

30 DAYS OF GRACE

DAILY PRAYER
DEVOTIONAL



30 DAYS OF GRACE

Are you ready to spend the next 30 days discovering the life-changing power of God's grace in your life?

Sometimes we use quick statements to describe grace: it's a pardon, it's unmerited favor, or it's not getting what you deserve. But the difficulty comes when we're reading the Old Testament, and we don't see a direct reference to those terms.

Then, it's easy to draw the wrong conclusion—that grace is a New Testament idea, when the truth is that grace is actually written on every page of the Bible. We see it when God gives food to the hungry, rest to the weary, strength to the weak, and hope to the hopeless.

Ultimately, grace is providing for people who cannot provide for themselves. Knowing that grace, we can live for God and love those that he loves for Christ's sake.

***Prayer:** Lord, your grace and compassion have been lavished on me through Jesus Christ. Help me to show that same compassion and grace to those who are hungry, weary, weak, or hopeless.*

Congratulations on starting your 30 Days of Grace Prayer and Scripture! Don't worry if you miss a day. Jump back in where you left off and find that God's mercy is new every morning!

DAY 1

I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. (Psalm 119:58-60)

People often divide grace and law into two opposing ideas, and then give little thought as to how the two can come together. But they're not polar opposites! They can and do exist together, because it's only in God's grace and his law that the beauty of God's character and his care for us are revealed.

The law is not about what you have to do to make God happy. God's standards reflect his heart, the safe path he's provided so that we can glorify and enjoy him. His grace is what enables us to understand that purpose in our lives. We live for him because he loves us enough to provide grace even when we fail.

Grace, then, is not only freedom from the guilt of our sin; it's actually the fuel for the Christian life!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know that the law reflects your character, which is both just and gracious. Help me to glorify and enjoy you today!

DAY 2

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us. (Eph 1:7-8)

What does it take for a marathon runner to power through the final miles? Grit ... determination ... willpower ... *Oxygen?*

In order to take in oxygen, runners simply open their mouths. Yet they don't think that by opening their mouths they're going to manufacture oxygen. No amount of effort can do that! Instead, they are opening their mouths to take in what is already surrounding them.

In the same way, we shouldn't open our Bible or pray with the expectation that we're going to manufacture God's grace to us. His free, unconditional, unlimited grace already surrounds us. When we pray and read God's Word, we take in the grace that's already there for us, and we strengthen our passion for him with the grace he provides.

Breathe deep the beauty of God's grace that surrounds you today!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the grace which you lavishly provide for us in Jesus Christ. Help me this day and every day to breathe in the grace that surrounds me!

DAY 3

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16)

You'll often hear me say, "When you read a passage of Scripture, be sure to put on your gospel glasses!" And this simply means to look at the Bible through lenses formed by two questions.

The first is, "What does this passage tell me about the nature of God who provides redemption?" And the second is, "What does this passage tell me about the nature of humanity that requires redemption?"

It's just this simple. "What does this text tell me about God?" And, "What does it tell me about me?" Both questions will ultimately point to the grace of God that covers all our sins and failure and enables us to serve him.

So, next time you're reading your Bible, put on your gospel glasses!

Prayer: Lord, as I read your Word each day, enable me to discover who you are and who I am in Christ. Please open my eyes to your amazing grace!

DAY 4

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:16)

For many years, I thought the more righteous I was the more caring God would be toward me. When I read passages like Romans 12:1, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship,” I thought the Bible confirmed my way of thinking.

But what I missed in this passage was the phrase by the mercies of God. It’s by God’s mercies that we are made holy and acceptable.

So, remember, our being holy and acceptable to God isn’t a product of our merits but his! It’s Christ grace that gives us right standing before God, and we can rejoice that his mercy triumphs over judgment!

Prayer: Father, thank you for being merciful to me! I know that I am a sinful person who has been saved by your grace, not by my merits.

DAY 5

Thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (Rom 6:17-18)

There is a math of the mind that reasons, “If God will ultimately substitute Christ’s good work for my bad behavior, then I might as well keep sinning!” But is that really what we should think? In Romans, chapter 6, the Apostle Paul counters the shady math of that thinking by telling us: “Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? By no means!”

Paul is cautioning us not to take God’s grace and mercy so lightly, but he never waters down the gospel of God’s grace. And that’s because our right standing before God is by faith, not by our works—so that no one can boast in anything but Christ!

