

THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW GOD

Americans are pros at performance and we know little about grace.

Psalm 86:15 (NIV) But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God...

Grace: God gives me what I need , not what I deserve.

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you...

WHAT GOD'S GRACE DOES FOR ME

1. GOD'S SAVING GRACE REMOVES MY GUILT

Ephesians 1:7 - 8 (GN) For by the death of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such a large measure

Ephesians 2:8 - 9 (GN) For it is by God's grace that you have been saved, through faith. It is not your own doing, but God's gift. There is nothing to boast of, since it is not the result of your own efforts.

Salvation is based on God's mercy not our merit

2. GOD'S STRENGTHENING GRACE RESHAPES MY LIFE

Isaiah 64:8 (NIV) Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The biggest problem in Christianity is people start with relationship and then revert to rules.

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

Philippians 2:13 (NIV) For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

3. GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE REMOVES MY HURT

2 Corinthians 12:9 (GN) ...My grace is all you need; for my power is strongest when you are weak...

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

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph) Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace of God for if you do, there can spring up in you a bitter spirit, which can poison the lives of many others.

CONCLUSION:

The key to receiving grace: I must admit I need it

James 4:6 (NIV) But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'

Once we have received grace what are we to do with it?

A. Be gracious to other people

B. Share God's grace with others

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work