

Meet Grace

Presented by Mary Lowman

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Day One

I want to introduce you to Grace. You may have met her before; I'm sure you have. But maybe you just haven't gotten to know her too well yet. She is amazing grace. What makes her so amazing?

First and most importantly, grace is your ticket to heaven.

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).

Your good works won't get you there. The fact you're better than lots of other people doesn't count. If and when you place your trust in Jesus Christ, confess your sins, and believe in your heart he is the way—and the only way—to know God, then God gives you a ticket. It's a one-way ticket that guarantees you will spend eternity with him in heaven, and that ticket is grace. You can't buy this ticket; it's free, and it's the only way you can get there.

Secondly, grace is sufficient for every need you will have while on your way to Heaven.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The Apostle Paul is referring here to a "thorn in his flesh," he called it. Three times he prayed for God to take it away—make his life easier, make him more effective in serving Jesus. Take away this thorn, Lord! It seemed like the obvious solution to his problem.

Instead, God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you." My grace is all you need. My power comes through perfectly in your weakness.

What have you prayed for God to fix—to make right, to solve—and he hasn't done it yet? Maybe he will—in his own timing—or maybe not. But this much I can guarantee you, if you are born from above through faith in Jesus Christ, God's amazing grace will be enough for you. God's power will come through in ways you can't even imagine.

When you admit you are weak and helpless, grace comes through.

Day Two

Grace is your ticket to heaven, and grace is sufficient for your every need on your journey there. But this is just the beginning.

We read:

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given (John 1:16).

Jesus is full of grace:

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).

Is there a limit to his grace? None, never! And from his grace, you, as his child, have received grace upon grace. Unending grace. Immeasurable grace.

The question I want to put to you is: Are you living in the fullness of the grace of Jesus? Is God's grace—amazing grace—a conscious part of your everyday life? Having been born again through grace, have you missed the abundant grace upon grace for your life? Or maybe, like me, you live in it some days and some days you don't.

God is able and willing to give you grace upon grace. Grace to do every good work he has planned for you to do. Grace to endure whatever circumstances come your way. Grace to love like Jesus loves; to care like Jesus cares; to serve like Jesus served; to forgive like Jesus forgave. All grace is God's gift to you. He is able to do that, provided you don't miss it. Provided you don't "fall short of his grace."

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many (Hebrews 12:15).

"See to it" says the writer to the Hebrews. Get to know grace better. See to it you don't miss out on God's abundant, amazing grace he gives to you—grace upon grace for every day and every situation in your life.

Day Three

If you are not truly aware of grace in your life minute by minute, day by day, maybe it's because your experience of grace is warped.

For example, could it be:

Do you see grace through your relationship with your parents or other authority figures?

Maybe they set high expectations for you, and you never received their approval. Or perhaps you received very little attention; or one parent deserted you. As a result of one or more of these factors, your experience of "grace" fell very short of what it should have been.

Do you see grace through your past?

You think you don't measure up; you're not smart or gifted. You've messed up too much, failed God too often. As a result, you have lots of guilt. Perhaps you've become cynical, feeling hopeless about any possibility of things changing.

If you've been looking at grace through the wrong lens, one of these or some other one, God's grace has probably always seemed distant for you or it's a mystery to you. And this probably reveals itself in one of several ways:

- You are always in performance mode, trying to secure God's and others' approval by being good, excelling in everything. Always trying to show yourself and others you're okay, but it's never enough.
- You have given up trying to find the grace you need, so you just sit on the sidelines and admire others, all the time blaming yourself.
- In fear of failure, you never step out on faith to do the good works God has called you to do.

You haven't met grace yet—not totally, not completely.

You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace (Galatians 5:4).

Day Four

If you have indeed become a child of God through God's saving grace, then the next question is, are you living your life in the reality of God's grace?

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 9:8).

How much grace can abound toward you? All! How sufficient can you be? All! How many areas of your life can you have this all-sufficient grace? All! How many good works can you then do? An abundance! An abundance of what? Grace! For what? Every good work.

God pours out all grace on you so you can be sufficient in all the things he puts in your life and therefore you will do many good works—an abundance of good works. God put you here to do good works:

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

You have to meet Grace before you do the good works. Otherwise, you will keep trying to do the good works on your own, to win God's favor or feel good about yourself or check off the boxes so you can say, "Look, I did it." God gives you grace upon grace—all grace, for everything, an abundance—and then you have the privilege and joy of doing the good works, being the person God created you to be, knowing the fulfillment is yours as a child of the king.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me (1 Corinthians 15:10).

You do the good works God intended you to do because you've met grace, and that grace was not in vain! You work hard to do the good works because God's grace is with you.

Have you been missing some of God's grace? Why? Can you put a finger on it? If so, what do you do to turn around and start living in grace?

Day Five

How can you start living in grace? First and foremost, you have to give up! Yes, give up:

- Trying to earn God's grace. You can't! It's a gift!
- Trying to make up for your past. It's behind you! God remembers it against you no more.
- Trying to shift the blame—on your parents, on your siblings, on your mate, on your circumstances—whoever or whatever. Forgive whoever needs forgiving and let go of the bitterness and anger that is eating you alive.
- Sitting on the sidelines. Whatever fear is immobilizing you, believe God's grace is sufficient to enable you to do the good works he put you here to do.
- Any known addiction in your life—anything that is keeping you in bondage.

Give up and then give in! Give in:

- To God's love for you. You are the one he loves. Nothing can separate you from his love. It's unconditional—unlike any other love you've known.

- To God's plan for you. Believe he has good works for you to do and tell God you want to do them. Tell God you're tired of everything always being about you, and you want your life to be all about God.
- To God's grace! Start immersing yourself in the grace of God. Search scripture about God's grace and pray those scriptures into your life.
- To the joy of your salvation. If you're sure you have been born from above, ask God to restore your joy as you learn to bask in his grace.
- To the abundant life Jesus died to give you. Stop settling for just getting by. Ask God to overflow your heart and mind with the truth of his grace to you, and then go for it.

I want to leave you with a picture of you covered with grace! Grace follows you everywhere! Grace fills your heart! Grace comes out of your mouth. Grace gets you through the tough times. You have met grace, and you are growing in the knowledge and understanding of grace:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen (2 Peter 3:18).

You've met Grace! Get to know her better and better every day. Pray Grace into your life. Rebuke the enemy who will try to dump guilt and anger and shame and bitterness on you. Say hello to Grace all through your day. Fix your mind on Jesus, the one who is full of grace.