We should not live by sin or guilt; instead we should confess our sins and rest in God’s grace and mercy!

Prayer: Father, thank you for freeing me from the slavery of sin and making me a servant of righteousness. May I never presume on your grace but rather respond in gratitude and obedience.

DAY 6

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:10-11)

I think it's fair to say that many people honor God out of duty or resolve - or because they're afraid of God's anger. How many times have you heard someone say they did something wrong, and now they're waiting for the proverbial bolt of lightning to strike? But God wants us to obey him because we love him! And that love relationship changes everything. God's love makes us know that his rules are for our benefit.

When we truly understand God's love and grace through the revelation of Jesus Christ, we're drawn into a relationship that's filled with love, calling us to live a life that pleases God. Then we obey God no longer out of obligation but from a heart of gratitude, knowing we serve the One who spared not even his own Son to give us eternal life.

Prayer: Father, thank you for loving me so much that you sent your Son to pay the penalty for my sins. May I respond to your love by loving those around me.

DAY 7

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23-24)

It's easy to pray to God in a moment of desperation or to casually tell someone that you're praying for them. But is that how our prayer life should be? God loves us, and he listens to every one of our prayers. But because he loves us and wants what's best for us, he instructs us on how to pray.

Prayers to God in Jesus' name are powerful because before we ask God for something, and we listen to what he wants for us. We understand that his good plan is better than anything we could imagine on our own. It means we're asking God to fulfill his plan—even if it isn't the same as ours.

So, the next time you pray, do so with confidence that God will honor prayers offered in Jesus' name!

Prayer: Father, may my daily prayers be focused on your good plan and not my own selfish desires. Thank you for the confidence I can have when I pray in Jesus' name!

DAY 8

He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. (Psalm 18:16-17)

Sometimes we need a hero to save us from whatever calamity we're facing! But did you know that our rescue is a sign of God's grace? God is ultimately the one who comes to our rescue, and when we understand that we have found grace.

We don't need to deny that a human may have been the one to physically rescue us, but we should clearly understand that all true heroism comes from God's grace. Because humans are just that—human, and apart from God's grace we can do nothing on our own. All humanly resources, wisdom, courage, opportunities, and resolve come from God.

So next time you're wondering if you're going to be rescued, look up and thank God, because he already has, and he's already there!

Prayer: Father, this world is filled with dangers, threats, and calamities. Thank you for being with me at all times and for rescuing me!

DAY 9

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb 12:11)

When you're traveling down the highway and you see a sign that says, "Don't go this way," you don't get think to yourself, what cruel, hard-hearted person put that sign up there? You feel thankful that somebody cared enough to instruct you on the way to go!

The same is true with God. He doesn't just train us, teach us, and then send us on our merry way! God provides signs through his correction and reproof that get our attention. That's how we know we've gotten off the path. God corrects us because he loves us and because the path is the place where we are safe and cared for!

When you recognize God's correction, be glad, knowing that he's leading you back because he cares!

Prayer: Lord, help me to walk in the righteous path you have set in front of me and to notice your warning signs when I'm tempted to leave that path.

DAY 10

*Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.
(Luke 22:31-32)*

Sometimes we make decisions that damage us and those around us. And my pastor friend was one such person. He began viewing the Bible as just some cultural document—nothing more. And this damaged him and his marriage, and when his life fell apart, he left the ministry.

But God was not done with him, and he's not done with you! When we've hit rock bottom and think there's no hope for us, God says to us, "You're hurting. You're incomplete. The darkness may be closing in, but you're not alone. I have given you my voice and my hand, and here's my heart. In it, you'll find the way to be complete again through Jesus Christ."

If this is you today, may God lead you to his Word and back to knowing him yet again!

Prayer: Father, when I feel hopeless and far from you, please help me to find strength and comfort in your Word and in your presence.

DAY 11

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

It's almost a pat answer to say, "If you get off the path, the Bible's helpful in getting you back on." But what exactly does that mean? What exactly is the path?

Scripture tells us the path is God's instruction. The Bible tells us what is right and what is wrong, because it's the road map for life. And if you don't understand the heart behind the message, you might look at God's law through worried eyes, thinking that God's gonna get you if you do something wrong.

But that's not the grace-filled message of the Bible. The message of the Bible is that God's Son took your place on the cross, and you are now clothed in his righteousness because God loves you and wants what's best for you!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for instructing me daily through your Word. And when I sin, help me to realize that Jesus is the propitiation for my sins!

