

## **B. We Can Approach Confidently Because of Christ's Sacrifice.**

*Hebrews 10:19, 22a, 23 NLT – (19) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. (22a) Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. (23) Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

## **C. We Can Approach Confidently Because He Will Provide for our Need.**

When are we most in need of coming before His throne of grace and mercy?

1. The first is right before we sin:

It's a throne of grace – favor and ability for your time of need. It's the place we need to run to not away from.

2. The second is when we have sinned.

*Psalms 145:8-9 AMP – (8) The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and loving-kindness. (9) The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.*

*I John 2:1 NLT – If anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.*

*I John 1:9 NLT – If we confess our sins to him he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

Grace is God's ability to conquer, while mercy is His forgiveness.

# **GOD'S GRACE**

## **Part 1: Transformation Made Possible**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

True transformation takes place on the level of a person's nature, not just their behavior.

Within us exists a deep desire for change, because we were created to reflect the image and glory of God.

### **I. THE HUMAN CONDITION**

*Romans 7:21-24a, 25b NLT – (21) I have discovered this principle of life-that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. (22) I love God's law with all my heart. (23) But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. (24a) Oh, what a miserable person I am! (25b) So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*

Paul loved the law with all of his heart and wanted to obey it, but discovered that the law did not have the power to change his nature.

The Law was used to point out our sin nature and bring condemnation. Why? So that we would NEVER believe the lie that we could have a relationship with God based on our own performance, merit or works.

## II. THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

*Romans 7:24b, 25 NLT - (24b) Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (25) Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Romans 8:1-3 NLT - (1) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. (2) And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. (3) The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do.*

The Gospel of Grace has the power to transform our very nature, because it is completely dependent on God's ability.

*2 Corinthians 5:17-19a NIV – (17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (18) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT – (8) God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. (9) Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

## III. WORKS RE-VISITED

*Galatians 3:3 NLT – How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?*

We have moved out from **grace** – which has the **power to transform** and moved into works or the **law**, which has the **power to condemn**.

*Galatians 5:4 NLT – If you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.*

*Matthew 11:28-30 NIV – (28) Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

## IV. GOD'S THRONE

*Hebrews 4:16 NIV – Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

### A. We Can Approach Confidently Because it is not a Throne of Judgment.

*John 16:8-11 LB – And when he (the Holy Spirit) has come he will convince the world of its sin, and of the availability of God's goodness (righteousness), and of deliverance from judgment. The world's sin is unbelief in me; there is righteousness available because I go to the Father and you shall see me no more; there is deliverance from judgment because the prince of this world has already been judged.*

*Romans 5:11 NLT – So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*