



A Fresh Start

Key Scriptures

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 NIV

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24 NIV

GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."... 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV

And Saul approved...Acts 8:1 NIV

...Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:3 NIV

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2 NIV

... "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. Acts 9:4-5 NIV



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... "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. Acts 9:4-5 NIV

...He got up... and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. Acts 9:18-20 NIV

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. Acts 9:26-27 NIV

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. Acts 4:36-37 NIV

- ***Generosity and encouragement made a way for grace.***
- ***Generosity and encouragement are still making the way for grace today.***
- ***The message of God’s grace reaches people on the pillars of generosity and encouragement.***

Take it Home

- ◆ Read **2 Corinthians 12:8-9**. When have you experienced God’s grace in your weaknesses?
- ◆ Think about a time when someone encouraged you. How did that encouragement grow your faith?
- ◆ How could you use generosity and encouragement to make a way for grace in the lives of the people around you?

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