

D E V O T I O N A L

Hollywood Prayer Network

GRACE

*Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost
But now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see*

Grace is one of the supernatural gifts from God to us. His grace is sufficient, Jesus is defined as grace, and we are to show grace to others. It's a poetic word with a powerful effect on everyone who practices it and to those who accept it from God. Spend this week grasping how wide, deep, and high grace can be in life if you embrace it and practice it every day.

DAY 1

JESUS IS GRACE

"CHRIST IS NO MOSES, NO EXACTOR, NO GIVER OF LAWS, BUT A GIVER OF GRACE, A SAVIOR, HE IS INFINITE MERCY AND GOODNESS, FREELY AND BOUNTIFULLY GIVEN TO US."

-MARTIN LUTHER

New International Version

John 1:14, 16-17

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth... From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Jesus, I am humbled to learn that YOU are grace. I have seen Your glory and know that You are full of grace and truth. And I thank You that out of Your fullness I have received grace! Thank You that not only did You bring grace and truth to me, but you ARE grace and truth. And because You are full of grace, I have received one blessing after another. Thank you, Jesus, for giving me grace and truth. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: It was a profound revelation to me that GOD IS LOVE and JESUS IS GRACE. If we try to define both terms outside of God the Father and Jesus the Son, we limit the meaning of those words. I look forward to this week of studying grace and how it impacts my life, my thoughts, and my actions. And I want to be in a state of thanks to Jesus Christ, for offering Himself to me as grace. I want His grace to wash over me and sink deep into my heart and soul so that I will walk and talk in grace and truth all the days of my life.

ACT: Spend time thanking Jesus right now for all of the ways He has given you grace, taught you about grace and shown you grace through other people and through the Holy Spirit. Thank Him for the grace He shows you, especially when you don't deserve it, and the ongoing grace you receive without even naturally thinking about it. Because of Jesus you are living in grace and truth. Thank Him for that and then think of Jesus whenever you hear the word grace.

DAY 2

IT IS BY GRACE THAT WE'VE BEEN SAVED

"THE LAW DETECTS, GRACE ALONE
CONQUERS SIN. FOR GRACE IS GIVEN
NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE DONE GOOD
WORKS, BUT IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE
ABLE TO DO THEM."

-SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

New International Version

Ephesians 2:4-8

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--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, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

D A Y 2

PRAY: Dear Heavenly Father, I praise You for Your great love for me. I know that You are rich in mercy and You gave me life through Christ, even though I'm a sinner. Thank You for sacrificing Jesus to show me the incomparable riches of grace. I praise You that it is by grace that I have been saved, through the gift of faith, and not by anything that I have done or could do myself. My salvation is also a gift from You, not by any works of my own. And I know that I can never boast about the amazing gifts You've given me. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: The concept of grace is beyond our human understanding. We can try to fathom what God has done for us by giving us Jesus so that we can live lives of grace, but can we embrace the "incomparable riches of His grace" or see that our salvation is a gift of God's grace? Have you ever thought of God as being "rich in mercy?" And though we are all sinners, He loves us SO MUCH that He overlooks our transgressions with His amazing grace. "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

ACT: Take a few minutes and play a recording of "Amazing Grace" and listen carefully to the words. You may be so used to this song that you need to listen to it with fresh ears. As you listen, ask the Lord to reveal to you the truth of His amazing grace in your life. Here are a few artist suggestions: Bill & Gloria Gaither (live) with Wintley Phipps; Judy Collins; Chris Tomlin; Whitney Houston; Andrea Bocelli (live); The Tenors & Natalie Grant.

DAY 3

WE ARE ALL UNDER GRACE

"YOUR IDENTITY IS NOT WRAPPED UP IN HOW RIGHT YOU GET IT OR HOW PERFECT YOU CAN POSTURE YOURSELF. BUT, YOUR IDENTITY IS WRAPPED UP IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST."

-LECRAE

New International Version

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Hebrews 4:16

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.

DAY 3

PRAY: Abba Father, I am crying out to You to free me of the bondage of sin and to stop sin from being my master. Help me to understand that I am not under the law, but under Your unconditional, loving grace. Help me to approach Your throne with confidence, so I may receive Your mercy and find Your divine grace to help me in my times of need. You offer so much. I want to embrace it and have Your grace change my life. In Your name I pray. Amen.

REFLECT: Ponder this thought: We are all under the bondage of sin. Sin is our master as long as we live on this earth and don't die to self and live for God. But we can choose to get out from under the law and live freely by God's grace! We just have to mentally and emotionally approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. That's a high order, but with God ALL things are possible. Will you no longer allow sin to be your master? Die to sin and embrace God's grace.

DAY 3

ACT: Take a moment and sit quietly, close your eyes and think about physically walking in heaven toward the majestic divine throne of God. As you approach the throne, look into God's eyes and see that He is radiating forgiveness, love and grace. He is not judging you. He is so excited to see you. As you stand in front of Him, don't be shy. Be confident that you are worthy of His unconditional grace and though you can't be good enough on your own, His great love for you sees you as pure and good. This is a miraculous moment you can experience when you truly embrace God's total love and grace. You will be a different person, full of peace and joy!



DAY 4

BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

"GRACE IS GOD ACTING IN OUR LIVES TO
DO WHAT WE CANNOT DO ON OUR OWN;
IT GOES BEYOND UNMERITED FAVOR."

