new level of patience, or an unexpected act of kindness?
2. Do you find it harder to extend grace to certain “types” of people? What does that resistance tell you about your own understanding of God’s grace?
3. How might extending grace transform the atmosphere of your home, your workplace, or your community?



# 09

## Grace in Times of Trouble – Strength for the Journey

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“

*It was grace that preserved humanity, pointing ahead to a  
future rescue.*

Life is filled with difficulties—seasons of suffering, loss, doubt, pain, disappointments, and hardship. Even as believers, we are not promised a trouble-free existence. In fact, Jesus was remarkably honest about the road ahead:

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me.  
Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.  
But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

— John 16:33 (NLT)

What makes all the difference is this: God’s grace doesn’t disappear when life gets hard. It doesn’t withdraw when we are in pain. In fact, grace often shines its brightest in our darkest moments.

## Grace is Sufficient

One of the most powerful testimonies about grace in hardship comes from the Apostle Paul. He dealt with a persistent, painful trial he called a “thorn in the flesh.”

Three times he pleaded with God to remove it. He didn’t want a lesson; he wanted relief. But God’s response shifted Paul’s entire perspective on suffering:

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” — 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

Notice that God didn’t remove the thorn. Instead, He offered a higher reality: His Sufficient Grace.

Are you currently struggling with a “thorn” like Paul? Are you facing a situation that feels like it’s draining your very soul? Hear the father’s response to you today: My grace is enough.

## What Does “Sufficient” Really Mean?

Not barely enough. Not conditional. But perfectly tailored for the situation. More than enough!

### **Grace Doesn't Necessarily Change Circumstances—It Changes Us**

Often, when we face trials, our natural instinct is to pray for immediate rescue. While God can and does intervene miraculously, His grace sometimes manifests differently:

- ▮ Grace to endure
- ▮ Grace to find peace in chaos
- ▮ Grace to trust when answers don't come
- ▮ Grace to grow

God's grace might not necessarily remove the storm, but it anchors us within it and gives us the victory.

### **Examples of Grace in Hardship**

History is paved with the stories of those who discovered that God's grace is most tangible when life is most difficult.

1. Job's Story: Stripped of his wealth, his health, and his children, Job could not see the purpose behind his suffering. Yet, in the midst of his grief, God's grace sustained his soul. In the end, that same grace not only restored what he had lost but, more importantly, deepened his personal relationship with the Almighty.

2. Jesus in Gethsemane: On the eve of the Cross, Jesus prayed for the cup of suffering to pass. While God's grace did not spare Him from the trial, it provided the supernatural strength He needed to endure the weight of the world's sin and fulfil His divine purpose.

3. Modern Testimonies: Countless believers today can testify how God's sustaining grace met them in the sterile silence of hospital rooms, during the shock of financial ruin, through the sting of relational betrayal, or in the heavy seasons of depression.

We have experienced this first-hand in our own ministry. A few years ago, our place of worship was shut for about twelve months. We were forced into a lengthy, grueling, and costly court process just to regain the property. In those twelve months of uncertainty and legal battles, it was God's grace alone that held our congregation together, provided the resources we needed, and gave us victory in the end.

## Receiving Grace in Times of Troubles

Knowing that grace is sufficient is one thing; learning how to practically lean into it when your world feels like it's falling apart is another. Here is how we intentionally tap into that supernatural supply:

1. Admit Your Weakness: Grace cannot fill a heart that is already full of self-sufficiency. Grace meets us the moment we stop pretending we have it all together and admit, "Lord, I can't do this on my own".

2. Ask Boldly: We don't have to crawl to God in our pain; we are invited to run to Him.

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." —  
Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)*

3. Trust His Timing: Grace doesn't always provide an immediate "exit" from the trial. Often, grace is working beneath the surface, refining your faith and growing a perseverance that will serve you for the rest of your life.

