

:: Summary

One of the greatest challenges of faith is living in the flow of God's grace - not only declaring that we are *saved by grace once and forever*, but also *living in grace each and every day*. After being saved by grace we fall back into a life marked by legalism and attempts at self-justification – we think it is up to us to maintain a right standing before God by our works. The Bible says otherwise. Grace not only delivers you once for all, grace sustains you day by day. All attempts at showing God you are good enough and worthy enough are pointless. Instead of proving yourself, the Scripture encourages you to deeply experience grace by living your true identity as a beloved child of God.

:: Share

Share a time when someone acted on your behalf showing you unmerited favor. How did you respond to this act of grace?

:: Explore and Discuss | Ephesians 2:1-10; Galatians 3:1-5; John 1:16;  
Romans 5:1-2; 1 John 3:1

Do you in any way base your relationship with God on performance instead of grace?  
How does Ephesians 2:1-10 serve as a corrective for you?

Contrary to Romans 5:1-2, how does *self*-justification reduce grace to nothing?

In seeking to live a holy life how do you guard against falling into the trap of legalistic faith (I do for God and then God owes me)?

:: Apply it to Your Life

How do you specifically try to live in the ongoing flow of God's grace in a way that brings joy, gratitude and peace? (See questions below)

How does your true identity as a beloved child of God affect living your faith? Give an example.

:: Questions to help you experience grace upon grace:

- Do I recognize grace as an ongoing flow in my life?
- Am I learning to rely on God's all sufficient grace for my daily living and does that grace change how I approach relationships, challenging situations and difficult problems?
- Am I allowing grace to free me from imposing legalistic demands on myself and others?
- Am I utilizing the grace I keep receiving as the reservoir from which I can extend grace to others?



- Am I experiencing greater joy, gratitude, and peace because of my increasing awareness of the gift of grace in my life?

:: Pray

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you that the one true way of salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in your Son Jesus alone. We confess our inability to fully accept your grace through our constant efforts to justify ourselves. Help us to know the depth of our sin and need, in order to more greatly prize the magnitude of your grace and acceptance. We ask you to fill us with the joy and peace of living in the flow of your grace day by day. Amen.

