

Rhythms of Grace - Part 1
Saving Grace
08/23/2020

- Rhythms of Grace
- Learning to live in Rhythm with Jesus
- To live by faith in the finished work of Jesus
- Everything changes

Matt. 11:28-30 (MSG) "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Psalms 145:8 (NLT) "God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."

- While Grace is perceived to be spiritual it's manifestation is personal
- We reveal Grace in our actions towards others
- Grace is like character, it's part of who we are.
- The Rhythm of Saving Grace

Eph. 2:4-10 (ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Rhythm of Saving Grace

1st) The **NEED** for Grace.

Eph. 2:4-5 (ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- You're at odds with God

Col. 1:21 (NLT) This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

- There is no contact
- No relationship

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- Realize your need for him
- Call on the name of Jesus

2nd) The **POSITION** of Grace.

Eph. 2:6 (ESV) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- Only those who know they need God's grace can get God's grace

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

- *If it sounds too good to be true...*
- *it is*
- *We make money the old fashion way, we ...*
- *earn it*
- *There's no such thing as a free ...*
- *lunch*
- *God helps those who ...*
- *help themselves*

- Saved by works

Eph. 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- What we already have in Christ

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

3 Results of Confidence

A) We can **APPROACH** God. *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence*

Ex. 3:5 (ESV) Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Joshua 5:15 (ESV) And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Luke 15:22 (NLT) But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

Matt. 27:51 (NLT) At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

B) We can **ASK** for help. *and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

C) We can **EXPECT** God to move *so that we may receive*

- Expectation precedes action
- Expectation is active not passive
- Expectation inspires possibility

Eph. 3:20 (ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

3rd) The **REASON** for Grace.

Eph. 2:7 (ESV) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- Here's what God does in Christ
- He takes us from where we were to where we should be
- Then he shows us off to others

(NLT) - For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

- Part of our need for Grace is to stop acting and living alone
- We are designed for community

Isaiah 60:15 (NJB) I will make you an object of eternal pride, a source of joy from age to age

- His language makes him approachable
- He called his friends brothers and sisters
- He told them he would do greater things that he did
- He told them if they had faith they could accomplish anything

4th) The **GIFT** of Grace.

Eph. 2:8 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

- It was all about what I was going to do
- It was on me
- Faith is the key that unlocks the door to heaven.
- When it focuses on us then it's not faith

Luke 18:11-13 (ESV) The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

- The pharisee had faith in his works
- The Tax collector had faith in God

Luke 18:14 (ESV) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

5th) The **RESULT** of Grace.

Eph. 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- *You'll want to do good*

Titus 2:11-13 (ESV) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

- Grace changes your heart
- We drift when we lose sight of why God left us on earth
- Our goal is to participate in God's redemptive plan on earth
- If we embrace our purpose, we gain God's power
- Stop doing
- Start becoming