

# Flow

Part One: *grace-filled*

November 19, 2023

Our words and actions change when we allow God's grace to grow in us, and our world changes as we allow His grace to flow through us to others. In this six-week message series, you will learn how to grow in God's grace and allow His grace to flow through you to those around you.

## ***What is grace?***

- Grace is God's unmerited favor to us.

Grace is God favoring us, blessing us with good things we do not deserve and could never earn (Ephesians 2:5).

## ***Why does God give us grace?***

1. God gives us grace because He loves us.

The God who created the universe loves us (Psalm 36:5–7; John 3:16). Even if you've spent your whole life running from Him, God still loves you and wants a loving relationship with you.

2. God gives us grace because He wants to save us.

Sinners are guilty before God and live under the penalty and power of sin. But God loved sinners so much that He gave us grace (Ephesians 2:1-6; Romans 5:6–8).

3. God gives us grace to show off His loving kindness.

God gives us grace to save us from the penalty and power of our sins, but He also gives us grace so we can be examples of His loving kindness (Ephesians 2:7)

4. God gives us grace so we can do His will.

Grace isn't just the entry to the Christian life; it is how we live it! God's grace saves us and empowers us to do His good works (Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 2:13; Romans 5:1-2; Acts 13:43; 1 Peter 5:12; 2 Peter 3:18).

Paul says two very important things in Romans 5:1-2. First, he says we gain peace with God when we believe in Jesus for salvation (Acts 10:36; Eph. 2:14; Col. 1:20). Second, Paul says we gain permanent access to God's grace when we are saved. God's unmerited favor became our permanent possession when we became Christians, and nothing can remove us from God's favor!

## ***What does it mean to live in God's grace?***

1<sup>st</sup> - To live in God's grace means to live as a friend of God.

Everything changed when you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. You were born again spiritually, adopted into God's family, and forgiven of all your sins. You went from an enemy of God who is condemned to a friend of God who is forever favored (Romans 5:9-11)!

2<sup>nd</sup> - To live in God's grace means to live as a child of God.

God became gracious towards you when you became one of His children (John 1:12). God loves to give good gifts to His children (Matthew 7:7-11; James 1:17-18)!

3<sup>rd</sup> – To live in God's grace means to live dependent on God.

We cannot live the Christian life in our power. We need the grace of God to defeat the devil and do God's will (2 Cor. 12:7-10; James 4:6)!

### ***What does God want you to do with His grace?***

- God wants you to allow His grace to flow into every part of your life, and He wants you to allow His grace to flow from you to others.

*\*Over the next five weeks, I will give you six characteristics of a grace-filled life. You can use these characteristics to gauge how much of God's grace you are allowing to flow into your life and how much of God's grace you are allowing to flow out of your life to others.*