

# Grace.

Week 6 of 8 : [StartingPointGroup.org](http://StartingPointGroup.org)

## INTRODUCTION

At some point in your faith journey, you will settle into a bargaining posture with God. “God, if you will . . . , I promise I will . . . .” We all do it. That’s just part of religion—every religion. In fact, it’s so much a part of human nature that even some atheists and agnostics do it when they find themselves in desperate circumstances. But is that really how God wants us to relate to him? The problem with a bargaining posture is we never keep up our end of the bargain, do we?

## LISTENING GUIDE

### Faith had a Starting Point.

- We’ve all tried to bargain with God.  
“God, if you will . . . I promise I’ll **always** . . . .”  
“God, if you will . . . I promise I’ll **never** . . . .”
- TRUTH: We don’t keep our end of the bargain anyway!
- Assumption #1 : God knows you exist.
- Assumption #2 : You have something God wants.
- “God doesn’t negotiate because he doesn’t want something from you - He wants something for you.”

### Grace.

- Grace = “Unmerited Favor”
- “The person that receives Grace never takes the credit.”

## Ephesians 2

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . .

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -

it is by grace you have been saved.

8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

- Love is the motivation for God's grace.
- God chose to un-separate you because he wanted to.

### What standard will you use to determine where you stand with God?

- Your Behavior?
- God's grace?

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- You can never use the Bible to prove you're good enough to get to God.
- If it's all about your behavior . . . you're doomed.
- What kind of good God would have a goodness standard, but didn't make it clear to you how good is good enough?
- ***"It is the gift of God - not by works."*** Ephesians 2:9

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**What standard will you use to determine where you stand with God?**

- What you do for you?
- What God has done for you?

***“Every religion is about DO - Christianity is about DONE.”***

- All the to-dos are a response to what God has to-done.
- God leveraged his character and his goodness for your sake so you don't have to be good enough.

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*“Because of his great love with which he loved you.”*

*“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith.”*

*“It is the gift of God.”*

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*“You'll **NEVER** have **PEACE** until you receive God's **GRACE**.”*

*“God doesn't view you as a **SLAVE** but as a **SON**.”*

*“We don't obey to **GET** . . . we obey because we already **GOT**.”*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced grace from another person?  
How did you feel towards that person after they showed you grace?
2. Do you see yourself as a person who needs God's grace? Why or why not?
3. What do you think God wants from you - so he'll be happy with you?

*"God doesn't negotiate with you because he doesn't want something from you. He wants something for you."*

4. Most people respond to the idea of unconditional grace with,  
*"But what about . . . ?"* What's **your** *"But what about . . . ?"*
5. What's one way you can move from a  
posture of doing to a posture of thanking?

## MOVING FORWARD

The good news is we don't have to bargain with God. Christians believe that God made the first move. Christians believe that God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son - *Jesus*. When you receive that gift by faith, the bargaining ends and the relationship begins. Obedience to God is a voluntary response of gratitude for what he's given you.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have **eternal life.**"*

**HOMEWORK:** Read Chapter 6 | Answer Reflection Questions

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