

“Grace For...” Devo Series



grace to see His face – part 1

"The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you." 2 Corinthians 13:14, The Message

Did you know that the best gift God could ever give us is the privilege of having a “face to face” relationship with Him? Jesus, because of His grace has given us this very gift. Grace by definition is: *His unmerited favor*. In other words, the Lord favors us in multiple ways through no effort or deserving on our part. He gives us what we don’t deserve. He gives us what we could never earn. Because of the shed blood of Jesus and His finished work on the cross, the Lord has graced us in multiple ways. This week, let’s look at four ways grace affects our lives.

Because of the grace to see His face...

We have an intimate friendship with God: When we believe in and receive Jesus, we are reconciled with God. We are able to see Him as He is and we are able to have a friendship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Once, we were sinners weighed down with sin, guilt and condemnation – but by His grace, He gave us faith to be saved. When we turned to God and ran in His direction, the Father welcomed us home with His open arms. We came face to face with our Creator and Father God. He instantly made us family. He clothed us with a robe of righteousness, fit our feet with gospel sandals that ministered peace to our hearts, gave us a ring that represented the new covenant agreement we became heirs to and threw a big party in heaven with His angels to welcome us to the family. *“Now God has us where He wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all His idea, and all His work. All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving.”* (Ephesians 2:7-9, *The Message*)

We are invited to join Him at the throne of grace: This is a great privilege. With boldness, we can join Him at His throne of grace and talk to the Lord face to face. We don't have to be afraid of the Lord, live in fear or carry a sense of unworthiness; but rather, we can come into His Presence where there is fullness of joy. In modern terms, we have access to join the Lord in His den – that place of comfort and conversation. *“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”* (Hebrews 4:16, *NLT*)

Because of His grace – His unmerited favor – we can hear His heart and share His passions. Today, by grace, see His face and enjoy fellowship with Him in the most personal, heartfelt and intimate ways.

“My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, LORD, I will seek.” (Psalm 27:8, *NIV*)

Say It: “Father, I am so thankful that by Your grace I can see Your face and receive Your love and intimate friendship. Today, I come boldly to Your throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help. Lord, I want to sit with You, enjoy Your Presence, hear Your heart and know You more. Thank You Lord. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”



grace for your place – part 2

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be."

1 Corinthians 12:18, NIV

Did you know you have an important place in the plan of God? You do! Jesus has a place for you to serve in His Church – the Body of Christ! By His grace, assistance and discernment, you can and must find your place!

Your place is important. God's plan isn't the same without you. Like a jigsaw puzzle with a missing piece – God's plan without you in your proper place messes up the whole deal! Don't forget, when you are not in your place, the overall Body of Christ suffers. Something is missing. There are gaps. Sure, the Lord finds ways to fill your spot. But to do this, He often has to tap into others to do double-duty to cover your place. The best plan is for you to discover your place and then function there!

Interestingly, your place is not necessarily a “position.” It’s a spiritual place. It may be a place of service, support, leadership, help, giving, hospitality, teaching, mercy or administration – or some other place whereby you serve the Lord and His Body.

What kind of people is the Lord gracing for their placing? He’s looking for those who have been emptied of “self” and are focused on being full of His grace! He’s looking for those who don’t care about their title or position on the org chart; but rather, those who have a heart to serve the Lord and advance His Church. He’s looking for those who are passionate about what He is passionate about – reaching the lost, building up His people and producing fruit that remains! He’s looking for those who want nothing more than to see His Name exalted and revealed and His glory filling the whole earth!

There is no doubt – you have been gifted and anointed by the Lord to play a particular role in His Church. Anything less than that will be totally unfulfilling. You were born-again to take your place. It’s wired into your spiritual DNA. Anything less than bearing much fruit in your life will leave you with a big sense of dissatisfaction. Sometimes, getting to your ultimate “place” is a progressive work with a few ups and downs and missteps along the way. But as we grow and mature and lean on His grace, the Lord is able to open doors for us to enter our “place.” Then we can serve Him and His Church most effectively.

Be encouraged – if you will seek the Lord, He will give you all the grace you need to be the person He’s called you to be, in order to stand in your place. Today, why not receive more of His grace and take your place in His Church!

