

God's Grace Wants You

*Hello! We are so glad you are joining us for this online study, "God's Grace Wants You!" We want you to know you are accepted and loved. By God, and by us. God has designed a purpose for you in His amazing plan. We can find it in the wonderful Word of God. These devotionals and short Bible studies are crafted with the goal of bringing you into closer relationship with Him. They are only an introduction to help you in the amazing knowledge that **God's Grace Wants You**. It is the beautiful journey of a lifetime!*

In His Grace,

Janene and Elena

The way this works:

This study contains four weeks of five lessons. Do the lessons five days, reserving the sixth day for any catch up or extra reading of the surrounding scripture passages. The more of His Word we take in the better off we are! Use Sunday to reflect and praise Him for all He has taught you!

Also, included in this study is a daily declaration for you to use as a strengthening of faith. This can be used wherever it fits best into your day, but daily use is best. When you can, look up each of the scriptures listed beneath the declarations. The Word is our life-line filled with delight. Loving Him is listening to and obeying His Word.

John 14: 15-18

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - - 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

A Daily Declaration to Strengthen Us in Our Faith

Today I, (*your name here*), declare that **my choice is Jesus. His Word is Truth.**
By His grace, today, **I will** love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind. And I will love my neighbor as myself.

Matthew 22:35,36

By His grace, today, **I will** treat other people the way they want to be treated.

Luke 6:31

By His grace, today, **I am** crucified with Christ so that Christ may live in me.

Galatians 2:20

By His grace, today, **I** give myself unto God as a living sacrifice and will be not like the world but be transformed by the renewing of my mind.

Romans 12:1,12

By His grace, today, **I will** be kind one to another and I will forgive others even as Christ for God's sake has forgiven me.

Ephesians 4:32

By His grace, today, **I will** let God's love shine through me for faith, hope and love are great and the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13: 13

By His grace, today, **I will** be filled with the Holy Spirit and walk according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16

By His grace, today, **I will** keep my tongue from evil and my lips from speaking lies.

Psalm 34:13

By His grace, today, **I will** let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O God, my Strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Lost**

Week One
Day #1

*Lost: not made use of, won, or claimed, a lost opportunity
Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts*

The Shocking Realization

It came out in the news . . . what a story! A man on a fishing trip noticing he wasn't catching anything and heading off with a butterfly net to catch grasshoppers. Seemed simple enough. He zig-zagged the mountain side **oblivious** to the fact he was going farther and farther from his fishing spot. His little "trip for bait" led him into a five-day fight for survival in the wilderness, encountering a wolverine, deer, and bear!

One thing that is captivating about this story is that for the first several hours of "hunting grasshoppers," this man had no idea he was lost. He zig-zagged the mountain with a **confidence** he would return to his fishing spot and fish away. After several **HOURS**, he realized he hadn't seen anyone else for quite some time. As it began to get dark, he tried to call 911 – but had no signal. **THEN the realization struck – he was lost.**

He struggled for survival, using all the knowledge he possessed, but **he couldn't save himself.** Because the rescue party wouldn't give up the search, they found him in time to save his life. He literally caused the "largest rescue search of the year." What jubilation when he was found!

Jesus told a story in Luke 15:4-7

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

1. What do we see about the attitude of the Shepherd concerning his lost sheep?
*First of all, He's concerned. And not just a little bit concerned. He is CONCERNED.
He is downright determined to find that lost sheep!*
2. What does the Shepherd's attitude of concern cause Him to do?
His concern causes him to leave the rest of his flock to go and search for the one that is lost.
3. What is the Shepherd's attitude when he finds the lost sheep?
I find it amazing it doesn't say he scolds the sheep and really lets him know how ridiculous it was for him to stray so far away. His attitude is one of tenderness!!! He lays it on his shoulders! The sheep will be safe there. And, it won't be tempted to wander

away – the Shepherd is carrying it on his shoulders. And, the Shepherd is rejoicing! All the way back to the other sheep He is rejoicing!

4. Once the Shepherd gets home – then what?
He doesn't keep his joy to himself! He is so happy he found his lost sheep he's telling all his friends and neighbors! It's time to REJOICE!

5. How does Jesus beautifully relate this to our lives?
When one sinner repents all of Heaven rejoices! If you are lost in sin, the Great Shepherd, Jesus, wants you! He's searching for you! By asking Him to forgive your sins, and trusting in Jesus as your Savior, you can cause HEAVEN to rejoice!

You see . . .

God's Grace Wants You When You're Lost

There's something about knowing you're wanted. Wanted enough to be searched for! Something about knowing you're loved. Something special when someone desires to be with you. Delights in your smile. Looks forward to hearing your voice. When someone is interested in things because you are and loves the difference in your laugh.

Did you know you are wanted? Did you know you are loved? Perhaps the words **won't penetrate the paralyzing pain** you're experiencing. Maybe you've **never heard** those words. Could be you've said them to others so many times it's **difficult to grasp** they are true for you.

Wherever you are, whatever the circumstance, could you allow your spirit to **relax in the Presence of Jesus** and **receive this Truth with assurance** right now? **You really are wanted. You really are loved.** There is a God with a grace that is reaching – with a **grace that wants YOU**. He sees, He cares, and He loves – YOU.

He desires to be with you. Delights in your smile. Looks forward to sharing with you and helping fulfill the dreams He has placed inside your heart. Wherever you are, **God is reaching for you with a grace to lift you beyond yourself and into Him.**

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast;” Ephesians 2:8,9

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Lost and Searching

Week 1

Day #2

*Lost: not made use of, won, or claimed, a lost opportunity
Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts*

The Search

We had moved to a new place of ministry and my three oldest children were seven, five and two. It was a Friday evening, and the high school across the street was having a football game. **My husband was away for the evening**, so I was home with the children. Some of our good friends were talking with me in the **back yard over the fence**. We chatted a few minutes and I went back into the house.

To my horror, **none of my children** were in the house! I called their names, searching every room, figuring they were “hiding out” somewhere. My panic increased when they were not under beds, behind doors, in the garage . . . they were nowhere to be found!

The pastor we worked for was out in the yard. Could they have gone over to the football game – beckoned by the bright lights? Even though it was evening and not completely dark, the lights were shining.

“**Oh, Jesus! Help me find them!**” I started over to the game. I had made it part way when I heard the pastor calling my name. I looked back to see a van in our driveway. As I rushed back toward the house, I saw my kids climbing out of the van. What in the world? Who in the world? How on earth?

The story came out. About two blocks from us lived some of the church people whom we had visited with the past Sunday evening. For some reason, our oldest son had thought I wasn't home, and instead of checking the backyard, his young mind remembered the way to the house two blocks away! So, “taking charge” of his two younger siblings, (one who desperately needed a diaper change) he wandered his way two blocks to our friends home, when I was simply in the back yard. Sometimes it seems **we can search everywhere** for contentment, help, peace – except where He really is. **Jesus is here, right now**. Right in our “back yard,” so to speak. He isn't far away. He's here. He wants us to be found in Him! He chose the Cross to show – **His grace wants you**.

Luke 19:1-10

1 “Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down,

for today I must stay at your house.’ 6 So, he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, ‘He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.’ 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’ 9 And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”

1. What was the attitude of Zacchaeus at first in this story?
Curious. Wants to see Jesus. Not deterred, by the hindrance of his height. Rather than being deterred he is determined. Obviously not a victim attitude but one of overcoming.
2. How did Jesus “find” Zacchaeus and what did he say that shocked Zacchaeus and the crowd?
Jesus simply looked up! He knew the hungry heart of the one looking down. Going home to dinner with him was a shock for everyone, except Jesus! To eat with a rich tax collector! Unheard of!
3. By going home with Zacchaeus what did Jesus demonstrate to him?
A desire to get to know him, to be with him, to eat at his table. His actions showed genuine love and concern that went beyond what others thought of Him.
4. What happened at dinner?
Repentance! Restoration! Salvation!
5. Jesus reveals his real purpose for coming to earth here in the house of Zacchaeus. What is that purpose?
“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

The love of the Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus, with a grace for the lost – and that was all of us. Grace – defined as “the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.”

So, the favor of God wants you. It comes with no strings attached. It’s free. **It’s free because Someone else paid for it to be yours.**

If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, would you do so right now? Simply ask like this, “Dear Jesus, I am a sinner in need of you. I believe you died on the Cross for me. Will you please come into my heart and life and make me a new Creation in you. Thank you for coming to earth for me and saving my soul. In Jesus, name, Amen.”

Heaven is REJOICING! Go ahead and share the good news of what Jesus has done with someone you know and rejoice together!

For those of you who have already accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, take a moment to reflect on when He forgave you! Rejoice and celebrate and find someone to share with about what Jesus did for you by His grace.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast;” Ephesians 2:8,9

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Lost "in the House"

Week One

Day #3

*Lost: not made use of, won, or claimed, a lost opportunity
Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts*

Found in Relationship

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

Ruth Ann went to **church every Sunday**. She obeyed the rules her church gave as the way to refrain from worldliness. She drove a horse and buggy.

