

DAY 1 GRIPPED BY GRACE

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For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

Thought: Faith is not about what you do for God. It is about what God has already done for you.

You are probably reading this book because you are on a search for something -- a search for meaning, a search for hope, a search for God.

What if I told you that God was actually searching for you?

Long before we started our journey toward God, God started a journey for us. Through Jesus, God came into the world to live for you, die for you, and rise from the dead. He did all this for one simple reason: to connect his life to yours. This is where "grace" begins.

That word, "grace" has many different definitions, but in the Christian faith it has one powerful definition.

Grace is the unearned favor of God. It is a reminder that God forgives our sins, not because of anything we could do for God but because of what God chose to do for us through Jesus.

As you begin this journey of faith, this new life in Jesus, realize that your life of faith is built, not on what you can or cannot do for God, but rather on what God wanted to do for you through Jesus. When you read the letter of Ephesians in the Bible, you hear the author Paul say, you are saved by grace, so that no

one can boast. This new life God offers you is a gift. It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done, it is a gift God wanted to give you.

Read this story, Luke 15:11-32.

Jesus talks about a son who abandons his family only to find the love and forgiveness of his father when he comes home. Realize this is a picture of God's love and forgiveness for you.