



Amazing Grace

WHAT IS IT?

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GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

What is it?

The word 'Grace' means God's undeserved love, his unearned favour!

It's His free gift of kindness towards us; shown most clearly through giving His son Jesus as our saviour.

It means living life as one of God's favourites when we deserve the opposite! It's very different from justice or even mercy.

Justice is getting what you deserve.

Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

Grace is getting all the goodness that only Jesus deserves!

It's the heart of Christianity and amazingly good news!

It seems too good to be true, but it is true and that's what's on offer to us today...



Sooner or later almost everyone searches for God.

When life seems to be working for us we often feel we can manage without God. But faced with real problems, a life threatening illness, depression, the death of a loved one or divorce, we suddenly realise just how vulnerable we are. In our deepest troubles we can always turn to God.

He says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will rescue you" (Psalms 50:15).

The wonderful news is that when we sincerely search for God, we find Him! In fact we find He's been waiting for us all along.

Sometimes we feel so weak and weary that we can't take another step in life. God promises, "I have made you and I will carry you" (Isaiah 46:4).

No matter what you've experienced in life or how far you feel from God, He loves you and is only a prayer away!

Return

Many who turn to God and find Him say things like, "I feel like I've come home" or "At last I've found where I belong."

That's because you and I were made by God and for God.

He says, "Before you were born I knew you. While still in the womb, I called you" (Jeremiah 1:5). So turning to God is actually a return to our origin, our home and to the only place we truly belong.

Through the bible the word REPENT is used to call us back from our empty life of selfishness to a God who saves. "Repent," Jesus said "for the kingdom of God is near you" (Mark 1:5).

To repent literally means to change your mind. Are you ready to change your mind about God? Maybe you feel life has always been against you, but God loves you. He says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:13).

He says, "Turn to me all you ends of the earth and I will save you!" (Isaiah 45:22).

Accept

God has made a way for us to return to Him. He gave us a saviour, his only son. He is God's gift to us. Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever known.

To return to God we need to accept His greatest gift. "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus is God the son, the long awaited Messiah (Christ) and the saviour of the world.

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life on earth.

Then He died a death of love and sacrifice on the cross. He died for your sins and my sins and in place of us, taking the punishment we deserved. But death could not hold Him and after three days He rose again to give us eternal life! That is God's grace! His undeserved kindness to sinners.

Jesus has made a way for you to return to God. To accept Jesus is to accept forgiveness, love and salvation.

Confess

To confess means to come clean with the truth. It's easy to receive forgiveness and salvation. It's easy to return to God, because He has made it easy!

He has paid for everything and prepared everything. As Jesus died on the cross he cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30), not "I'm finished", but the work of salvation is complete, the debt is paid, all is accomplished.

"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, but if we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). It also means confessing our faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible states, "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Are you ready to confess your need of God's forgiveness?
Are you willing to believe that Jesus died and rose for you?

If 'yes' then it's time to experience the grace of God!

Experience

Jesus called the experience of salvation being 'born again' (John 3:3)! Literally starting your life over! But this time with God.

Jesus sends his Holy Spirit to help us experience all that He has for us.

The Holy Spirit brings us new birth and power to live like Jesus!

Are you ready to experience God's grace?

It's time to pray and meet God.

Here is a prayer that will help you express your need of God.

Almighty God, I realise today how much I need You.

I am sorry for living my life without You.

I want to turn to You and experience Your love for me.

Thank You for sending Your son to save me.

I accept Your gift of Jesus Christ as my saviour.

Jesus, I thank You for dying on the cross for me and for rising again.

I confess my sins today and turn away from them.

I need Your forgiveness and ask You to save me.

I ask now that I would experience Your amazing grace, Your saving love and the eternal life that You offer me.

Let me be born again into a new life with You.

Holy Spirit, please come and fill me.

Help me to follow Jesus and know my heavenly Father.

Thank You Lord for Your amazing grace!

Amen.

What's next?

Amazing Grace ... Live it with God!

- Talk to God every day, He will listen to you.
- Thank Him, praise Him, sing to Him.
- Read the bible everyday... He will speak to you.

Amazing Grace ... Live it with God's people!

- Get to church as often as you can.
- Connect to other Christians; they are your family now!

Amazing Grace ... Live it with everyone!

- Tell others about Jesus
- Forgive those who hurt you.
- Show others His love.

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