We went to her home for dinner where she told us the most amazing story. A church in the community was hosting a ladies' tea. Ruth Ann was invited. When she walked in, she sensed something like never before. She said to herself, "**What is this Presence?** I've never felt anything like this!"

As she heard the Gospel presented, realization began to penetrate her mind and heart. When she returned home, she said to her husband, "There's more! There's more than what we know!"

The next time the church had a tea party, Ruth Ann was there. That night she **invited Jesus into her life**. She felt the Presence of the Holy Spirit deep within.

She needed to go to the local department store but couldn't drive her horse and buggy in the dark. So, someone from the church gladly took her to the store. The Presence lingered with her, changing the way she saw the people around her. She said as she entered the store she kept looking at everyone thinking, "Do they know? Do they know about the Presence?"

God, in His mercy, doesn't want us **lost in religion!** By His grace, He wants us **FOUND in relationship!** It is His Presence which brings us the fullness of joy!

Just like Ruth Ann, many folks are lost "even in the house." This takes me back to the chapter in Luke we visited briefly yesterday where Jesus told yet another story.

Luke 15:8-10

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Have you every misplaced something like keys, or glasses, or a wallet. You speak up and let your family know and invariably someone says, “Well, where did you have it last?” That question drives me crazy! If I knew where I had it last it wouldn’t be lost!

1. Can you recall a time where you “lost something” only do discover it IN THE HOUSE? Why don’t you take a moment and write this memory?
2. What do you think Jesus is sharing with us about the Father’s heart when only one out of ten is lost, yet she goes searching for it? (Also look up II Peter 3:9)
The Father’s heart is not willing that ANY should be lost! He desires that ALL be brought to repentance and relationship in Him.
3. What significance could it hold that the coin is lost “in the house?”
Even in the church, one can be without a true relationship with Christ.
4. What is the attitude presented in the search for the lost coin?
Persistence! No stopping the search until ALL the coins were found! Everyone was important.
5. Once again, what emotion is exuded when she finds it?
Joy! Pure unadulterated JOY! A JOY that must be shared with others and once again causes Heaven to rejoice!

How could someone be lost “in the house?” It does seem nearly unbelievable that one could be right where praise to the Lord is happening, and teaching of the Word is taking place and yet not be in a true personal relationship with Christ. It is a frightening thought. The lost coin had been with all the other coins, yet somehow it slipped out of a “bag” or through the hands that held it, or was inadvertently “knocked off,” the table . . . we don’t know “how,” we only know it was “lost in the house.”

If you have been raised in church all of your life, remember, God has no grandchildren. Only sons and daughters. He has a personal relationship for YOU. Not your “grandmas relationship” or your “parent’s relationship” or anyone else’s relationship will do. God’s grace wants YOU! Don’t just know “about Him,” get to really KNOW HIM. He’s amazing to know!

If something said or done in your body of believers has “knocked you off the table,” so to speak, could I encourage you not to get lost in the hurt and lose the joy of your relationship with Christ. Keep your eyes on Jesus. People are fallible, Christ is not! Keep the faith and keep “found” in HIM! Offenses will come to all of us, but by HIS grace, we can be overcomers.

He has grace for every situation, and His grace wants you!
It’s a beautiful journey when you walk it with Jesus!

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast;” Ephesians 2:8,9

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Lost Far Away from the House

Week One

Day #4

*Lost: not made use of, won, or claimed, a lost opportunity
Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts*

A Way Back

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

Our family met him the first year we began singing the Gospel and traveling full time. He looked a bit extreme. White, spikey-like hair – but a smile that wouldn't quit. He had been a prodigal son. Recently, he had come "home!"

He knew what it was to be **lost** in the **fast lane of addiction** and substance abuse. He experienced the chains of sin that bind and hold. The darkness that blinds a soul, making the way back to "Father's house" look bleak and too difficult to travel.

One night, he reached the end. The **hopelessness of his situation** rocked his world. He knew he needed help and remembered where he had been taught to find it. Kneeling beside his bed, He asked Jesus to give him one more chance.

That night Jesus forgave Him. That night, **Jesus delivered him!** No more did he walk in darkness! He became a child of light! No longer lost --- but found!

Every morning, he reads the Word of God and talks with his Lord. Every night he does the same. What a **TRANSFORMATION** we have **SEEN** in this man's life! Do you need to come back home to the Father? He **LOVES YOU!** There **IS** a way back!

The scripture is so packed with lessons from which each of us can learn! It will take us two days to even begin. . . and will have us reach back as well as forward. What hope we find in this story.

Luke 15:11-24

*11 "Then He said: 'A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So, he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 **But when he had spent all**, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, **and no one gave him anything.** 17 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father I have sinned*

against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 And he arose and came to his father. **But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him** and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”

This story is packed full of truths! Each character has their own way of teaching us things we need to know.

THE YOUNGEST SON

What can we learn from him?

1. When you first read this story, what are some things that immediately stick out about the youngest son?
 - a. *He was the youngest.*
 - b. *His foot itched to wander. See the world. Find out what was really out there beyond this farm and everything he knew. Surely the grass was greener on the other side of the fence.*
 - c. *He wanted to do things his own way. Live life on his own. Do what he wanted to do the way he wanted to do it.*
2. How would being the youngest possibly influence the way he was feeling?
Tired of everyone telling him what to do. Perhaps feeling like he was stifled and wanting to prove himself.
3. Even in his longing to be free, what was his attitude toward his father?
*He asked for his inheritance. Told his father he wanted what was his. The NLT says it like this, “The younger son **told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’”** He then **abused his father’s generosity** and broke his heart by leaving with a proud and rebellious spirit to do things his own way.*
4. What did it take for the Prodigal Son to realize his sin?
 - a. *His money ran out. “but when he had spent all . . .” Verse 14a*
 - b. *He became **PHYSICALLY** hungry which mirrored the starvation of his soul. Verse 14b*
 - c. *No one gave him **ANYTHING**. Verse 16*
5. What realization caused him to move?
The fact that his own father’s hired servants lived better than he was as a servant slopping pigs. There was food in his father’s house and he was hungry.
6. What truth did he accept about himself?

He had sinned against heaven and his father. No sugar coating it. No blame on anyone or anything else. He accepted the truth. He had sinned. He was wrong. He wasn't worthy to be a son, he would ask to be a servant.

THE FATHER

What can we learn from him?

1. When the younger son stated his desire what did the father do?
He agreed to go ahead and divide his wealth between the two sons.
2. Even though his son hurt him so terribly, what tells us he didn't allow that hurt to grow into a festering wound of bitterness? Verse 20
*He saw his son while he was a long way off! He was looking!
He was filled with love and compassion
He RAN to his son and embraced him*
3. How was the UNCONDITIONAL love of the father shown?
*He heard his son repenting and asking to be a servant. He responded with the unconditional love in his heart. The BEST and FINEST robe in the house. A RING (the ring that showed he was one of the FAMILY) for his finger. SANDALS for his feet! (no barefoot peddler would do – he is a SON!) Kill the FATTED CALF! (Not just any old calf would do. Had to be the one they were fattening up for a celebration!)
The father had no guarantee his son wouldn't hurt him again, but he loved him unconditionally, giving him the absolute BEST of EVERYTHING and accepted him right back into the house!*

What incredible, unconditional love. And, it is available for each of us. Sin can be forgiven! Lost can be found! Failures can be redeemed! Life can begin new again! Always . . . we are loved.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast;” Ephesians 2:8, 9

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Lost Far Away from the House
(and in the House!)

Week One
Day #5

Lost: not made use of, won, or claimed, a lost opportunity
Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts

Song: There's a Way Back/Download to listen

Remember a couple of days ago, we talked about being "lost in the house?" This story brings us back to this concept yet again. Our heavenly Father has a heart which longs for us to be FOUND!

The Longing

Luke 15:25-32

*25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So, he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf,' 28 But he was angry and would not go in. **Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him.** 29 So, he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you, I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"*

THE OLDER SON

What can we learn from him?

1. First off, what did the older brother receive without even asking? Verse 12
His inheritance. The father divided his wealth between the two sons when the younger son asked for his.
2. What was the older son doing while his younger brother ran about squandering his gift?
He was home with the father, working the farm. Verse 25
3. Re-read Verses 28-31

- a. *What are the predominate issues of this older brother?*
His hurt over what his brother had done has gone from hurt to bitterness to outright anger. He's angry at the whole situation! How COULD his father forgive so readily? How could he NOT "make him pay?" How could he celebrate the rebellious fool of his brother when he himself ALWAYS did what he was told, working hard. How COULD his father not allow HIM to celebrate with his friends when all he ever did was right by him?
- b. *What does his response do to his father?*
Causes his father pain. He begs him to come in and rejoice that his lost brother has been found. His dead brother is alive again. It hurts the father to see his boy react like this, but he will still do what is the right thing to do.
- c. *What does the older brother's stubborn selfishness cost him?*
The joy of celebration.
The peace of a forgiving heart.
The relationship which would have been gained with his brother by giving him unconditional love.

