

Reclaiming the Vitality of My Faith
Series: The Good News About Grace

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REVIEW: WHAT IS SAVING GRACE?

G= GOD'S GIFT TO ME (Romans 3:24)

R= RECEIVED BY FAITH (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A= AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE (Romans 10:13)

C= COMES THROUGH CHRIST (John 1:17)

E= EXTENDED THROUGH ETERNITY (Romans 6:23)

TODAY: UNDERSTANDING THAT AVAILABLE TO EACH ONE OF US AT ANY TIME IS RESTORING GRACE.

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

Our purpose is to learn how to get the joy back in our walk with God and overcome the staleness we sometimes feel.

THREE KEY QUESTIONS FOR WHICH WE NEED TO KNOW THE ANSWERS:

1. What is God's response to us when our relationship with him cools?

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

God responds to us with restoring grace.

2. Why does God respond with restoring grace?

A. Because his love is unconditional.

Lamentations 3:22 (LB) ...God's compassion never ends. It is only the Lord's mercies that have kept us from complete destruction.

B. Because salvation isn't based on my performance.

Titus 3:5 (NLT) He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy...

C. Because Jesus has already taken care of my sins.

I John 2:2 (Mes) When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's.

Definition of License: When we disregard everything God would have us do in living our lives because our sins have been forgiven.

Romans 6:15-16 (NLT) So since God's grace has set us free from the law, does this mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.

When we have received grace, our response should always be gratitude, not license.

D. Because Jesus understands my human weakness.

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) He understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin.

E. Because God doesn't hold on to grudges.

Psalms 103:9-13 (NLT) He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does he deal with us as we deserve...He is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

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

3. What should I do when my relationship with God cools?

Return to God and receive his restoring grace.

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

Isaiah 1:18 (LB) ...no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you

as clean as freshly fallen snow...

Isaiah 54:7 (NLT) "...with great compassion I will take you back."

CONCLUSION:

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

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?