4. Look for Daily Provision: Don't look for "next month's"; grace; look for today's. Sometimes grace shows up in small, quiet ways—a sudden moment of peace, a timely text from a friend, or just enough strength to get through the next hour.

## Grace Makes Suffering Redemptive

One of the greatest miracles of grace is not that it spares us from all pain, but that it redeems it. In the hands of a gracious God, nothing is wasted. He uses even our hardest seasons—the ones we would never have chosen for ourselves—for our ultimate good and His eternal glory.

The Apostle Paul gives us this ironclad promise:

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” — Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Notice it says all things, not just the “good” things. Grace transforms suffering from a senseless tragedy into something meaningful.

It serves as a tool in God's hands to:

- ▮ Deepen our dependence: Forcing us to lean on a strength beyond our own.
- ▮ Enlarge our compassion: Preparing us to comfort others with the same comfort we have received.
- ▮ Prepare us for glory: Shaping our character to reflect the image of Christ more clearly.

## Reflection: Grace for the Hard Places

Wherever you find yourself today—whether you are standing on a mountaintop of victory or walking through the deepest, darkest valley—God's grace is not absent. It is not distant, and it is not silent. It is always present. It is always enough.

## Reflection Questions

1. Can you recall a specific time in your past when your own strength failed, but God's grace carried you through?
2. How does knowing that His grace is sufficient—not just for the easy days, but for the “thorns” —change the way you face your current difficulties?
3. Are there areas in your life right now where you are exhausted from trying to “fix” or “survive” in your own strength? What would it look like to stop striving today and lean more fully into His sustaining grace?

# 10

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## The Eternal Grace of God – A Future Secured

We've explored how God's grace saves, sustains, grows, frees, and empowers us in this life. But grace doesn't end when this life does. It stretches far beyond our present circumstances and reaches into eternity.

Grace is not just for today; it is the seal that secures our future.



## Grace That Guarantees Eternal Life

Paul reminds us of the stark contrast between our effort and God's provision:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Romans 6:23 (NIV)

Notice how eternal life is described—not as a wage we earn, but as a gift we receive.

Grace carries us not only through this earthly journey but ushers us into the presence of God forever. We can have full assurance that because of Christ's finished work, our eternal destiny is guaranteed.

## What Eternal Grace Means

### **1. No More Striving or Uncertainty**

Many people live with deep anxiety, wondering if they have "done enough" to secure a place in heaven. Grace eliminates that question. Christ Himself assured us of our place with Him:

"My Father's house has many rooms.  
I am going there to prepare a place for you."  
— John 14:2-3 (NIV)

Through grace, heaven is not a reward for good behaviour; it is the eternal home secured by Christ's sacrifice.

## 2. Freedom from the Fear of Death

To many, death is the ultimate unknown. But grace removes its sting:

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” — 1 Corinthians 15:55, 57 (NIV)

Grace allows us to face the end of this life not with dread or fear, but with hope and confidence, knowing that a life of glory with God awaits us.

## 3. An Inheritance That Can't Be Lost.

The Apostle Peter beautifully described the nature of our future:

“...an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.  
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...”  
— 1 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

What we receive through grace is imperishable. No mistake, no circumstance, and no failure can cancel this inheritance. It is kept—not by our strength—but by the power of God.

## Living Now in the Light of Eternal Grace

Eternal grace isn't just about what happens after we take our last breath—it radically shapes how we live right now. When we are anchored in the future God has secured for us, it changes our perspective on everything:

▮ Hope in Suffering: We can endure temporary trials because we know they are not the end of our story.

▮ Radical Generosity: We can give freely in this life because we know we have an inexhaustible inheritance waiting for us.

▮ Fuel for Mission: Our hearts break for those who don't know this favour, driving us to share the same grace we have received.

▮ Anchored Identity: We no longer need to be defined by earthly measures of success or failure; we are citizens of heaven, and our status is already settled.