What a story! Yesterday we read the beginning. Far away from home went the younger son, so far away he was LOST – unable to find his way. He literally squandered away his inheritance. Physically, he was nearly starving, and spiritually, he **starved himself to death!** Yet, one day he finally “came to himself.” So, he started the journey – the way back – home.

Today we see what “happened at the house,” while he was away. The older son stayed home – but he became lost in the bitterness of what his brother had done to his father, to their family. A wound which festered and grew, until when his father’s prayers are answered for his brother, he can’t find it within himself to do anything but be angry. He had witnessed his father’s broken heart. Had watched his brother blacken the family name. He became “**lost in the house**” **refusing to forgive, refusing to love, refusing the joy of his prodigal brother’s return.**

He also became lost in selfishness. He worked hard for his father. He loved being the good boy. The **bitterness tarnished** what most likely started out as a **pure motive** to please the father into something else. Now he uses his “being good” as something for which he should have been rewarded! After all – he stayed home and was the good boy. Shouldn’t he have had the fatted calf more than his runaway brother? The attitude of his heart was in the wrong place. **The tentacles of hurt had bound him in bitterness, forging a chain of anger from which he needed to be set free.**

Unconditionally, the Father loved these two boys. Freely giving a redeeming embrace. Celebrating the brokenness of repentance. Longing for their reconciliation. Loving, loving, loving. The Father shows us how God’s grace continues reaching out . . . in verse 28 the father came out and pleaded with the son to “join the party.” Hurt and bitterness can blind us to the “party in the house.”

The father shows us the way to not hang on to the bitterness and hurt. It is by LOVING. When we've been hurt, we can't give the right kind of love and forgiveness without God's grace being poured into us and loving and forgiving through us. Sometimes it's a daily choice to allow Him to love through us.

Only God can . . . but God CAN! He has shown us, a more excellent way!

Read I Corinthians 13

"Lord, we need You. You have told us to 'love our enemies.' You have instructed us to pray for those who mistreat us. You have given us a better way to live. That is to live in Your love. Today we choose to receiver Your grace. We choose to forgive. We choose to love. We admit that we cannot do this on our own. We need YOU to change our hearts and to help us to love like You. We surrender to You and Your healing in our hearts and lives." In Jesus' name, Amen

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast;" Ephesians 2:8.9

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Weary
from Empty Busyness

Week Two

Day #1

Weary: feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. cause to become tired.

ELENA

Busyness! American culture **treats it as a badge of honor**. Like busyness is the evidence of a good work ethic. Robs a person of laziness. Kings the piece at the edge of the checker board. "How are you?" we ask one another. And nod in approving agreement as we answer in unison, "Busy, so busy!"

Contrary to what we have grown to accept, however, busyness in itself is not the evidence of a good work ethic, the absence of laziness, or the approval connection for which we are all searching. **Busyness in itself can be a thief**. It can rob us of wisdom, right priorities, and set our feet on the proverbial treadmill of life, leaving us starving for the quiet where we can hear the still small voice of God.

Getting off isn't easy. I know. I've been there. (It's a constant, daily challenge!)

But hearing His voice is worth any price. The more we know Him the more of Him we want to know! The beautiful thing is, He freely gives Himself to us – He's there, waiting. God's grace wants us when we're weary from the busyness of life.

Luke 10:38-42

38 "Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.' 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"

1. Where do we see Martha first in this passage?
At the door giving Jesus a welcome to her home.
2. So, as she welcomed Jesus into her home what could we say that is showing about her at that point?

She is in tune that He has arrived. She WANTS Him to feel welcome to her home.

3. What happened to Martha as time passed, and how could we see that in perspective with priorities?
*She became **distracted** with much serving. The details took over. She became worried and troubled with making sure everything was absolutely perfect for her guests and for Jesus Himself!*
4. Mary, on the other hand, couldn't get enough of Jesus. What does this say about her priorities?
She kept a handle on them. Even when her sister was frustrated at her, she was where she knew she needed to be. At the feet of Jesus.
5. How could we take the way Jesus handled that situation and translate it into our lives today?
Jesus gently let Martha know she didn't need to be so worried and troubled about every little thing. He wasn't going to chide Mary for making time with Him the priority because Martha was frustrated. The priority of Christ first is still the right thing to do today. When we put Him first, He will help us with the rest of the details.

When we are **empowered and enabled by Him to do the Fathers will, and have the mind of Christ, no longer are we running around in busyness with misplaced priorities.** We seek HIS will, take time to KNOW the path He has for us to take, listen closely to the sound of HIS voice that we may obey ALL He has for us to do.

No longer must we run around in a hectic paced busyness, filling our lives with so many events, people and things that we have no room for the BEST of all. Now we are filled. Filled with His Holy Spirit and at peace with the will of the Father.

Let's **get off and stay off** the treadmill of empty busyness. When He fills our lives with the right kind of busy, He empowers us to do it! It's a **daily challenge** that we are up to, **BY HIS GRACE!**

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Weary
from Kingdom Building**

Week Two

Day #2

Weary: feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. cause to become tired.

Even Prophets Get Weary

Elijah is an Old Testament prophet who gives us a whole lot of encouragement! He is what we would call today, “a mover and a shaker.” He stays true to the One true God no matter what anyone else does. His whole life is AMAZING! If you’ve never read about Him I’d encourage you to do so! We’re sort of picking up in the middle for what we can learn from him today.

In I Kings 18 he challenges 450 prophets of Baal and 400 of Asherah, supported by the wicked queen Jezebel to meet him at Mount Carmel. **He addresses the people with the question, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow Him.”** Then comes the showdown of the sacrifices! No matter how they leaped, cut themselves and did all kind of antics, the prophets of Baal could NOT get him to answer.

Now comes the moment of truth. With twelve stones Elijah builds an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a big trench around the altar, puts the wood in order and makes ready the sacrifice. Then, (even though the whole land is in a drought) he has them fill four water pots with water and pour them on the sacrifice -- repeating this process THREE times! The water runs all around the altar and even fills the trench with water!

Let’s pick up the story in I Kings 18:36

“And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.’ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.”

Wow! The people saw once again that there is only ONE TRUE GOD! They fall on their faces proclaiming, “The Lord He is God!”

Would you believe Elijah now has the courage to tell King Ahab that the drought which has been happening is going to end. He tells the King to go eat and drink, for “*there is the sound of*

abundance of rain.” And, Elijah goes to prayer. He prays until the answer comes! (Read the whole phenomenal story in I Kings 18!)

Verse 45 says, “Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and **ran** ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.”

He beat King Ahab and Ahab was in a chariot! How on earth? **The HAND OF THE LORD came upon him.**

YET, here comes Chapter 19!

King Ahab tells Jezebel what has happened. Wicked Queen Jezebel is **furious and sends Elijah the message that his life will be ended in twenty-four hours.**

Now, he has finished racing a chariot and he’s **off running again! This time he’s “running for his life!”** He leaves his servant at the town of Beersheba . . . then, let’s pick up in verse 4.

I Kings 19:4 – 8

4 “But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, ‘It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!’ 5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, ‘Arise and eat.’ 6 Then he looked and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, ‘Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.’ 8 So he arose and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.”

1. What is the real cause of Elijah’s request that he might die?
Complete physical and emotional exhaustion!
2. What from the story would tell us he would be physically exhausted?
 - a. *The physical exertion on Mount Carmel.*
 - b. *The physical exertion of praying until the rain came.*
 - c. *The physical exertion of running and running!*
3. What could be the causes of his emotional exhaustion?
 - a. *He’s endeavoring to get the people of Israel to return to the One True God!*
 - b. *He’s prayed until he prayed through for the drought to end and rain to come again.*
 - c. *After all of this, Jezebel still has threatened to take his life and he’s escaping.*
4. What is God’s response to his request?
Simply sends an angel to meet his needs.
5. When the angel comes the second time, what does he say that tells us Elijah is going to make it? *‘Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.’*

God isn't finished with Elijah. Even though Elijah WANTS to be finished at the moment. He meets his needs . . . and lets him know **the journey isn't over, and he must take the SUSTENANCE OF THE LORD to finish this journey!**

This is so important for all of us! The journey God has for us isn't meant for us to take alone! **He is the supply we need** for the path we are to take with Him.

9 *“And there he went into a cave and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’* 10 *So, he said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.’”*

11 *Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’”*

1. Does Elijah try and get around why he is really there?
No. He simply tells the truth. He is honest with God.
2. Even though God knows His prophet is mistaken about being left alone, how does he handle that?
He doesn't address it immediately. Nor does he degrade him and say, “Well, I don't know why you think that. After all you know I won't leave you alone . . .” It's like when a Father KNOWS more than his child, but is helping him learn through a situation before telling the child what HE KNOWS.
3. What does God do?
He gives Elijah an object lesson of His Absolute Power and reminds Elijah of how He speaks. Now His weary servant is prepared again, physically, emotionally, AND with the listening to HIS VOICE, spiritually.

