

*"By the Grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor 15:10)*

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**Introduction:** How do you view your life?

A. Paul was a very thankful man for the place he was given in God's kingdom.

**(1 Cor 15:7-11)**

1. Paul knew what Christ had saved him from! He was not worthy. **(Heb 2:9)**
2. All that God through Jesus had done for him made him a hard worker.

B. There is great power in seeing your daily dependence upon God. **(Mt 6:11-13)**

1. With this view our daily worship is as natural as our eating food!
2. The trouble we often face is that we fail to see our daily need of the grace of God. When this happens we have forgotten who we really are.
3. We must always see ourselves through the cross of Christ. **(2 Pet 1:9-10)**
4. Can you say with Paul: "By the grace of God I am what I am"?

***I. My Salvation is by the Grace of God***

A. I had to come to know of God and His nature. **(1 Pet 2:1-3)**

1. When I responded to the gospel it was not just to a set of rules but to a living God!
2. Anyone who responds to God's grace has God in mind and not men.

B. I had to come to know myself and my nature. **(Eph 2:1-7)**

1. You must see yourself as serving Satan, the prince of this world.
2. You must see yourself as dead spiritually, without hope before God.
3. You must see yourself as deserving only the wrath of God.
4. In this context God's mercy and love is rich indeed. **(Eph 2:5)**

A man must completely despair of himself in order to become fit to obtain the grace of Christ. Martin Luther (1483–1546)

5. Is this what you experienced in your conversion?

C. I had to come to know how to receive the grace of God.

1. There is a point in time where one receives the grace of God for salvation. **(Rom 5:17)**
2. Paul knew clearly that it took a broken man to receive the grace of God. **(Phil 3:7-11)**
3. Paul also knew the point in time every Christian finds the initial forgiveness of God. **(Acts 22:16; Rom 6:3-5)**

D. I had to continue to receive the grace of God. **(1 Cor 15:1-2)**

1. This involves a daily reminder of who we are. **(Heb 13:9)**
2. Far too many have forgotten they were forgiven.
3. What takes the place of grace in our hearts? Pride!

***II. My Abilities are by the Grace of God***

A. God's grace causes me to see what abilities I have and then motivates me to use them for Him.

1. Because of God's grace I can see clearly who I am and accept that! **(Rom 12:3)**
2. God's grace teaches me to accept my position in life among men and serve Him wherever He calls me. **(1 Cor 7:17-24)**

3. God may grant me additional abilities as I grow. (**Rom 12:6; Eph 4:17; 1 Pt 4:10**)
- B. When I fail to see the grace of God, my abilities becomes a curse to me.
  1. Satan wants you to view others as competitors. (**1 Cor 4:6-7**)
  2. When we glory in men we will see the need to tear down others so that the abilities of men be exalted.
  3. When a man is motivated by grace they will rejoice in what God has given another! We are on the same team! (**Rom 12:15-16**)
  4. Please do not walk in the way of the scoffer. (**Psa 1:1**)

### ***III. My Protection is by the Grace of God (Rom 8:28)***

- A. I need protection from Satan and his power of temptation. (**1 Cor 10:12-13**)
  1. If I will be humble, then God's grace can rest upon me. (**Jas 4:6-10**)
  2. Some of the best things that have ever happened to me on the surface appeared to be a disaster. (**2 Cor 12:7-10**)
- B. I need the providential care of God. (**1 Pt 5:6-7**)
  1. What does it mean when we hear that God cares for us?
  2. Jesus pointed to this care of God in the sermon on the mount. (**Mt 6:26-32**)
  3. How many times have we seen God's care for us displayed?
  4. When we see this need of God's grace what will we be doing? (**Jas 4:13-17; 2 Thess 3:1-2**)

### ***IV. How we can set aside the Grace of God (2 Cor 6:1)***

- A. By forgetting that we were forgiven. (**2 Pt 1:9-10**)
  1. We can show that in unmerciful attitudes towards others. (**Jas 2:13; Eph 4:32**)
  2. Are you showing grace or vengeance? (**Heb 12:15**)
- B. By quitting the work of God. (**Titus 2:11-15; 2 Cor 9:8**)
  1. Are the things of God boring to you?
  2. Do you seek to find the minimum you "have to do?"
  3. Are you rather a debtor who joyfully takes the opportunities to serve others? (**Rom 1:14**)
- C. By accepting a different gospel. (**Gal 1:6**)
  1. Those who believe in a "grace" that leaves the commandments of God as incidentals do not know God. (**1 Jn 5:2-3**)
  2. Are you concerned with what God has said?

### ***Conclusion:*** Can the fruits of God's grace be found in your live? (**2 Cor 4:15-18**)

- A. When we raise children in a graceless home, there will be bitter fruits.
- B. When we live knowing the God of whom we depend on each day, our lives will be filled!

"Lord I crawled across the barrenness to You with my empty cup uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. if only I had known You better I'd have come running with a bucket."

- C. When did you receive the grace of God?