

**RICK WARREN**

# God's Grace:

*The Heart of Faith*



# What Is *GRACE?*



If you want to understand the Christian life, you have to understand grace. It's the heart of faith, the heart of your relationship to God. While culture may say things like, "You get what you deserve in life" or "If it is to be, it's up to me," the Bible says that God loves to be gracious—to bless people, even when they don't deserve it. Psalm 145:8 says, "*The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love*" (NIV).

The more you understand grace, the closer you'll be drawn to God. Here are five characteristics of GRACE:

## G : God's gift to you

*All need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift  
... through Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:24 NCV)*

Many people think they can earn their way to heaven by being good enough. But salvation is a free gift. There's absolutely nothing you can do to earn it. When Jesus died on the cross, he said, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30 NIV). He did all that needed to be done.

## R : Received by faith

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)*

Faith is the key that unlocks the door to heaven. Salvation is a free gift of God's grace—but you have to accept it, to receive it by faith.

## A : Available to everyone

*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
(Romans 10:13 NIV)*

God doesn't play favorites. Regardless of your background, your sin, or who you are today—God's grace is available to you. Anyone who receives the gift of God's grace through Jesus can be saved.

# C : Comes through Christ

*The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17 NCV)*

Grace is free, but it's not cheap. It cost Jesus his life. If you could have gotten to heaven any other way, Jesus wouldn't have had to come to die on the cross for you. But he did—and now you can experience God's grace and go to heaven, through Christ.

# E : Extended throughout eternity

*The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NLT)*

The results of God's grace will last forever—an eternity with Jesus Christ in heaven. Grace is the gift that keeps on giving!



What Does  
*God's Grace*  
Say About You?



Nobody sails through life—we all have wounds, some hidden and some in the open. But God’s grace can heal all of those wounds. The Bible promises, *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds”* (Psalm 147:3 NIV). And how does he heal you? One major way is by changing the way you think.

Romans 12:2 teaches, *“Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think”* (NLT). How you think shapes how you live. If you think of yourself as a failure, you’ll start living like one; if you think of yourself as a victim, you’ll slip into that role too.

But God invites you to see yourself differently—to see yourself in a new light, as the person God says you are because of his grace.



## You are *acceptable*.

The Bible says it very clearly: *“Christ accepted you”* (Romans 15:7 NIV). God’s acceptance is unconditional because it’s based on God’s grace, not your performance. And Psalm 27:10 says it this way: *“Though my mother and father forsake me, the LORD will receive me”* (NIV).

## You are *valuable*.

Something is worth what someone is willing to pay for it. And Jesus was willing to pay for people’s sins with his own life. The Living Bible paraphrase says, *“You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him”* (1 Corinthians 7:23). Jesus died for you because you’re so valuable to him. In Isaiah 43:4 God says, *“You are precious to me”* (GNT).

## You are *lovable*.

God promises, *“The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end”* (Isaiah 54:10 GNT). God’s love is different from human love. His love is consistent; it doesn’t change from day to day. And God’s love is unconditional; he loves you—no matter what.

# You are *forgivable*.

God says, *“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you”* (Isaiah 43:25 GNT). God doesn’t carry grudges. The Living Bible paraphrase says that, instead of condemning you, he covers you with his love: *“God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered with his love”* (Ephesians 1:4).

# You are *capable*.

It doesn’t matter if other people say, “You’ll never amount to anything.” The Bible says that with Christ, you’re capable: *“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me”* (Philippians 4:13 GNT). Even if you lose everything else, you still are secure in Christ.

Remember: You’re not defined by the wounds of your past. God wants to heal your wounds and give you hope. *“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 15:13 NLT).

*Let God transform you into a  
new person by changing the  
way you think.*

(Romans 12:2 NLT)



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