And again, Elijah truthfully answers the question. Amazingly, **NOW God gives him instructions . . . and lets him know once again he is not alone.** Not only is God with Elijah, but there are seven thousand in Israel who have stayed true! Who have not bowed to Baal! What words of encouragement! What a loving Father.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

God's Grace Wants You
When
You're Weary
from the Busyness of Doing

Week Two
Day #3

Weary: feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. cause to become tired.

Waiting Patiently

He waited patiently. I paused a moment –
but there was so much to do – all for Him of course.
He waited patiently – I hurried by.
So much to do for Him you see.
People to serve, plans to make – living to give you know.
He waited patiently, but I had to go.
They were waiting to receive what I had to offer.
I reached inside to pull from my Source, but alas!
He was still waiting patiently where I had hurried by.

Janene A. Dubbeld/FGG

Running Around For Jesus

The worship pastor's wife was busy. Very busy. She helped in youth and children's work at the church. Had three children of her own. Played the piano for her husband in worship. Wherever she was needed she was there. She pursued her own efforts for the cause of Christ as well. She didn't want to get to Heaven and "wish she had given him more."

One day, the Lord spoke directly to her heart. Like an arrow the words pierced deep. **"You are running around doing all these things FOR me, but how do you know they are really OF me?"**

The moment of truth penetrated her heart. **Busyness FOR HIM was not a substitute for time with Him.** Only by spending time WITH Him and listening to HIS voice could she know HIS will and allow Christ to live through her. Only then could eternal good be done. Works OF Christ through a surrendered vessel, cleansed and filled with the Holy Spirit.

It's true. There simply isn't any substitute for time spent alone with the Master. Saints through the ages have emphasized the importance of the quiet time spent in His Word and at His feet. In the culture of our day, it's so easy to see time as a commodity that must be filled with doing. **In reality, BEING in HIS PRESENCE fuels the God filled DOING that brings eternal results.**

Taking time in His Presence is a quieting of our spirit. A waiting on Him. Let's look at the benefits waiting on Him bring.

The BENEFITS of waiting on God

“Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

1. A benefit of taking time with God is we can bring Him our burden! In exchange He will sustain us!!!

“Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord.” Psalm 27:14

1. What is the benefit in this verse of waiting on the Lord?
He strengthens our heart.

“I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay. And set my feet upon a rock and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth – praise to our God: Many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord.”

1. Many benefits here! What is first?
He “inclined” to me. He LISTENED to me and HEARD my cry.
2. What else did he do since I waited on Him?
Brought me up out of a horrible pit! Out of miry clay!
3. Then what did He do?
Set my feet upon a rock and established my steps.
4. What benefit does He put in my mouth?
A new song of praise to our God.
5. What is the next benefit?
It becomes a WITNESS to others!

The WHERE and HOW we spend quiet time with our Lord is as varying as each personal relationship with Him. Sometimes it also varies because of the season of life we are in. He understands each circumstance. It is our privilege and joy, as well as our responsibility, to not let the things which seem so “necessary.” in the temporal, crowd out those which have the greatest significance in our lives, both here on earth and for eternity.

God's grace wants you when you are weary from serving! He **renews** our strength as we **wait upon Him**.

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9

1. What is the benefit we will receive if we allow Him to sustain us and don't lose heart?

We will reap a harvest!

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

God's Grace Wants You

When You're Weary from Grief

Week Two
Day #4

Weary: feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. cause to become tired.

What Now?

When the telephone rang a little after 4 am, there was no way she could have known the ring would be life changing. Thirty minutes later it rang again. Her mother was left with a void in her heart and at her side. She had lost her life-long love.

What now? It was unexpected! They weren't prepared for him to leave this earth so early. There were unfinished dreams and plans they were working on **TOGETHER. They ministered – TOGETHER. They did everything – TOGETHER. What now?**

She lived in the parsonage – so a move was inevitable. One of the unfinished dreams was a house of their own. Her family lived nine hours away. It was spring – decisions needed to be made. And so, the big question of, “What now,” began to be answered new every morning. And every morning, **she found God faithful.**

These are her words to the answer of being weary in grief:

Grief—a deep, inner pain we try to avoid.

Words and tears cannot express our inner feelings – the pain (as an open wound) and brokenness we feel. Our Lord “was acquainted with grief.” He longs to share ours – to comfort and carry our burdens.

Even when we feel weary, lost, alone, and covered with a dark cloud of grief – God knows and is there. He knows this cross we bear will help us feel our need of Him.

Trust in Him. Give your grief and pain to His strong, loving care. Rest in the Father's will today and tomorrow. Allow Him to “bear your grief and carry your sorrows.”

She has done just that. Every day, in every new circumstance, even through the fog of grief she has trusted Him, leaned on Him, and rested in His care. She has continued living and giving to others through it all. I know because I've watched her in amazement. She's my mom.

He knows where we are.

Isaiah 53 (Read the whole chapter)

Isaiah 53:3-6

3 “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

1. What comfort can those of us find in these verses?
Jesus knows. He is a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
2. What has He done with our griefs and sorrows?
He Himself has already carried them.
3. How can this passage help us as we journey through the process of grief?
He’s walking it with us. He has healing for us. He knows where we are.

If it seems you’re weary, oh, so weary in grief, don’t panic. He knows where you are.

There is an old hymn based on Genesis 16:13 written by James Montgomery. **Born in 1771 and living on earth until 1854** he captured well the feelings of being weary and lost in grief . . . yet the faith of knowing that God knows. Here is a **portion** of the old hymn which shows others have also carried their share of sorrow.

“O God, unseen, but not unknown, Thine eye is ever fixed on me;
I dwell beneath Thy secret throne, Encompassed by Thy Deity.
Throughout this universe of space, to nothing am I long allied,
For flight of time and change of place, My strongest, dearest bonds divide.
Parents I had, but where are they? Friends whom I knew, I know no more;
Companions, once that cheered my way; have dropped behind or gone before.
Now I am one amidst a crowd of life and action hurrying round;
Now left alone, -- for, like a cloud, They came, they went, and are not found.
The moment comes, when strength shall fail, When, (health and hope and courage flown)
I must go down into the vale and shade of death with Thee alone.
Be mine eternal portion this, since Thou were always here with me,
That I may view Thy face in bliss and be for evermore with Thee.

Don't Weep Without Hope

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1. What is the first comfort we see in this passage of scripture?
How those who have gone on before us are referred to! Verse 13 – “those who have fallen asleep.”
2. How does this help us? What do we have in our sorrow?
HOPE! We do not weep without hope!
3. How are we encouraged to comfort one another?
With the words of this passage! That when the trumpet of God sounds, the dead in Christ will rise first and then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Remember, even in the weary days of sorrow, His grace wants you and He knows where you are. He has grace enough to help you walk through this at whatever pace is necessary. He will not leave you comfortless. Embrace His healing truth today and trust Him as you walk through this season. You may be weary – but His strength is here for you.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

God's Grace Wants You

When You're Weary from IT ALL

Week Two

Day #5

Weary: feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. cause to become tired.

Reassuring Voice

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

It had been a long week, after a long month, after a long year. Her sister was so very sick. There are no words for the wearying pain of watching someone you love to suffer. Someone who's been with you all your life. With whom you've shared secrets, joy, and sorrow. You want them to be healed – the pain to go away. You want to fix it for them.

Sitting at the piano pouring out her heart through her music, Glenda felt the sweet Presence of the Holy Spirit and she began to write. He poured into her healing lyrics, which served as an anchor when it seemed she was walking through gloom and darkness. The reassuring voice of God sustained her.

Today, the earthly pain is over for her sister. She is eternally healed in the Presence of the Lord. The gentle hand of Jesus still sustains Glenda on the days when she misses her sister so much. Oh, Precious Jesus! How wonderful you are!

Download for, "Precious Jesus" by Glenda Clay

Isn't it wonderful that when we are weary our Lord cares for us? In our weakness He is strong. In our weariness He is strength. Isaiah 40 is one of the most beautiful chapters in all of Scripture. The Lord's recorded comfort for Israel, it's prophecy of the coming of our Christ, has served as comfort for many weary Christians. If you are weary – find strength today! I'd read the WHOLE chapter first if you have time! The words alone will begin to strengthen your spirit.

Isaiah 40: 1-11

1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 'Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.' 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

6 The voice said, ‘Cry out!’ And he said, ‘What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. 9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
 10 Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong *hand*, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.’”