DAY 12

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Paul tells us in Romans 8:28 that God works all things together for the good of those who know him. Paul knows we live in a fallen world. We're going to face hard things. But God is working all those things for an eternal good. The Good Shepherd will carry us through whatever we encounter, because God is always working the end game. He's concerned about your spiritual eternity and mine.

When we say to someone, "I want you to know that God is dealing with you according to your identity in Christ and not your performance," those words have the power to free—not just from guilt but from whatever trials we may face.

Prayer: Father, I know I can have confidence in you in the midst of all of life's circumstances, because you love me and use everything to accomplish your good goals. Help me to trust you no matter what I face today.

DAY 13

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
(Rev 5:13)

Dependence upon the grace of God does not make honoring him unnecessary. Instead, his great mercy calls us to honor him all the more, making him our heart’s desire. And knowing what pleases God and how to honor him provides much of the power we need to satisfy that desire.

That’s why studying God’s Word, learning from other believers, and listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our hearts are important disciplines for staying on the path that God designs for our lives. Simply knowing what blesses us and honors God is a sweet provision of his grace.

So, take a moment to listen and learn about the grace that God is speaking into your life and be blessed!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as I study your Word this week, learn from other believers, and listen to the promptings of your Holy Spirit, please help me to honor you in everything I do or say.

DAY 14

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

God's love for us is the soil in which our love for God grows. So, identifying his grace in all of Scripture is not a simply nice thing to do, nor is it a novel approach to reading the Bible. Regular exposure to grace ignites our love for God, which is the greatest command and our greatest compulsion.

We need to identify the grace of Scripture in order to fan the flames of love for our Savior. Our goal is not merely good interpretation of what Scripture says. We need to develop a profound love for God that bears much fruit.

Honoring the one we love above all is our greatest delight! So, let it be our greatest motivation and the power for a life that glorifies God!

Prayer: Father, as I reflect today on your amazing grace in scripture, please ignite my love for you so that I might glorify you in all that I do!

DAY 15

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Pet 5:5)

How can humility in us attract others to Christ? Well, it depends on how you define humility. Humility doesn't get a lot of credit in our culture, but it would if more people understood that true humility is a powerful force for God.

When someone is willing to put the interest of others above their own, then people recognize the compassion that flows through them, which is the very heart of Jesus. If you're willing to take a backseat for the purposes of serving another, then that's a very humble thing to do, but also loving and Christ-like.

Take time today to be a respectable, humble person, because those who are sincere and humble in their expression of faith understand what it means to reflect the real nature of Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for demonstrating what it means to be truly humble through your incarnation and death on the cross. Help me today to humbly put others' interests before my own.

DAY 16

*I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom.
(Dan 7:13-14)*

In the book of Daniel, the precision of his predictions about the temporary triumphs of evil across the world are hard to deal with. Daniel's vision seems to twist in wild gyrations without control. The enemies of God have their day, the honor of God goes away, the people of God suffer, and all of it seemingly without a purpose. So how do we make sense of it?

By recognizing that nothing surprises God. Evil may have its day, but God will have his say regarding evil. He knows the measure of it, and he knows when it will end.

God has the final authority, and there is none greater than he. Because of God's grace, restoration is possible, and renewal is the future!

Prayer: Lord, I cannot understand why life sometimes doesn't make sense, especially when bad things happen. But I thank you for the fact that the past, present, and future are in your hands!

DAY 17

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Rom 15:4)

As Christians, we lean on God's promise that he will work all things together for our ultimate good (Rom 8:28). But do we allow that promise to reach deep into our hearts, banishing all fear and doubt?

The Scripture lovingly paints for us this picture of eternal assurance, as Jesus says, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

God does not want us to be worried or anxious about our position in Christ. He wants us to know that nothing can separate us from his love. So, breathe easy today, knowing that God secured your future in heaven, and he is true to his Word. All believers will persevere in his grace until the end!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am so thankful that my life both now and forever are in your hands. Help that wonderful truth to banish all my fear and doubt!

DAY 18

I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)

God knows our assurance of his love can be shaken. So, in one of the most sophisticated New Testament passages, God has the apostle Paul return to the simple theme at the heart of these letters: God's unconditional love.

It's done in such a way that you can almost hear God whisper to Paul, "Now Paul, this is rather difficult for my people to understand, but lest they get discouraged, remind them Jesus loves them, and nothing can change that.

