

EMBRACE THE GRACE

“Getting Off The Performance Treadmill”

Many Christians base the status of their relationship with God on the basis of their performance.

We have somehow come to believe that our abilities, our obedience, our activities, our sincerity, our service affects our status with God.

Grace is received it is never achieved.

To the extent you are clinging to any vestiges of self-righteousness or are putting any confidence in your own spiritual attainments, to that degree you are not living by the grace of God in your life.

Jerry Bridges

Luke 15:11-32

The sons both thought that their acceptance by their father depended on how well they performed. The younger brother thought he should be rejected because he didn't perform well. The older brother thought he should be accepted because he had performed well.

Steve McVey, The Grace Walk Experience, p 57

The younger brother was miserable after he had miserably sinned. The older brother was miserable after he had miserably served.

Steve McVey, The Grace Walk Experience, p 57

Many Christians give lip service to the apostle Paul's confession.

By the grace of God I am what I am.

1 Corinthians 15:10

When we do that it is like our life-verse is . . .

God helps those who help themselves

2 Confusion 24:7

HOW SHOULD I LIVE OUT GOD'S GRACE IN MY LIFE?

GOD'S GRACE SHOULD AFFECT . . .

• MY MOTIVATION

Am I motivated by law or by grace?

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Galatians 3:3

Your hearts should be strengthened by God's grace, not by obeying rules . . .

Hebrews 13:9 Contemporary English Version

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Titus 2:11-12

• MY IDENTIFICATION

My confidence, my security, my hope, my strength, my motivation, my identity is not found in what I do or do not do but in what God has done for me in Jesus.

God . . . made us alive with Christ . . . it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

• MY STRUGGLES

What if a purpose behind our struggles is to remind us that we are bankrupt. When we recognize that we are bankrupt we more readily embrace the grace.

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, or 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

• MY JOY

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.

**From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one blessing after another.**

John 1:16