

IT'S ALL ABOUT GRACE



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LifeinJesus.net

‘It’s All About Grace’
by
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IT'S ALL ABOUT GRACE

People have many different ideas about God and His attitude towards them. Often they feel He is punishing them for the wrong things they do, say and think – what the Bible calls sin. It's true that God hates sin and, because He is just, it has to be punished. But it's also true that He loves people and doesn't want to have to punish them. So how did God deal with this? He did it by putting all the blame, guilt and shame of sin on Jesus and punishing Him instead. This means that we can have all His blessings even though we don't deserve them – that's grace.

But First There Was the Law

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave His people the law - a list of instructions on how they should live. And with it He set up a system of animal sacrifices which would gain God's forgiveness. The law was completely performance driven. If you kept the law you were blessed. If you broke it you were cursed. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 says – *'It shall happen, if you ... observe to do all his commandments which I command you today, ... All these blessings will come upon you.'* And Deuteronomy 28:15 says – *'But it shall come to pass, if you will not ... observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come on you.'* It was a reward and punishment system totally dependent upon how well or badly people performed.

The law was very detailed and impossible to keep perfectly. What God wanted was for people to realise that they couldn't make themselves perfect or be holy by their own effort. He wanted them to realise they needed a Saviour.

What is Grace?

God had never wanted the animal sacrifice system to continue but He had to punish sin, so He sent His very own Son, Jesus, to be the final sacrifice. But this time it was just one sacrifice for all sin, for all people and for all time. Jesus took the punishment, guilt and shame for every sin, past, present and future. It was all punished, so justice had been done, but the people didn't suffer the punishment. Jesus suffered your punishment so you could walk free and enjoy a personal love relationship with God. No-one deserves it, but God did it anyway – that's how much He loves you. That's grace.

Grace can be described as **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. Jesus Christ paid the price for all sin so you can enjoy all God's blessings. All your sins are forgiven and when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, what the Bible calls being born-again, that forgiveness can become reality in your life and you can live the wonderful life Jesus won for you, free of guilt and shame. (To read about being born-again go to the end of this booklet.)

Think about one thing that you've done wrong – think about how it makes you feel guilty and ashamed. Jesus took all the blame, guilt and shame for that sin on Himself when He died. But as well as that, He took the guilt, shame and blame for everything you've ever done wrong and ever will do wrong. And not just for your sin, but for every sin done by every person, past, present and future. The mental, emotional and physical agony He experienced is way beyond imagination. That's how much God loves you – that's His grace – everything freely won when no-one deserves any of it. The blessings of God can never be earned, but they can be yours for free because of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says – *‘by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works.’* Grace is all about what Jesus did, not what you do – your works. There’s nothing you can do to make God love you more. His love for you is already infinite. There’s nothing you can do to make God love you less. His love is totally unconditional.

God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense

So what did Jesus pay so you could have God’s rich blessings for free? I’ve written this section very personally, just for you. Don’t rush it – let each part sink into your mind and your heart so you become more and more aware of God’s grace for you.

Jesus gave His life up so you could live

When Jesus died He was taking the punishment that you deserve. And because He did that, you can live life to the full here on earth and live forever with Him in eternity. 1 Thessalonians 5:10 says that Jesus – *‘died for us, that ... we should live together with him’.*

He took the blame so you could be forgiven

Jesus took the blame for all your sin so you would not be to blame. He did it so you could be forgiven and walk free of blame in an intimate relationship with God. Ephesians 1:7 says that through Jesus you have – *‘the forgiveness of our trespasses (sins), according to the riches of his grace.’*

He bore God’s anger so you wouldn’t have to

God poured out His anger against sin onto Jesus instead of onto you. Romans 5:9 says – *‘we will be saved from God’s wrath through him.’* God’s relationship with you has no anger in it at all – it’s all about love.

He was cursed so you wouldn't be

Jesus took the curse of the law on Himself so it wouldn't come on you. Galatians 3:13 says – *'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.'* It's not about what you do, it's about what Jesus did. When you sin you don't bring God's curse down on yourself. Jesus took it instead of you.

He gave up innocence so you could be guiltless

Jesus was never guilty of anything, but He took all the blame for the whole world's sins as He died on the Cross. He took the blame so you could be free of guilt. Romans 8:1 says – *'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.'* When you accept what Jesus did for you and are born-again, you are free from condemnation. God doesn't look at you and see sin. He looks at you and sees Jesus. He doesn't condemn you even though you deserve it, and He doesn't want you to condemn yourself. He wants you to live freely in His grace.