So, Paul writes in Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus—not sin, not circumstances, not spiritual opposition. Whatever is going on in your life, if you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, this assurance is yours today and every day!

Prayer: Lord, it is difficult for me to realize that your love never changes. Today, help me to reflect on the assurance you have given me in Christ.

DAY 19

You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:2-3)

Faithful prayer hinges on how well we understand the terms belief and doubt. And sometimes we get confused when well-meaning people bombard us with examples of people who prayed for something to happen—displayed unwavering confidence that it would happen—and then sat back and watched as it came about.

But our trouble comes when we make God subject to the whims of our human expectations and desires. We need to reconsider a philosophy that requires God to provide all our wants, because in our finite wisdom we may not want what an infinitely wise God wants for us!

So, remember, God always answers our prayers. But if you're not getting what you're praying for, take heart knowing that God is probably doing something better!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach me to pray for the things you desire. Help me to trust that your answers are far better than what I think I want.

DAY 20

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God. (Eph 6:12-13)

Many attempts have been made to classify the demonic forces of darkness the apostle Paul identifies in Ephesians, chapter 6. And while most of the classifications are speculative, Paul wants us to know that Satan works through evil forces that are in this dark world—right before our eyes.

Wicked leaders, decadent pursuits, poverty and materialism. The Evil One parades around as an angel of light, blinding us to the devastating effects of those forces, while deluding and distracting us with selfish interests. Most of the time, we accept these evils for the sake of personal liberty, power, or pleasure.

But Paul reminds us that we are not to be influenced by the enemy's power and pervasive deceit. Instead, we are to cling to our faith in the one true God!

Prayer: Father, help me not to be distracted or deluded by Satan's evil forces. Instead, may your spiritual armor protect me from my enemies!

DAY 21

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:6)

God gave his Son many titles: “Mighty God,” “Wonderful Counselor,” and “Prince of Peace.” These names for Jesus remind us that God provides for us something that we cannot provide for ourselves.

He is the God who provides the might that we need. He gives us the wise counsel we desire. And God sends the Prince of Peace to comfort our fearful hearts, relieve our burdened souls, and transform our troubled world.

This is the Gospel. And this is the grace of God. They are his provision—not just for those who think they have their lives all straightened out, but also for those who are well aware of their desperate need!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the fact that when I am weak you give me strength, when I am confused you give me counsel, and when I am anxious you give me peace in Christ!

DAY 22

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (Phil 3:12)

As followers of Christ, we must continually fight against sin, but that doesn't mean we'll attain perfection on this side of heaven. In fact, we can't do a perfect job, because there's only been one person alive who could, and that was Jesus Christ, our Savior.

But when we understand how incredible God's love for us really is, we can't help but try to live our lives for him. And we're empowered to do so by the Holy Spirit, who fills us, counsels us, and sanctifies us to be more like Jesus.

Our own efforts could never make us perfect, but that's why we "look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." By his gracious sacrifice, we're able to resist sin and live for his glory!

Prayer: Lord, you know I am far from perfect. But by the power of your Holy Spirit, enable me to become more like Jesus.

DAY 23

Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (Gal 6:14-15)

Sometimes we mentally accept the truth about grace without actually applying grace to the way we deal with our guilt. And this failure to connect God's truth to our hearts may be evident in the words of our confessions.

Be careful that your "repentance" isn't simply a good work you're trying to offer God to broker your pardon. If we view repentance this way, then we're making repentance a work itself, trying to bribe God for forgiveness. No human activity is without stain before God's holiness, and that means even the work of repentance cannot merit forgiveness.

Repentance is not so much a doing as it is depending on God's gracious provisions through his Son, Jesus. In quietness and trust, you'll find strength, and in repentance you'll find God's grace, rest, and salvation.

Prayer: Father, may I never boast in my own works or efforts but only in the cross of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your unending grace!

DAY 24

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Tit 3:4-6)

Some people feel defeated in their Christian lives because they think they must continually earn God's affections. But God has fixed His affections on us, making us his children, so we don't need to despair. Even though we stumble and sin, we will never be loved any more or any less by God, because he loves us and considers us as precious as his own Son.

And that is our wonderful assurance, because even if we feel undeserving, we know God regards us as glorious and infinitely valued. This means we are already loved as fully as we can be. We cannot do one thing more to earn God's grace and love. Instead, we simply rest in his finished work on the cross.

Prayer: Father, your unconditional love is astonishing! Help me to rest each day in Christ's finished work on the cross.

