



Graced
for
Greatness

*From Grace to
Greatness in Five Days*

- Charise Bennett -

Graced for Greatness





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DEDICATION

For every person who doubts their abilities, you can do all things through Christ, I'm proof of it!

DAY 1

Grace? What is It?

Have you ever been in the drive thru lane at a restaurant, and when you get to the window to pay for your order, you find out the person in front of you paid for it already? Isn't that one of the greatest moments ever? We call them random acts of kindness, someone did a really nice for you and you didn't have to ask for it, nor do anything to deserve it.

That's what God's grace is, receiving something for doing almost nothing, it is a gift! All that is required is that you accept Jesus, it's really that simple! Grace is receiving when we don't deserve. Grace is God's love! We are sinners, born into sin (Psalm 51:5); without His grace, hell would be our next stop after leaving earth! And I don't know about you, but I thank God every day for His grace that keeps us from that fate.

Take a moment and think about this scripture:

For by his grace, you have been saved through faith - and it is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so no one can boast. -

Ephesians 2:8-9

DAY 2

Good Enough for Grace?

Did you ever have a group project at work? I know, I am not a fan of them either, LOL! You and your coworkers divided up the work and you all hoped that everyone would pull their weight to get it done; but of course one person did the bare minimum while everyone else gave it their all. Your whole group received a great evaluation, including the coworker who did the least work. Do you remember feeling like that coworker did not deserve the same praise as the rest of the group?

Welp, that is pretty much how grace works; every Christian receives it! When it comes to grace, you may be the slacker coworker in the group. Maybe you don't pray as often as you should, or you don't serve in church as much as your cousin does, or you still have a bad habit you're trying to break; you are still good enough for God's grace! You are worthy of the precious gift of grace!

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! - Romans 5:15

DAY 3

Give Yourself Grace

How many “hats” do you wear each day? Parent? Spouse? Employee? Sibling? And since we’re living in a pandemic, add on the hats of teacher, chef, caretaker, and the list just keeps growing! Each of these positions has its own list of expectations and gratifications. Wearing multiple hats at once and trying to excel equally in all of them can lead to frustration!

We have to remember to give ourselves grace, too! A lot of times we are our own worst critics because we work so hard to operate in excellence, that anything less than perfect feels like failure. It’s not! We are living in unprecedented times and we have to be kind to others, but it’s just as important to be kind to ourselves. Give yourself some grace, take off one of those hats for an hour, or two. If you can’t take the hat off completely, then wear it a bit crooked, it’s ok, God still loves you.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. -2 Corinthians 9:8

DAY 4

Grace to Get it Done

Have you ever looked at someone in a situation and thought, “Whew, that couldn’t be me!” Maybe you have a friend in a relationship with someone who chews open-mouthed, or cheers for the team battling your home team; or maybe it’s something more serious like smoking or infidelity? Perhaps you’ve looked at a mortician, or a streets and sanitation worker and said, “Nope, I’m not cut out for that?”

The fact is, you’re right! You’re not cut out for that and it couldn’t be you because you aren’t graced to deal with the person in that relationship or that job. The people in those situations that are untenable to you have the God-given grace to handle their assignment. Just as you are graced to do what God has purposed for you to do. You are graced to get your purpose done, not someone else’s!

Take a moment and consider this scripture:

*But I have raised you up for this very purpose,
that I might show you my power and that my
name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*

Exodus 9:16

DAY 5

Get Out of Your Head and Get into Grace

Ok, I'm going to skip the hypotheticals for this one and use me, myself, I as the example.

The "Graced for Greatness" t-shirt came first. I'm a sucker for alliteration and I was going to a t-shirt brunch, so I created a message tee with a bold statement. A whole year later, the Holy Spirit dropped the idea for the journal on me. Woke me up at 2am with an outline for the 5 days.

When I sat down to write this journal, my fingers froze, words didn't come. But you know what did come? Fear and self-doubt! Who am I to write a journal?! I'm nobody's preacher! I'm not a minister, I don't have scriptures memorized, who do I think I am? I can tell a good church joke, but the serious part of ministry is not for me to do, I'm an imposter!

I had to pray my way out of imposter syndrome. If God gave me the idea for the shirt, then a whole year later the concept for a journal, then surely He would see me the rest of the way through the process! I had to get out of my head and remember that He has given me the grace to do what He purposed for me to do! If God gave you the idea, then He's also given you the grace

GRACED FOR GREATNESS

God's grace is truly amazing! It is a gift we don't deserve, but a gift we all receive because He loves us. I sometimes get overwhelmed thinking about the magnitude of God's grace.

His grace defines me, His grace sustains me, His grace engages me, and His grace saves me.

God's grace is the balm for self-doubt and uncertainty. God's grace provides for purpose and prosperity.

Whatever great thing He has purposed for you to do, He has given you the grace to see it through.

We are Graced for Greatness because of God's Grace!

"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2

Corinthians 12:9

We always hear about grace: we say it before we eat and we use it to describe refined movements.

But do we truly understand God's Grace and the amazing gift it is?

Through this five day journey, we move from guessing about grace to reveling in it!

You are Graced for Greatness!

- Charise

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