1. What are spoken of as things that have brought weariness in verse 2? And what is bringing the comfort?
In this case, both warfare and sin bring the weariness. The comfort is found in the forgiveness and pardon from our God.
2. What truths do we find in verses 6-9 that will strengthen us in our weariness?
*Even though the grass withers and the flower fades **“THE WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS FOREVER!”** We can lift up our voices with strength and NO FEAR and behold our God!*
3. Why do we not need to fear and can be strengthened in the coming of our Lord?
 - a. *He comes with a strong hand and His arm shall rule for Him.*
 - b. *His reward is with Him and His work before Him.*
 - c. *He will feed His flock like a shepherd, gather the lambs with His arm and carry them, and gently lead those who are with young.*
4. What does this show about the attitude of our God toward us when we are weary?
He is strong even when we are weary and weak and will lead with a gentle strength when necessary!
5. What attribute of God does this passage show?
His omnipotence. He is all powerful!

We who are weary may rest in this truth. Our weariness doesn’t exhaust His power. Neither does it drain Him of His strength. We may rest in the Truth that He is all powerful.

Isaiah 40:18-26

18 “To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? 19 The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. 20 Whoever *is* too impoverished for such a contribution chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman to prepare a carved image that will not totter. 21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And

spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. 24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. 25 ‘To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?’ says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.’

Another thing that brings a weariness in our day is seeing the wickedness around us. Also, the apathy of other believers toward this wickedness!

1. What are three things brought out in this passage that bring encouragement to us?
 - a. *There is no other like God. He is the true God and all other images are false.*
 - b. *He is in control. He sits above and can handle any earthly leader. They will not rule forever.*
 - c. *He is compared to no other. He has created all things. Even the stars – and He calls them by name. None are lost – by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power.*

Isaiah 40: 27-31

27 “Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

Another cause of weariness can be feeling “forgotten” or “misunderstood.”

- a. What in this passage can be our encouragement?
- b. *God, our Creator is never weary.*
- c. *He UNDERSTANDS! His understanding is so great we cannot even search its depths.*
- d. *He never faints or is weary.*
- e. *He gives power to the weak.*
- f. *He increases strength to those with no might.*
- g. *Not only “old people” get tired.*
- h. *But ALL who wait on the Lord have the promise of Isaiah 40:31*

Write out our promise in Isaiah 40:31

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Broken**

Weeks Three
Day #1

*Broken - having been fractured or damaged and
no longer in one piece or in working order.*

Download Song: "When You're Broken"

When You're Broken

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

She just wanted out. **It hurt too much to go on.** Her minister husband of over fifteen years had completely shattered her world. What would happen to her beautiful children? What would happen to her? How could she possibly tell anyone of this horror? The absolutely unthinkable had happened. Her husband was leaving her and embracing another lifestyle.

How could she have not read the signs? There were too many horrible things involved. Things she must not say. She had to leave, to get out of there, to go. **Ministry was over.** All she knew was gone. Her children didn't understand. Her parents didn't understand.

It was too much. She clutched the pills in her hand and prepared for the end. The room was dark. There was no light in the room and none left in her life. Then, though the room was completely dark, **she sensed a shadow pass over.** That's when He spoke. The One Whose grace was reaching out in the midst of this hopelessness.

"Did I say it was time to end your life? I'm the One who says when life is to be over. I still want to use you . . .," she heard. "I'm sorry, Lord Jesus, she sobbed into the Shadow . . . if You will help me . . ." **The seeking Savior heard her repentant heart as she flushed the pills down the toilet. The grace of Jesus found her and began an amazing restoration journey she is still walking today! He had a restoration journey in store for you, too! He loves like that!**

Luke 8:43-48

43 "Now a woman having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, 'Who touched Me?' When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, 'Master, the multitudes throng and press you, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'' 46 But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.' 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, 'Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.'"

What can we learn in these verses about brokenness and healing?

1. What does verse 43 tell us about the woman in our story?
It had been a LONG and wearying illness. The woman had spent everything she had in effort after effort to be healed.
2. What is the attitude of the woman with the brokenness?
She WANTS to be healed! She has full confidence in the Almighty power of Jesus Christ. She knows if she can touch even His clothes she will be made well. Yet, her illness is an embarrassing one. How would any of us like to “stand up in front” of a bunch of people and tell them about this kind of illness?
3. What was the difference in the touch Peter THOUGHT of and what Jesus really meant?
Peter was speaking of a causal “push and shove” from the crowd. Jesus knew this touch had been with a deeper intent. He felt the power of healing go from Him,
4. What could possibly be the reason Jesus pressed to find out who it was?
Her testimony! For others as well as her own words speaking life. She testified of her brokenness. She testified of HIS HEALING! What HOPE!
5. What was it that helped her walk out of these twelve YEARS of brokenness?
Her FAITH in the power of Jesus Christ to heal her brokenness.

It had taken twelve years. Twelve long years of seeking, searching, weeping, aching, being exhausted. Twelve LONG years.

But when TRUTH came, she knew. She knew if she could press through that crowd and touch Jesus her days of waiting would be through. By faith she knew. By faith she believed. Faith that this Jesus Christ who healed others had healing for her. A faith that brought her determined, fighting her way through the crowd. A faith that brought an outstretched arm and a hand that touched His garment.

She didn't wallow in hopelessness, she searched for answers. She WANTED to be well. She kept seeking, and in Christ she FOUND what she sought. HEALING!

She came humbly to the Master. Asking for Him to do the miraculous.

Her focus was on one thing! Getting to the one who could heal. Getting to Jesus!

He didn't disappoint her. She found what she needed in Jesus Christ. Now she could rejoice!

“The high and lofty One who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: ‘I live in the high and holy place, with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirits of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.’” Isaiah 57:15

What does this verse say to you personally today?

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”
Psalm 34:18

God's Grace Wants You
When
**You're Broken
and Betrayed**

Week Three
Day #2

Broken - having been fractured or damaged and no longer in one piece or in working order.

Grace for the Broken

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

He was hurt. He couldn't shake it. Sometimes He wanted to shake it off. Sometimes He didn't even want to. Sometimes He didn't even care. How could someone He loved so much hurt Him so deeply? He felt rejected. **Betrayed**. He'd never traveled this road before. He wasn't sure if He was still walking the road. He was **surely stumbling if He was moving at all**.

Oh, outwardly He was moving. He had to. He had children that needed to be fed. Others to whom he was responsible. Life had to go on. He had to take care of business. It felt like everything he had worked so hard for meant nothing. Nothing to anyone. And he had worked so hard.

He knew all the right Scriptures. Had heard all the right words. Had even said all the right words to others. But somehow in this **awful moment he couldn't get past the hurt**. He was finding it difficult to align himself with truth. It seemed like giving in would be a whole lot easier than fighting through this unspeakable pain.

It wasn't days. It was weeks. Something had to give. Finally, he met with a pastor and together they prayed. They **prayed** and prayed. **Not for five minutes, but for two or three hours**. He was given the privilege of taking communion and he chose to do so. Somehow **His choice to align himself with the brokenness of our Savior broke the chains that bound his soul**. Tears flowed as he remembered the broken body of our Lord. Broken for him.

This same Jesus administered His healing grace, and though the journey wasn't over, the light had shattered the darkness vying for His faith. The image of Christ is sometimes stamped clearer on our lives through the blessing of brokenness.

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'"

I Corinthians 11:23,24

Betrayed by one of His own

Matthew 26:14-16

14 “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”

So, the price was right. This moment Judas betrayed the Holy Son of God. The One who had done no sin, no wrong, only good. He had walked and talked with Him for three years. He knew Truth. Yet, He chose betrayal. Jesus knows that pain. Yet, He allowed it to happen to save our souls. It was this betrayal that would end the earthly life of Christ on Calvary, yet bring eternal life to all of us through the redemption of His blood.

Jesus knows the wound of betrayal. It’s a pain like no other.

Luke 22: 39-53

39 “Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. 40 When He came to the place, He said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’

41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, ‘**Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.**’ 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

45 When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. 46 Then He said to them, ‘Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.’

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. 48 But Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’

49 When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, ‘Lord, shall we strike with the sword?’ 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered and said, ‘Permit even this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.’”

1. What do we see Jesus do to get ready for what He knew was coming?

Took time to pray.

2. What does His agonizing prayer, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done” speak to us?
The will of the Father is the most important thing of all. Even if it for a time allows betrayal and brokenness.
3. What did God the Father do after the struggle and surrender?
Sent the ministry He needed – through angels!
4. What words show us He knew this was betrayal?
His own words. “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”
5. What did Jesus show even to those who came to capture him when one of the disciples wanted to fight by the sword?
He gave mercy and healing to the servant of the high priest.

How can this lesson personally help us in dealing with the hurt of betrayal? What can we learn from the life of Christ?

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”
Psalm 34:18

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Broken**

Week Three
Day #3

Broken - having been fractured or damaged and no longer in one piece or in working order.