He gave up His purity so you could be holy

Jesus is the only person who has ever lived on earth who was perfect and never sinned. He was totally pure. But when He was crucified, He actually became sin. He gave up His purity so that you could be washed clean of all sin, guilt, blame and condemnation, and be holy before God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says – *'For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.'*

He was separated from God so you wouldn't be

It was because Jesus took on Himself all the sins of the world that He became separated from God, because God cannot have sin in His presence. Matthew 27:46 says that Jesus called out as He died on the Cross – *'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'* He came back into God's presence after He had completed all that was needed, but because He gave up His relationship

with God for that time, you can be made clean and live in a personal relationship with God yourself.

His body was broken so yours could be healed

Before Jesus was crucified He was scourged – a brutal Roman method of torture. It lacerated the person’s body right through muscles and nerves down to the bone. It was only stopped when the person was almost dead. Jesus was then nailed to a Cross of wood and left to die. 1 Peter 2:24 says – *‘You were healed by his wounds.’* Jesus’s body was broken completely so that yours could be healed. He carried all sickness and pain and won the victory over it so that you could be healed and well.

He became poor so you could prosper

Jesus left behind the richness and splendour of heaven and came to earth as a baby in a humble family. And He did it so you could prosper. As He died on the Cross He redeemed you from the curse of poverty so you could have more than enough in this life. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says - *‘For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.’*

He died so you could have the power of God

Jesus said in Matthew 26:53 – *‘do you think that I couldn’t ask my Father, and he would even now send me more than twelve legions of angels?’* Jesus was all-powerful, but He went through with the agony of the Cross so you could have the power of God in you through His Holy Spirit living in you.

He left glory behind so you could share in it

Jesus left behind the glory of heaven when He came to earth. And because He did, you can share in it and live with Him in glory for ever. Colossians 3:4 says – *‘When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory.’*

He gave up His freedom so you could be set free

Jesus had lived His life on earth knowing that God had a plan for His death. When people threatened Him and tried to kill him, He was able to freely walk away from them because it wasn't God's time. But when God's time did come, Jesus walked towards His death and gave Himself to it. He laid down His freedom so you could be free not only in heaven, but in this life as well. Galatians 5:1 says that – '*Christ has made us free.*' You can live your life in true freedom, free from fear and guilt and shame.

Amazing Grace

Because Jesus gave up everything for you, you can now have all God's blessings. You can stand before God boldly, not because you deserve to or because you've earned the right, but because Jesus paid the price. His grace means that you can live life to the full here on earth and you can live for eternity with Him in perfect joy and peace. You have to decide whether you want it or not. God's not going to force you. He wants you to come freely. He wants to enjoy a real love relationship with you, not a forced one. What amazing grace.

Not Under Law, but Under Grace

God has done away with the law, because Jesus has fulfilled everything that the law demanded. He was the perfect sacrifice which stands forever. When you are born-again you become God's child and His grace can operate in your life. You can still live trying to earn God's love, but it will rob you of your peace and joy and it will never work. But grace is always available to you as you turn to God and trust in what Jesus has done, instead of on what you can do. It's the only way to real peace and joy and the only way you can experience an intimate love

relationship with God. It's only grace that can set you free from a need to try and prove yourself. The law was all about you working for God. Grace is all about God working for you.

Grace doesn't set you free to sin, it sets you free from sin. When you're born-again, God gives you a brand-new spirit and sin can't hold you anymore. You can always say 'No.' Sin won't stop God loving you, but it will make it hard for you to experience His love and it will hurt you and the people around you. Of course you can't be perfect – no-one can. But as soon as you realise you've sinned, tell God you know it was wrong and receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you. You can walk forward then freely enjoying the grace of God. Romans 6:14 says – '*Sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace.*'

Faith

How are you going to respond to God's amazing grace? The response He wants is faith. God wants you to believe in Jesus and all He has done for you and receive it for yourself. God gives and gives and He wants you to take willingly and thankfully. Choose to have faith. It's as you believe, that God's grace can work in your life. God so wants you to become His child and experience His grace - the only way to do it is to be born-again.

For Joy

Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus – '*for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.*' The joy Jesus could see before Him as He hung on the Cross was in knowing He was making it possible for you to come into an intimate love relationship with God, free of guilt and anger and full of love, peace and joy. That's what it was all about. Jesus did everything out of love for you and all you

have to do is believe and receive it all. Without grace none of it would be possible. With grace everything is possible. Thank You God for Your amazing grace.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you’ve ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you’ll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God’s love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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In this world how you perform is so significant.
Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a relationship
that wasn't based on performance at all?

Well, you can –
God's love for you is totally unconditional.
With God it's not about what you do –
it's about what Jesus has done.
That's amazing grace.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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