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last....” (John 15:16, NIV)

Say It: “Father, I ask You to do a thorough work in me so that I stand perfect and complete in Your will and purposes. I know that my ‘place’ is not a position or title, but one of obedience to You. At the end of the day, I want to fulfill my place in Your Church. I want to be counted faithful so that much fruit can be produced through my life. I ask You to open my eyes to any adjustments I need to make to receive more grace to stand in my place. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”



grace to finish your race – part 3

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:24, NIV

Did you know you have a race to run? It's true. The Lord has marked out a path, lane, course and race for each one of us to run – and finish. And, He wants us to finish our race with joy! Here's that same passage from another translation of the Bible:

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24, NKJV)

When my husband ran the Chicago Marathon it was quite a site. Over 35,000 runners started the race. Their adrenaline was pumping as they did their warm-up stretching and jumping, preparing for the starting gun to go off. Six and a half hours later, not nearly the number that started had finished. I don't know what the attrition rate was, but over the course of the 26 miles, many great starters quit the race. They didn't finish.

How sad but true this is in the Christian life and ministry.

In Life: Thousands and even millions of people around the world start the race. A day comes when they “pray the prayer,” accept Christ and respond to altar calls. They invite Jesus into their lives and the race begins! Then life happens. Twenty-six miles later, you can look around and see the attrition. Where are the ones who started so strong and loved the Lord so much? Scores of people quit on the Lord, their faith and the call to be a true disciple; while a small group of believers endure to the finish line!

In Ministry: Thousands of believers who've accepted Jesus as their Lord have sensed a call to ministry. They have a God-given desire to lay down their lives for others and embrace their task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. They start the race with enthusiasm! Then things get difficult. They discover that serving God is hard work – with long hours, little margin, and no guarantee of recognition or compensation for all their efforts. Twenty-six miles down the dusty road the glitz and glam has worn off, and scores of people who were truly called to the ministry by the Lord Himself have bailed from the race. They quit.

Starting the race is the easy part. Staying in the race is the challenge. Finishing the race is for the strong. And finishing the race with joy requires loads of grace!

So, how about you? Where are you in the race? About to start? Rounding the first mile? Halfway there? Have you hit the wall at mile 19? Is your finish line in sight? Are you ready to break through the tape? Are you still in love with Jesus, and His cause? Full of joy?

Today, if you've quit on the Christian life or bailed on the sacrificial life of

serving God – why not reinstate yourself in the race? Ask God (and others, if necessary) to forgive you for whatever reason that caused you to drop out, and ask Him for extra doses of grace to finish your race.

Today, if you've been running strong and are in the midst of your race, there is no doubt you could use a refreshing impartation of joy to keep running. Go ahead and ask the Lord for a huge measure of grace to finish your race!

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
(2 Timothy 4:7, NIV)*

Say It: “Father, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. I thank You for Your grace to run my race. I ask You for more grace to live the Christian life. I ask You for more grace to serve You and share the good news of Jesus. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'BAH'.



grace for the pace – part 4

"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]." Hebrews 4:16, AMP

Life is busy. I don't need to tell you that. We live in a fast-paced world, with instant access to information, multiple plates to spin and priorities to juggle. The pace of life moves at a rapid rate. It's likely that very few of us are able to take anything off our plate; but rather, our responsibilities keep growing! That's why we desperately need grace for the pace!

When we receive God's grace for the pace, He favors us with a real, tangible

impartation of His inner strength and ability. He expands our capacity.

It's no wonder that when the Apostle Paul needed additional strength for all of the persecutions he faced as he worked day and night spreading the gospel, that the Lord told him, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”* (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV)

Do you feel like a hamster on the treadmill of life? Are you living with one nostril above water? Thank God He is offering grace for the pace from His very throne of grace! Today, come boldly to His throne and obtain all the grace you need to help you do all that is required of you.

Say It: “Father, I come boldly to Your throne of grace today to obtain grace for the pace. I need grace – appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when I need it – to strengthen me, enlarge my capacity and help me. I thank You for a fresh impartation of grace for the pace. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Beth'.