Broken to Beautiful

Used from gift book, "God's Grace Wants You" by Janene A. Dubbeld

A story is told of a **young boy** who came upon a **cocoon**. In his little mind, all he could think of was the living thing inside of this ought to be **free!** He wasn't old enough to understand the cocoon was a needed season. He ran to the house where he found a **sharp object** with which he could **puncture the cocoon**. Quickly, he ran back to the cocoon and with his object **cut it open**. However, instead of seeing the living thing become free, **he cried**, as it was no longer able to live.

The process of the cocoon was necessary — although it was dark, cramped, and seemingly restrictive to the worm as it held it within its walls. All through this time, it was developing. Change was taking place. **Transformation could only be completed as it endured the cocoon**. If left there to finish the process, it would have emerged a beautiful butterfly.

Broken things rarely demand positive responses. Think about it for a moment. You're sitting in a restaurant when you hear a clatter of dishes from the back. What is your automatic response? "**Uh, oh. Not good . . .**" You drop a glass on the kitchen floor . . . You reach for the broom, and the trash can.

Some people view **broken lives** with the same basic response. If you can "hold it all together" things are good. What about the times life sends those **unwanted, unasked for circumstances** that break you? Break your heart, break your will, break your desire to win . . . What then? **Off to the trash heap** with other broken lives?

That isn't the view of our Savior! Hallelujah! He knows about brokenness. He has picked up many broken pieces. **He is no respecter of persons**. He wants to pick up yours, too.

Only He knows how to take the brokenness of your life — the dark, damp process of the cocoon where you are and begin a transformation. A **change only learned in the dark place**. A developing process from brokenness that will bring you to a place you never could have found without His grace. Only He is able — and even more amazing — **He wants to. It's His specialty**.

He bore the brokenness, the pain, the sin — just for you. Whether you are needing forgiveness or needing His love to enable you to forgive — **He is there for you**.

Allow His healing to begin — way down deep. Hand it all over to Him — He'll receive your burden, your brokenness, your open, gaping wound — **He's the Healer.**

Trust Him when you cannot see the reason behind it all. It's **more than clichés** or a figure of speech. He can turn brokenness into something beautiful.

In our brokenness we have a Great Encourager! Read these verses for faithful Paul facing tough stuff!

Acts 23:10,11

10 “Now when there arose a great dissension the commander fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks. 11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, ‘Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.’”

1. Why was Paul taken by force when endeavoring to share the Gospel?
Because the commander was fearful that the crowd would literally pull him a part!
2. Who stood by Him that night encouraging him?
The Lord Himself.
3. How does this passage encourage you?
In our brokenness we are NEVER without the love of Christ!

Romans 8:35-39

35 “Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death 36 (As the Scriptures say, ‘For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.’) 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow— Not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1. What are common things listed here that if they happen to many people today their faith is shaken?
Trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, destitute, in danger, threatened with death.
2. What does this scripture say we can have in SPITE of these things?
*Overwhelming victory! Not just “by the skin of your teeth” kind of victory!
OVERWHELMING Victory!*

3. What are things which someone may think could separate us from God's love?
Death, life, angels, demons, fears, worries, powers of hell, powers in the sky, power in earth, anything at all in creation.

4. According to this scripture what can separate us from the love of God?
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

Even in your brokenness, you are loved. God's grace WANTS YOU! As we are on this journey that is one thing all of us can be assured of in any and every situation – the Love of God.

Ephesians 3: 14-21

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”
Psalm 34:18

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Broken
from Misunderstanding**

*Week Three
Day #4*

*Broken - having been fractured or damaged and
no longer in one piece or in working order.*

The Best I Could

"I did the best I could."
The feeble phrase caught in my throat.
If words would pierce the air, I'd find
A pearl dropped before the swine – again.
For no one cared.

"I did the best I could,"
To stand the test – I did my best;
But open, wounded lay my heart.
With puzzled brow I wondered how
I could be understood?

"I did the best I could,"
No one noticed – looked for good--
Saw only what I should
but didn't do.
The pain – it stabbed me through.

I thought I couldn't stand the ache,
So fierce the pain! Then I saw Him!

"I did the best I could,"
I sobbed.
His look told me He knew.
He reached to hold me in His arms.
Love was there in purest form.

Beyond all capability -- what was impossibility
Became not just a Cross to bear,
But crown He placed upon my head.
For Cross became a way for Him
To glorify Himself instead.

“I did the best I could,” but He –
Did, oh, so much more through me.
Not I, but Christ –
I saw the whole!
The hurt? It came to heal my soul.

For in this broken wholeness lies
the meaning of true sacrifice.

“I did the best I could,” but they
Will never care – or understand.
And it’s ok – I have been held
By nail pierced hands!
And that’s enough for me.

By: Janene A. Dubbeld
For God’s Glory

“Seek not to be understood,” He whispered in my ear one day, “but seek to understand.” THAT wasn’t easy. I was hurting, broken, and I wanted to be understood! But, since it was a wounded hand that led . . . wounds that I had caused when He took my sin to a rugged Cross, how could I refuse?

John 19:28–37

28 “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. 31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 35 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘Not one of His bones shall be broken.’ 37 And again another Scripture says, ‘They shall look on Him whom they pierced.’”

1. What is the main concern of Jesus, even as He is hanging on the Cross giving His life for the world?

That the scripture might be fulfilled.

This is going back to the fact that Jesus came to fulfill not His own will, but the will of the Father. He had surrendered to the Father’s will in the garden. Here, again on the Cross, He is surrendering to the will of the Father that the prophecy of Scripture might be fulfilled.

2. Why did they not break Jesus legs?

They thought it was because He was already dead, but it was really to fulfill the Scriptural prophecy, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.”

This speaks to me of how some things that happen even to us in this physical world have a deeper spiritual meaning. May God grant us eyes to see as He sees. Even in our brokenness He can take us to a deeper intimacy with Him than we have ever known.

3. As the crowd looked upon Christ on the Cross that day, what was yet another Scripture they were seeing fulfilled?

“They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

In our times of personal brokenness, it is good to lift our eyes to Calvary. As we remember how the heart of Christ was broken for the world, and His side was pierced – He who had done NO SIN became sin for us. It’s like our fingers can trace the wounds in His nail scarred hands that hold ours. He knows the path through brokenness. He walked it all the way to the old rugged Cross.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

God's Grace Wants You
**When
You're Broken**

Week Three
Day #5

*Broken - having been fractured or damaged and
no longer in one piece or in working order.*

Not Meant To Be Buried

Brokenness isn't meant to be buried way down deep inside of us. We aren't supposed to carry it alone. It doesn't go away if we simply "keep working harder" to get over our pain. It isn't meant to be ignored. Buried brokenness cripples us. And in our hurt, we often hurt others. Sometimes knowingly, often, unknowingly. Brokenness is meant to be brought out, brought to Jesus, then shared to help others when appropriate.

- Brought Out

Acknowledging brokenness isn't easy. As human beings we do our best to "have it all together." To acknowledge we're broken makes us vulnerable for criticism, rejection, mockery. But for brokenness to benefit and/or be healed it must be acknowledged.

- Brought to Jesus

Bringing our brokenness to Jesus is our greatest privilege and our biggest need! Jesus still has the scars to prove He bore our sins in His body on Calvary., He was broken for us. His wounds are open for all to see. The ENTIRE world. If you've never entered the door of a church – never sat in a pew – His wounds are for YOU. If you hurt every Sunday while sitting in a church pew – uncertain how to express your pain – His wounds are for YOU!

He shed His precious blood to save us – and left His wounds so we would know – whatever life may bring – He is STILL our HEALER! He is our burden bearer. When we bring Him our brokenness – healing begins. He walks and talks with us on this journey – and never leaves us alone. We weren't built to carry these burdens of brokenness. He carried them for us to the cross. He says, "*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" Matthew 11:30 He is the same God today, and willing to help all of us bear our burdens here on this fallen planet – and to find His healing grace.

- Shared with others

Buried brokenness can breed more brokenness. Buried brokenness can stifle growth. Our own growth, and the growth of others. There is a time and place for sharing. “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

We are instructed to “*Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*” Galatians 6:2 The law of Christ is love. “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:38,39

When we obey His prompting to share how He has brought us through – and where we are on this journey – we can help another. Someone who feels alone on the journey. Someone who needs to know the victory is available. Someone who need to know though healing can sometimes take time – there are precious moments in His Presence on the journey.

Brokenness isn’t meant to be buried. Brokenness isn’t meant to be carried alone. Through Christ we can grow stronger and overcome – finding His healing grace for the moment. And, sharing Him with another.

Mark 14:3-9

3 “And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.’ And they criticized her sharply. 6 But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 9 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.’”

1. What had to happen in order for the fragrance of the costly perfume to fill the room?
It had to be broken open.
2. Why do you think she received criticism instead of understanding?
The real difference was in the heart. Her heart loved the Master and her focus was HIM. They were focused on the temporal and earthly things . . . one being money.
3. What does the response of Jesus tell us?
 - a. *He understood her.*
 - b. *He understood the others in the room.*
 - c. *Spoke the TRUTH.*
4. What one phrase that Jesus spoke is one we can grab on to realizing His love and understanding?
The phrase in verse 8, “She has done what she could.”

