

WORD

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **PSALM 103:8**

(Read also **PSALM 103.**)

Psalm 103 is all about praising God. From the first verse to the last, this song is about praise and thanksgiving instead of requests and pleas. It is first, foremost, and overall, a song of praise for God's grace to His people. God is not only merciful, withholding what His people deserve for their sins, but He is also gracious, giving us what we do not deserve. In this lesson, we will look at God's grace to us.

1 God's grace redeems.

²*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,*
³*who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*
⁴*who redeems your life from the pit . . .* **PSALM 103:2-4**

The word "redeem" means to receive or take something back, in exchange for something else. In short, it means that when something is redeemed, a debt is canceled. The words used in this verse are all things that God does for us: He *forgives*, *heals*, and *redeems* us. Remember a time when you experienced God's redeeming grace.

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2 God's grace is abundant.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **PSALM 103:8**

(Read also **PSALM 103:9-12.**)

The word "abundant" makes us think of items that are overflowing, plentiful, in great quantities. God's grace is redemptive, it saves us; but it is also abundant, in *steadfast love*. Even after redeeming us, He does not give us what we deserve for our sins. Even more than that, His love shows itself by the way He puts our sins as far away from us as *far as the east is from the west*. That is completely undeserved. How can God's abundant and steadfast love affect how we interact with our family and friends?

3 God's grace is never-ending.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children . . . **PSALM 103:17**

We already know that God's grace is actively redemptive, and abundant in *steadfast love*. More than that, David describes God's *steadfast love* as *from everlasting to everlasting*, and that it even extends to our *children's children*. According to Psalm 103:18, our faithful obedience to God makes way for God's never-ending grace. How does this assurance of God's everlasting love and grace change your perspective of life?

APPLICATION

- Share three of the greatest blessings you have received from God. Take some time also to remind yourself of God's graciousness this week.
- Faithful obedience makes room for God's never-ending grace to show itself. In what area do you need to obey God faithfully this week?
- How can you extend grace and kindness to a family member or a friend this week? Share one specific thing you can do.

PRAYER

- Thank God for His mercy and grace to us, that He is slow to anger and abounding in His steadfast love.
- Ask God for the grace to faithfully obey Him. Pray that you would make room for more of His grace to show in your life.
- Pray that you would extend the same grace and patience He shows us to your family and friends this new year.



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