-DALLAS WILLARD

New International Version

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 4

PRAY: Dear Lord, I thank You for the gifts that You've given me. I want to use those gifts to serve others, as a faithful steward of Your grace. I also want to remember that people who have other gifts are also stewards of Your grace, just in different forms. Would You help me to grow in the grace and knowledge that You've given me so that I can use my gifts to make an eternal difference in our world, and give You all the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever thought of yourself as a steward of God's grace? That sounds like an awesome responsibility, but if you know that God has specifically given you spiritual gifts and talents that He wants you to use to glorify Him and to bless others, then you can joyfully serve other people and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, all at the same time. Wow! To Him be the glory both now and forever!

ACT: Do you know what your gifts are that God has given you? If you want to be a steward of grace in our world, you have to know your spiritual gifts. Right now, write down your spiritual gifts so that you remember them and consciously use them to serve others. If you don't know what they are, go to your pastor, small group leader, or go on-line and find a spiritual gifts test that can help you discover your spiritual gifts. Don't miss out on serving other people, speaking truth, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

DAY 5

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU"

"MAN IS BORN BROKEN. HE LIVES BY
MENDING. THE GRACE OF GOD IS GLUE."
-EUGENE O'NEILL

New International Version

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "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.

DAY 5

PRAY: God, it's hard for me to understand that Your grace is sufficient for me and that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. I want to believe that Your grace is sufficient, so I ask that You reveal to me Your truths. And it sounds crazy that I should boast in my weaknesses. But I want Christ's power to rest on me and I want to be strong when I feel weak, so can You help me to understand Your truths even though they don't make sense. Thank You for making Your word real and tangible. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever meditated on the phrase "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness?" I don't think we can ever be in the position to actually boast in our weaknesses, let alone with gladness, until we truly understand and believe that God's grace is ALL WE NEED. It's not works, a good attitude, the right words, or by our own strength. It's the ability to completely embrace God's supernatural grace. Then and only then will Christ's power rest on you. Now that's worth working on.

DAY 5

ACT: Write down three poor choices or mistakes in your life that you still struggle with. Then tell the Lord each one and thank Him that His grace is sufficient for you and that His power is made perfect in those mistakes. Then out loud, boast to the Lord that those mistakes allowed His perfection to come through in your weakness. And tell Him that if you never made those wrong choices you would not get to see His unconditional grace and forgiveness at work in your life. Then thank God and glorify Him. You have just acknowledged a miracle of God's grace at work in your life.



DAY 6

ALWAYS BE FULL OF GRACE

"GRATITUDE IS WHAT WE RADIATE WHEN WE EXPERIENCE GRACE, AND THE SOUL WAS MADE TO RUN ON GRACE THE WAY A 747 RUNS ON ROCKET FUEL."

-JOHN ORTBERG

New International Version

Proverbs 22:11

He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

Colossians 4:6

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

DAY 6

PRAY: Lord, I want to have my conversation always be full of grace and seasoned with salt, so that I may know how to answer everyone who talks to me about You. I know that You love a pure heart, and You love people who speak with grace so much that You promise us that we will have Jesus, the King, for our friend. Thank You for Your promises and thank You for Your encouraging words that make me want to be a better person. I love You! Selah.

REFLECT: Reflect on what it means to have our conversation always full of grace and seasoned with salt. What do you need to adjust to make that happen? Do you need to watch your words, listen to what you say to others, and be sure to be encouraging and Christ-like in your conversations? What would it take to have a pure heart and to know how to answer people who ask you about Jesus? How do you speak with gracious speech, seasoned with salt? These are all important thoughts to ponder so that you may know how to answer everyone who wants to know more about God, or wants to know about your faith.

DAY 6

ACT: Choose someone whom you may have trouble talking to about Jesus. Would you pray that you get a chance to have a conversation with them so that you can use words of grace and yet be seasoned with salt, which is truth. Before you talk to them, ask the Lord to give you a pure heart and to overflow with grace. Then trust that you will be led by your friend the King, as you talk to the person. Pray for a divine appointment, then watch as words and attitude of grace pour out from the Lord, through you.



DAY 7

"GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL"

"I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERY OF
GRACE – ONLY THAT IT MEETS US WHERE
WE ARE BUT DOES NOT LEAVE US WHERE IT
FOUND US."

-ANNE LAMOTT

New International Version

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord
make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the Lord turn his face
toward you and give you peace.

1 Corinthians 1:3-4

Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always
thank God for you because of his grace
given you in Christ Jesus.

DAY 7

PRAY: Dear Father, I ask that You bless me and keep me and that Your face will shine upon me and that You will be gracious unto me. Thank You for giving me peace. And Lord, will You help me to bless others and be gracious unto them. Will You help me to pray blessings on the people in Hollywood and to be gracious in my attitude toward them. Help me not to judge them, Lord. Instead I thank You for them and pray You reveal Yourself to them. Give them Your grace and peace, for they are also Your children. Thank You Father. Amen.

REFLECT: Do you pray blessings ON people? Do you say words of blessings TO them? Or do you talk against people and judge them? It's easiest to see our hearts by how we treat people we don't know. What is your attitude toward the celebrities and stars in Hollywood? Do you pray for them to prosper and to be instruments of peace or do you get angry at them or gossip about them? Reflect on the attitude of your heart and then choose to pray prayers of blessings over the people you read about and hear about in Hollywood.

DAY 7

ACT: Choose one actor or celebrity in Hollywood, whom you don't like or disagree with. Right now, pray words of blessings over that person. Pray for them to prosper and to experience the love, joy, hope, peace and grace of Jesus. And as you pray and show grace to others, the Lord will bless you and pour His grace upon you and give you peace. After you pray for that person in Hollywood, go out into the world and spread God's grace to the people around you.

