

It is easy to get stuck spiritually.

- Want a relationship with God, but don't know how to move forward.
- Moved out of the young Christian blue's.
- Been around for years, still trying to live off baby conviction.

Beach Buggy getting stuck in sand

- Need traction.

In this series, we are going to take a look at some things.

- That will help you gain traction.

You have to Embrace Grace

Ephesians 2:1–10 ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

[Go to flip chart](#)

PAST

1. Dead in transgressions and sins.
2. Followed the way of this world (this age)
3. Allowed Satan to do his work in you.
4. Gratifying the cravings of the flesh
5. Following its desires and thoughts.
6. By nature deserving of wrath.

PRESENT

1. Alive in Christ
2. NOT following the ways of this world/ age.
3. NOT allowing Satan to do his work in you.
4. NOT gratifying the cravings of the flesh.
5. NOT following it's desires and thoughts.
6. Living out God's purpose for your life.
7. Seated in the heavenly realm with Christ

WHAT MADE THIS POSSIBLE?

- God!

Ephesians 2:4 ⁴ ... because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

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

But what is Grace?

- We have to be clear on this.
- Because we need to make sure that we are embracing the right thing.

So, what is Grace?

- For most of my life I viewed Grace as ...

- God forgiving my sins even though I don't deserve it.
- There is nothing that I can do from my side.
- I bring absolutely zero to the table.
- I am saved by grace, through faith, not by works ...
- So that no one can boast.

Grace = forgiveness + no effort.

So, if that is my view of grace.

- What would embracing it look like?

If I see Jesus for all that he is ...

- And all that God is for us in him.
- And that he offers me forgiveness of sins ...
- And a new life in his new world.

I would most likely if I embrace grace.

- I would most likely, joyfully and eagerly ...
- Submit my life to his rule & reign.

But, what if on my path there or there after I battle.

- I don't find time or make time to read the word.
- I am not the ambassador that I need to be.
- I look where I shouldn't look, or say what I shouldn't say.
- ...

What does embracing grace look like in those times?

- If our definition of Grace = Forgiveness and no effort.
- Then embracing it would say, I am not going to feel guilty.
- Because God's grace "covers" me.

But is that completely true?

- Is that what the word "grace" and theology of grace means?

If it is true, I will most likely get unstuck.

- And everything will change.

If it is not completely true, I might just be embracing the wrong thing.

- And remain stuck.

So, what does the word Grace mean?

- And how can we see it in our daily lives?

Grace = Charis = Favour

Time line of my life.

- Born in 1973
- If I live to age 80 it would be 2053 → ETERNITY.

What happened on the day that I was born.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart ...

...

John 6:44 ⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him ...

Why is he drawing?

1 Timothy 2:4 ⁴ ... wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Became a Christian, disciple of Jesus, Son of God 1993.

- What happened between 1973 - 1993

Acts 17:26–28 ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and PERHAPS reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

...

What did that look like for me?

- 1983 – 1986 →

Romans 8:28–29 ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ ... to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ...

- Lots of Praying (any time and place.)
- The Word had an influence.
- THE SPIRIT nudging! (Remember exact moments).

1992 Lisa invites me to BT.

- Period of 6 weeks. His favour goes into hyper drive.

She introduces me to individual people.

- Gustav, Pieter D.
- Invites me to church
- Justin Renton Preaches.

Through these avenues, the word comes into my life.

- Up to this point I have always read the word.

But **2 Corinthians 4:4** ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

But now during that time ... **2 Corinthians 4:6** ⁶ God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

How did he give me that light? Through the word.

Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

1993 – Made Jesus Lord of my life.

- Was given the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Spirit of love, power and self-discipline.

- Giving me stuff that I did not have.

Raised to a new life.

- No longer a foreigner or an alien or stranger to God's people.

So, we have a whole lot of things here.

- His Word
- Prayer
- Spirit
- People
- The body

What happened between 1993 – 2017

- All these things plus more.

Psalm 19:1–4 ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. ³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

...

Hebrews 12:7–8 ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Let's go back to the Flip Chart