DAY 25

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. (Dan 6:10)

How would you define courage? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, courage is “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.”

Right next to the definition of courage, you might expect to see a picture of Daniel, the young prophet who was taken into captivity, was made to serve pagan kings and, in his old age, was thrown into the lion’s den! Yet, despite all those struggles, Daniel was the epitome of courage, persevering in his faith through prayer, obedience, and integrity. But this would not have been possible without Daniel’s reliance on God’s grace.

The entire plotline of Daniel’s life is a demonstration of God’s grace—from Jerusalem to the Lion’s Den. May we, like Daniel, grasp the daily difference that grace makes as we persevere in our modern-day trials.

Prayer: Father, thank you for your grace, which you richly provide for me daily. May your grace enable me to persevere in my trials.

DAY 26

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:15-16 NIV)

No matter what's happening in our lives right now, we can be assured that our Heavenly Father is intimately involved in the details. And nowhere do I see this more clearly than in Daniel 11. In one of the most detailed and dramatic prophetic visions revealed in the Bible, we see the beautiful assurance that God knows the big picture. He knows all that is to come, and he cares and is concerned at all times and in all circumstances!

Scripture is specific: Our gracious God knows the beginning from the end. There are no mistakes. No surprises. The Psalmist writes, "All the days ordained for me, you knew before one of them came to be." When you don't know what the future holds, God says: I know, and I've got this.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for being concerned about me at all times and in all circumstances. Help me to trust in your sovereign grace.

DAY 27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Rom 8:26)

Have you ever wondered what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote that the Spirit is interceding for believers with groans beyond words? Well, Paul had a specific meaning in mind. He writes that creation groans for the fulfillment of God's purposes, and these groans are like the cries of a mother giving birth.

Maybe you've given birth to a child, or maybe you've stood beside your wife when she gave birth. There's pain and groaning involved for sure, but it's endured because something so marvelous is coming forth. And that's true in our lives. The Spirit groans, all creation joins in, and we groan as well, awaiting the coming of Jesus Christ, who by his grace will give us a new life in the new heaven and the new earth.

Prayer: Lord, I don't know what to pray for—or even how to pray in the best way. But thank you for the fact that your Spirit groans in prayer for me.

DAY 28

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil 4:6)

Sometimes we are fearful to approach God because we think he's harsh. Or because we think it's not appropriate to bother him with the little things. But he wants us to connect with him in everything.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that "everything" means everything. We can pray about finding our keys or finding our way out of a treacherous storm. We can pray about minor worries and discomforts as well as major struggles and tragedies.

It's not about the size of the issue but about maintaining our relationship with God. If my children only came to me when the issues were serious, I'd rarely hear from them, and we'd grow distant. It's in the small things that our hearts are knitted together. And our gracious heavenly Father has the same desire, which is why he urges us to seek him in everything.

Prayer: Lord, I am often anxious about many things. Help me to bring everything before you in prayer and thanksgiving.

DAY 29

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Have you ever wondered how we know that God truly cares for us? The answer to that question comes from his warning. God does not want us to be unaware of his plan, so he gives us a heads up about events big and small—past, present, and future. God cares enough to warn his people throughout history, because he knows that faithlessness in a fallen world is difficult.

It's important to remember that we serve a big God who has any and every issue under his control. So, we can trust that he will ultimately provide a way out of our troubles and temptations. And in the moments when the future seems unclear, take comfort in knowing he's always with you, even when the mysteries of this life, and the challenges you face, seem overwhelming.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, sometimes the challenges of this world do seem more than I can bear. Help me to rely on Christ's promise that he has overcome the world.

DAY 30

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:17-18)

We live in a lost world that is constantly pulling on us, advertising dead-ends and detours that lead us away from the abundant life. So, God in his grace came to set us free, to awaken us to a greater life, a greater reality, where we find lasting love and significance in Jesus Christ.

When we receive God's free offer of grace, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our lives and begins to transform us into Christ's likeness. And the Spirit desires for the affections, purposes, and ambitions of Jesus, our Savior, to be our own. God knows that when our hearts beat in rhythm with his, then his greatest joys will be ours. And we will never be richer than when we are emptied of earthly ambitions and filled with Christ's desires.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to focus on Jesus, so that I may be gradually transformed into his likeness through your Holy Spirit.

Daily Grace: 365 Daily Devotions Reflecting God's Unlimited Grace

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