

This four-part devotional series is designed to help unravel the richness of God's grace and understand its powerful outworking in our lives—resulting to a life of exceptional purity, extreme productivity and extravagant generosity.

GRACE CASE: HISTORY OF GRACE

READ

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 1:16

Matthew 1

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

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (John 1:16)

Have you ever felt like all your hard work was in vain? As sad as this feeling may be, there is truth behind such experience.

Our natural tendency is to rely on our own effort and ourselves. Religion tells us to pray harder, attend church regularly, serve, give to charity, and do many other things to reach God. We think our actions merit a response from God and relieve us from a guilty conscience. However, all such effort leads us to a tiring cycle of frustration and defeat. Imagine riding a stationary bike hoping to get somewhere, only to realize, you are stuck from where you started.

Here's a truth we easily miss: The cross is a daily reminder that we don't have to do anything for God to love, forgive, and accept us. In fact, He took the initiative to reconcile us to Him. He also gave us undeserved access to His unlimited blessing!

In Matthew 1, note the people whom God used to be part of Jesus' biological history: Jacob, the deceiver, Rahab, the prostitute, Ruth, the desperate widow, David, the adulterer, and Solomon, the know-it-all. They were not perfect, yet God's power worked in their lives beyond their failures and defeat. Just like them, your life is HIStory in the making—because God is in the process of writing His story of grace in your life.

REFLECT

- Which of the characters in Matthew 1 can you most relate to? What insight did you receive knowing that they were included in Jesus biological history?
- Are there still times where you tend to rely on your own effort instead of God's grace?
- In what area of your life today do you want to experience a greater measure of God's grace?

RESPOND

- Thank and worship God for His gift of grace in your life.
- Remind yourself that you are free from sin, shame, and guilt because of Jesus' finished work.