5. Although this woman came with one intent, pour out her love to the Master, what happened from that beautiful act?

Jesus recognized her pure love for Him and said that wherever the Gospel is preached in the WHOLE WORLD people will know of her.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

God's Grace Wants You

as **You Are Loved**

Week Four

Day #1

The Neighbors

They were so much fun! When they came over to our house it was always a great time. Sometimes we simply shared a meal. Other times we played games. We laughed and talked. **Whatever we did, we always had fun.**

One day parents shared a “secret” with me. Our neighbor was **pregnant**. That was exciting news to be sure – but, then they shared something with me.

Our neighbor had some testing done and it was showing that something **could be wrong** with the baby. The doctor was concerned. They seemed pretty certain this child was not going to be the normal, healthy baby all “soon to be moms and dads” dream about. The doctor gave them what seemed to him a viable solution. Why not just “abort this pregnancy,” wait awhile, and then get pregnant again.

Solution? That wasn’t even an option as far as our neighbors were concerned. This wasn’t some kind of “mass of tissue.” THIS was a BABY – a child from the moment it was conceived. This was THEIR BABY. This was **THEIR CHILD**. It was WANTED. It was LOVED. No matter what.

Necessary precaution, for health of mother and baby taken, they awaited the big day. Mentally they were prepared to do whatever was needed to help their child have the best quality of life it could possibly have.

The big day arrived, and the baby was born. Perfectly healthy. None of the concerns showed up in the least.

But, even if they would have – they would have brought him home. It’s that thing we call, “unconditional love.”

How are you? (*Put emojis here!*) Happy, or sad, healthy, or in need, have lots of money, have not so much money, strong, weak, hurting, broken? *However you are – God’s grace wants you.*

And, if for some reason, you have it all together and you don't think you have any need whatsoever, ask God to show you your need for HIM.

See, all of us need HIM. No matter what season of life we are in. No matter how well things are going, or if it's been tough lately, we all need Jesus.

1. Why do we need Jesus?

"For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me." Psalm 51:5 (NLT)

"Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

"The human heart is deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

- a. So, after reading these verses what could we gather as the first reason we need a Savior?
We were born in sin. Our hearts deceitful and wicked. We, ourselves, have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

2. Why is Jesus the Answer to our deepest need?

Romans 5:8 tells us, "But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- a. So, what does this verse tell us as to how our deepest need is met?
We were in line to pay for our sins, but the debt was too great! We simply could not pay. God, in His love, sent Jesus Christ who died FOR US! Hallelujah! Thank You, Father, for your love. Thank You, Jesus, for paying the debt of my sin.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

- b. Since our conception made us a living soul, we will exist forever somewhere. Our sin had set us up to cost us death. But what did God do for us?
Gave us the gift of eternal life which is ours by simply accepting Jesus as our Savior.

3. How do we know that God's grace wants us as we are?

Romans 5:8 tells us, "But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- a. God's grace wants us as we are because of the Father's great love. How was the love of the Father SHOWN to us?

The Love of God the Father sent Jesus His Son to give Himself for us, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS! We didn't deserve it! It is HIS LOVE that came to rescue us from sin and self and give us eternal life!

“Behold what matter of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” I John 3:1

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” I John 3:1 (NLT)

- b. What is another way the Father shows us His great love?

He calls us His children.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16,17

- c. What did God DO about this great LOVE He had for us?

GAVE His only begotten Son so we could have everlasting, eternal life! Sent His Son to save us!

“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16,17 (NKJV)

*“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was giving through Moses, but **God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.**” John. 1:16,17 (NLT)*

GOD’S GRACE WANTS YOU – AS YOU ARE.

The amazing thing about God is this – **He wants you as you are and loves you too much to let you stay that way.** It is this amazing love that gives us His grace and makes us a new creation in Christ Jesus!

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

God's Grace Wants You
as
**You Are
Led**

Week Four
Day #2

When you think of the role of a shepherd, especially in Biblical times, it really doesn't look that inviting by today's standards. In all kinds of weather, day and night, the shepherds main priority remains the welfare and care of the sheep.

Watching carefully where they graze to keep them from poisonous plants. Making sure their water is clean and pure. Keeping them out of harm's way of any kind and away from wild animals.

Most importantly, shepherds lead. They lead their trusting sheep wherever they need to go. And trusting sheep follow their shepherd wherever that shepherd leads.

A good shepherd does these things no matter what country or culture they are from. Whatever it takes, they guard and guide their sheep.

John 10: 1-11

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 7 Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.'"

1. Who is the door by which we must enter?
Jesus.
2. What does this passage tell us about those who try not to come through Jesus?
They are thieves and robbers.
3. How do the sheep know to follow their shepherd?

They hear his voice and they KNOW his voice.

4. Why does Jesus say that He is come?

That we may have life and have it more abundantly.

5. Who is our good shepherd, and what was He willing to do for us?

Our good shepherd is Jesus and He willingly gave up His life for us.

When we trust in Christ as our Savior, we receive the Greatest Shepherd of all. His care is SUPREME. His leadership SUPERIOR above all and in all things. God's grace wants you! He wants to lovingly guard and guide you through all of life on this grace-filled journey.

There is an old American Indian Version of the Twenty-third Psalm I read in "Streams in the Desert." This picturesque expression of the good shepherd gives a great example of the way He transcends culture. Anyone, anywhere, can have the delight of Him LEADING your life! It reads like this:

"The great Father above is a Shepherd Chief. I am His and with Him. I want not. He throws out to me a rope, and the name of the rope is love, and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous.

Sometimes my heart is very weak, and falls down, but He lifts it up again and draws me into a good road.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be longer, it may be a long, long time. He will draw me into a place between mountains. It is dark there, but I'll draw back not. I'll be afraid not, for it is there between the mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet me, and the hunger I have felt in my heart all though this life will be satisfied. Sometimes He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean on.

He spreads a table before me with all kinds of food. He puts His hands upon my head, and all the "tired" is gone.

My cup He fills, till it runs over.

What I tell you is true. I lie not. The roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life, and afterwards I will go to live in the "Big Tepee" and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever."

Our good shepherd -- JESUS! What a privilege it is to be HIS! Now, why don't you read Psalm 23 and put your name in where it says, "I" or "my" to make this chapter your own.

For example:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." For me this would read like this . . . *"The Lord is Janene's shepherd, Janene shall not want."*

Now, you do it with your name for the whole chapter! Every promise in the book is yours! Let's receive them.

The Lord is _____ shepherd; _____ shall not want. He makes _____ to lie down in green pastures: He leads _____ beside the still waters. He restores _____ soul. He leads _____ in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though _____ walk through the valley of the shadow of death _____ will fear no evil; For You are with _____; Your rod and Your staff they comfort _____. You prepare a table before _____ in the Presence of _____ enemies; You anoint _____ head with oil; _____ cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow _____ all the days of _____ life; And _____ will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. Psalm 23

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

God's Grace Wants You

as **You Are Labeled**

Week Four

Day #3

The Label

Billy was an ornery little fellow. He was “**all boy**” from the get-go. Climbing up trees and on to roofs. Engineering contraptions to help him “go” down the hill at the side of his house. Following his older brother everywhere and going full speed until he simply “passed out” into sleep.

As Billy grew older, he had his same adventurous spirit. As a young teenager he started taking dares. Pretty soon he and his friends had pulled enough pranks and accepted enough dares to begin getting “**labeled.**”

If something happened and no one knew for sure who did it, “**must have been Billy.**” Thing was, it wasn't always Billy, but Billy had a label.

One cold winter day, Billy and his friends were sledding in the snow. They were cold and one of the boys had the keys to his mother's place of work. They went in to get warm. It wasn't long after until Billy found out he was being **accused of stealing things** out of an office.

It wasn't true. Not at all. He hadn't even been in the office. It was passed around the gossip route and whispered through the grape vine. It wasn't true, but he was “labeled.”

A few days later, the person who brought the accusations actually found the “stolen items” in his own home. He had **forgotten they were at his home** instead of at his office. Even so, the word had spread and in the minds of some people it would never be forgotten. Forgiveness would be hard to come by and the rebuilding of trust nearly impossible. **Because of a label.**

John 8:1-12

2 “Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, ‘He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.’ 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman

standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ 11 She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’ 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.’”

1. What was the label of the woman in our story?
She was known as an adulteress.
2. Was this a false or an accurate label?
This label was true.
3. What was the real motive behind them dragging her to Jesus with their accusations?
They were really trying to find something they could use to “accuse” Jesus.
4. What question did Jesus ask that brought the accusers face to face with their own shame?
“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”
5. Though this woman was labeled, what was Jesus’ response to her?
The label didn’t matter to Jesus. He had what she needed. She didn’t need condemnation, she needed forgiveness. She found that forgiveness in his words, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” The light had dawned in her darkness, for Christ had given her the light of life.

