

message from Jesus was, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). By grace, God demonstrated His strength through Paul's weakness.

We need this grace to fulfil the commands of Christ. For example, He told us to witness. "In my school?" you say. "At my work place full of foul language and weekend partying?" Yes! His grace is sufficient.

In the old days, Red Cross training in drowning included the words "Row. Throw. Go." If a person is in trouble in deep water, the first option for rescue is to row out to him. If no boat is there, throw him a life ring or a rope. If those options are not available, swim out to him yourself and attempt a rescue.

You can see the parallels in witnessing to a friend or family member. Whichever method is required, God will give you all the grace you need—and more—to get it done. He has lavished His grace on you. Use it! Remember, God is for you, and He will be there with everything you need. — DE

#### REFLECTION

- What can I do to put the lavish riches of God's grace to work in my life?
- How does it help me to know that whatever happens God is on my side?
- What have I learned about God's grace from today's Scriptures and this article?

**God gives us the grace to risk a rescue.**



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*Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.*

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## Central Mountains Baptist Church

# 5 JULY, 2009

#### **Information for Visitors.**

- \* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- \* a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to Kindy age bracket.**

## Grace

We don't know as much about the grace of God as we should. It's one of the Lord's most precious gifts. Ephesians 1:7-8 tells us that we are redeemed and forgiven through Christ's sacrificial death "in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us." Other verses tell us that God's grace abounds to us—it overflows in its abundance (2 Corinthians 9:8; 1 Timothy 1:14). God gives us tons of grace.

The word *grace* may be defined by this statement: "God is for us; He is on our side." God acted on our behalf through Jesus' work for us on the cross. He has gifted us far more than we can imagine. Each of us should be overwhelmed with the rich blessings of His grace freely poured out on us.

God's grace, given to us in Jesus Christ, fills us with joy and enables us in faith to bear the burdens and responsibilities of life. When Paul asked God three times to remove his "thorn in the flesh," the





# Soaring: Trusting the God of All Grace

**(Isaiah 40:31)** "But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

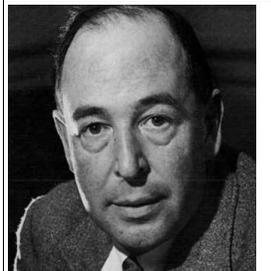
There are two steps to experiencing God's grace daily:

## 1. Have the right \_\_\_\_\_ of God,

Ephesians 1:7, 3-8, 2:4-7

**(Luke 2:40)** "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

**(2 Corinthians 9:8)** "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."



C.S. Lewis



## 2. Have the right \_\_\_\_\_ to God, Ephesians 2:8-9

◆ The first channel to receive God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_,

◆ The second channel to receive God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_,  
**(1 Peter 5:5)** "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.""

The two responses to God's grace are:

◆ The person who \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace,

**(Hebrews 12:14-16)** "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: {15} looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; {16} lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright."

**(Hebrews 12:15)** "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.." [KJV]



In which case the consequences are:

B \_\_\_\_\_

**(Job 1:21)** "And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.""

**(Job 2:10)** "... "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

**(Ruth 1:20)** "... "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

F \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

◆ The person who \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace,

In which case the consequences are:

R \_\_\_\_\_ in trials

**(2 Corinthians 12:8-9)** "Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. {9} And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

O \_\_\_\_\_ temptation

**(Romans 5:20)** "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,"

Making \_\_\_\_\_ choices, 2 Corinthians 9:8