## Anticipate the Fullness of Grace

As wonderful as grace is today, it is only a foretaste of what is to come. The Apostle John gives us a glimpse into our eternal reality:

“Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'”

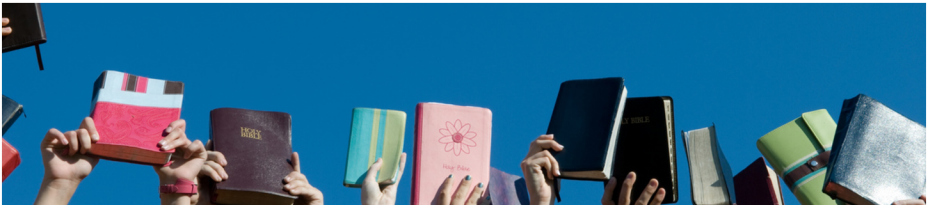
— Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

One day, the “dim mirror” through which we see grace will be cleared. We will stand in the fullness of God's presence—where every broken thing is restored, every wound is healed, and every longing of the human heart is finally satisfied.

## Reflection: Resting in Eternal Grace

“

*Do you live with the quiet, unshakable assurance that grace has secured your eternity? How might a clearer focus on this eternal reality change the way you approach the stresses and decisions of today?*



# Conclusion

## Living Daily in the Grace of God

Grace is not just a theological concept to be studied—it's the very air we breathe as believers. From the moment God reaches down to rescue us, to the slow, steady work of transformation, to the daily strength we need in trials, and finally to the promise of eternal life, grace is the golden thread that runs through it all. This book has traced the sweeping story of God's unmerited favour:

- ▮ Grace that saves: Offered freely to the bankrupt, not earned by the worthy.
- ▮ Grace that sanctifies: Patiently shaping our hearts to reflect the image of Christ.
- ▮ Grace that frees: Breaking the heavy chains of sin, shame, and religious striving.
- ▮ Grace that sustains: Carrying us through life's deepest trials and darkest uncertainties.
- ▮ Grace that overflows: Empowering us to extend radical compassion and forgiveness to others.
- ▮ Grace that secures eternity: Giving us an unshakable hope that stretches beyond this life.

But the invitation of this book is not simply to know about grace—it is to live in it.

### **Making Grace Personal**

As you close these pages, the journey doesn't end; it simply changes pace. Consider honestly how this unmerited favour is shaping your daily life right now:

- ▮ Is grace freeing you from guilt and fear? Does it remind you that you are fully loved and accepted?
- ▮ Is grace giving you the strength to persevere? When life is hard and the "thorns" are sharp, are you finding that supernatural "sufficiency" that carries you when your own strength fails?

# Conclusion

▮ Is grace softening your heart toward others? Are you becoming less of a judge and more of a channel, allowing God’s kindness to flow through you to those who—like all of us—don’t deserve it?

▮ Is grace anchoring your hope? Have you moved your anchor from the shifting sands of your circumstances to the solid rock of God’s unchanging favour?

## An Ongoing Journey

The grace of God is inexhaustible. No matter how long you have walked with Him, there is always more to discover, more to receive, and more to reflect to the world around you.

As you move forward from these pages, let the closing words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians be the theme of your life:

*“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” — 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)*

That is our prayer for you: that you would not only understand God’s grace as a doctrine but experience it as a reality. May you live in it, walk in it, and extend it every single day.



As you close these pages, the journey doesn’t end; it simply changes pace. Consider honestly how this unmerited favour is shaping your daily life right now:

UNMERITED

## Final Reflection Questions

As you prepare to step into a new chapter of your walk with God, take a moment to sit with these final thoughts:

1. Looking back to the first page, how has your understanding of God's grace deepened or shifted through this journey?
2. In which specific area of your life do you sense God inviting you to stop striving and lean more fully into His sufficient grace?
3. How can you become a more visible and consistent reflection of His grace to your family, your community, and even your perceived enemies?



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