Labeled. Maybe you have been labeled. Maybe by a family member, teacher, or a so-called friend. **Maybe the label wasn’t true but stuck anyway. Maybe the label IS true, but you wish it wasn’t.** Maybe you have labeled yourself by a self-degrading thought process.

The fact is, labels do not have to be forever. We can be changed, cleansed, made new in Christ Jesus. Our **new label** can be written in the fiber of our soul, **“crucified with Christ.”** We can say with the Apostle Paul, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

God's Grace Wants You

as

You Are Liberated

Week Four

Day #4

Freedom

The morning mountain air hung heavily as the dense fog hesitated to move over and make room for sunshine. Yet **sunshine was in the hearts and smiles** of the believers gathered to allow their souls to drink in the Word. Our family was privileged to be a part of this event, worshipping our King of Kings in song.

As I made my way toward the front, a lady stopped me. “Your daughter told me I should tell you this,” her words stopped me in my tracks. “When you were singing that song about grace wanting you when you’re broken, something happened. **God healed me of a wound I’ve been carrying for over 55 years.**” Her eyes were moist with the realization of her new-found freedom.

“It was an adoption wound,” she continued. “Did you know I’m adopted?” I responded. “No!” she exclaimed. We could only share a moment as the events of the day were a schedule we couldn’t break.

Elena told me the rest of the story. When God led us to sing the song the first time, she wept the whole way through it and couldn’t stop. A **healing** was taking place deep within of an **emotional wound** she had carried for years. Amazingly, when we sang the song again by request she came to Elena again and said, “This time, I didn’t cry.”

She had been liberated! God’s grace had brought the healing she had longed for so long and a freedom as only HE can bring.

God is all powerful. **Whatever chains** that bind you, **He can break**. Addiction, emotional pain, healing for our bodies – He is ABLE and WILLING to help us. He is God Almighty – our Liberator.

Acts 16: 16-34

16 “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ 18 And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that

their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, ‘These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.’ 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.’

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’

31 So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.’”

1. What was the real reason these people were angry enough to drag Paul and Silas to the people in charge?
When they cast out the spirit of divination from the girl, they took away the way these people made their money.
2. How did those in charge respond to the accusations?
They didn’t check them out to see if they were true, they just went with what the crowd was saying.
3. Not only did they beat them and have them thrown in jail but what was their command to the jailer and what did it cause?
Their command to the jailer was to be SURE he didn’t let these men get out! Keep them SECURELY! This caused him to put them in stocks in the inner prison.
4. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?
*Praying and Singing!
Calling out to God and PRAISING Him in the middle of this circumstance.*
5. What did this act of faith bring about?
 - a. The other prisoners were listening to them
 - b. God was listening to them – and sent His answer of freedom in an earthquake that broke every chain in the prison
 - c. Fear turned to faith in the jailer and his whole house.

The jailer was a CHANGED man! Once salvation took over, he cared for the prisoners he had put in stocks in the inner prison. Washed their stripes, gave them food, brought them into his own house.

This was a night of liberation! Paul and Silas were free from their physical imprisonment and the jailer was set free from the chains of sin that bound him. He AND his WHOLE HOUSEHOLD!

John 8:34-36

34 “Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’”

God’s grace wants you to be FREE! Step into His freedom right now. You can trust Him.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

God's Grace Wants You

as **You Are Loaded**

Week Four

Day #5

God's grace wants you as you are loaded? What in the world does that mean? Well, there is a verse of scripture in Psalms 68:19 that says, "***Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation! Selah*** (By the way, that word Selah means we're supposed to stop and think on that for awhile!)

1. What is that attitude of the heart that is saying, "Blessed be the Lord?"
It is an attitude of praise – of uplifting the Lord.
2. Why is the Psalmist David praising?
He is recognizing that God is the One "Who daily loads us with benefits." AND He is "the God of our salvation!"

Now, benefit is by definition "*The advantage or profit gained from something.*" In the verb form, "*To receive an advantage or profit.*"

We are definitely on the receiving end here. We have an advantage, we are made profitable every day as the God of our salvation loads us up with benefits! Yes, we're loaded.

So, what does this really mean? In real life how does this actually play out? What are these benefits He loads us up with?

Psalm 68:1-10

1 "Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. 2 As smoke is driven away, So drive *them* away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God. 3 But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. 4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name Yah, And rejoice before Him. 5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land. 7 O God, when You went out before Your people, When You marched through the wilderness, *Selah* 8 The earth shook; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. 9 You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary. 10 Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor."

Let's look at the beginning phrase of this Psalm, "Let God arise." It is said that this is an ancient cry which began with Israel during their wanderings in the wilderness. The Ark of the Covenant was the sign of God's Presence in these Old Testament times. The Ark went ahead of the people. His Presence went BEFORE them. In His Presence the wicked perish, but the righteous rejoice.

1. So, what would be the first benefit we see?
The benefit of the Presence of God.
2. What does this benefit bring the righteous to do?
Be glad! Rejoice! Rejoice exceedingly. Sing praises! Extol -- Lift Him High!

Let's take a little side trip and look back to Exodus 33 12–17 for just a moment.

12. "Then Moses said to the Lord, 'See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' 13 Now therefore, I pray, 'if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation **is** Your people.' 14 And He said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' 15 Then he said to Him, 'If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So, we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.' 17 So the Lord said to Moses, 'I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.'"

1. By God's Presence going with them, what would He give them?
Rest.
2. How important was the Presence of God to Moses?
So important that he didn't want to go without His Presence.

As we return to look at Psalm 68 we see that our rejoicing brings us to another benefit given to us – in verse 4 . . . "By His name, YAH." HIS NAME! This is an abbreviation of Yahweh. The Hebrews personal name for God meaning, "I AM."

1. What is the next benefit we see in this Psalm?
The benefit of His Name! I AM. He is a personal God with us. His Name is for us.
2. How do we see our God acting in needy lives?
A Father to the fatherless; a defender of the widows; setting the solitary in families; bringing us out of bondage into prosperity.
3. Let's take a moment to look up **seven of the MANY, MANY** names of God and write how we can see them applied in our personal lives. (*If you don't have time to complete this now, read it and do it more extensively on your "recap day."*)
 - a. Genesis 22:13-14
Jehovah Jireh – the Lord will provide.

- b. Exodus 15:26
Jehovah Raphe – the Lord that heals.

- c. Exodus 17:8-15
Jehovah Nissi – the Lord is our Banner.

- d. Judges 6:24
Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is our Peace.

- e. Psalm 23:1
Jehovah Raah – The Lord is our Shepherd.

- f. Genesis 15:2
Adonai, He is our Lord.

- g. Genesis 49:24
El Shaddai, He is our Almighty God.

Oh! The **benefit of HIS GREAT NAME!** We are loaded with victory! For we have HIS NAME! When we are tempted to be discouraged or depressed we can focus on the benefit that is ours through His great name. He is Who He says He is and He is for us!

Romans 8: 31, 32

31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? “

1. How did God the Father ultimately show us He is for us?

By delivering His own Son, Jesus, up to the Cross for all of us.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Matthew 1:20, 21

20 “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is ⁱⁿconceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name ⁱⁿJesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’”

1. What is the name above all names that will save all people from their sins?
JESUS!

Acts 4: 5-12

5 “And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you done this?’ 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.’”

We of the New Testament age are incredibly blessed by the benefit -- the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4,5

4 “And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me;’ 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

John 14: 15 - 18

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

1. From these verses, how are we blessed by the gift from the Father of the Holy Spirit?

When we accept this gift of the Father, the Holy Spirit is our Helper who dwells IN us, always.

The bountiful blessings of God are ours regardless of temporal circumstance, yet because of His benefits our temporal circumstances are able to be endured, impacted and altered.

His Presence going before us – as well as with us.

Trusting in HIS name for our salvation and every need.

Receiving the gift of His Holy Spirit for this day in which we live.

These are three of the many benefits with which God loads us daily!!!! We have so many gifts from His hand. Let's untie the bows, open the boxes, and receive what He desires to give to us.

Take It With You

(memory verse this week)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

An Added Benefit

This is an added benefit to our already “full load” of benefits for today. Remember the fact that the bountiful blessings of God are ours regardless of temporal circumstance?

There lived a lady by the name of Carolina Sandell Berg. Carolina lived in the middle of the 1800's in Switzerland where she penned hundreds of hymns. She penned so many it is said she became known at the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden.” At 26 years of age, she experienced a severe tragedy. As she and her father crossed a Swedish lake a sudden lurch of the vessel caused her Pastor/Father to be thrown overboard and he drowned.

Her aching heart found release in her pen and she penned “an endless stream of beautiful hymns.” The lyrics of this one are timeless.

Day by Day

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best--

Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in eve'ry tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

