



AMAZING GRACE



MIDYEAR PRAYER, FASTING, AND CONSECRATION

JULY 7-9, 2020



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VICTORY

Honor God. Make Disciples.

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FASTING 101

CONNECT

All of us have needs and wants. Needs are things that we cannot live without. Wants are things we would like to have. What are some of your needs? What are some of your wants? There are many things we need and want. But sometimes, we focus so much on our needs and wants that we put aside our relationship with God. Fasting lets us focus more on God by setting aside our needs and wants.

WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is stopping an activity (usually eating) for a period of time to focus more on God. We replace eating or using our gadgets with more time with God. This means praying, worshiping, and reading the Bible. These activities build our relationship with God.

When our parents speak to us, we should pay attention and listen to them. Fasting helps us pay attention and listen to God. It helps us put aside distractions. We say to God, "I am going to listen to You because You are my Father. I trust You!"

Jesus gave us an example of fasting in Matthew 4. Jesus knew that He would need strength and power for His ministry. He prepared by fasting for forty days in the desert. During this time, He was tempted by Satan. His response to that temptation is the truth we can hold on to for strength when we fast:

"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." **MATTHEW 4:4**

Fasting is usually keeping yourself from eating and drinking as you devote more time for God. But you can also fast from different media (TV, video games) and technology (gadgets, Internet) if you cannot fast from food. The important thing is to keep your focus away from the things the world offers to spend more time with God.

BEFORE FASTING

1. Pray

Spend time reading the Bible before the fast. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your prayers. Write down your specific prayer requests for your family, friends, church, and nation.

2. Commit

Pray about the kind of fast that you will do and commit to it ahead of time. Ask God for grace to help you follow through with your decision. Also, ask your parents and maybe even your doctor if you are allowed to do a specific type of food fast.

3. Act

If you will be fasting from food, start eating smaller portions a few days before you fast. Avoid sugary and fatty foods. Ask someone to be your prayer partner throughout the fast.

WHILE FASTING

1. Focus

Set aside time to read God's word and pray. This devotional will help you go through your fast. Just be ready to listen to God's voice and do what the Holy Spirit is telling you.

2. Pray

If you can, join at least one prayer meeting in your church. Pray for your family, church, pastors, nation, campuses, and nations throughout the week.

3. Fill Up

During mealtimes, if you're fasting from food, read the Bible and pray instead. Drink plenty of water and rest as much as you can. Keep in mind that you may find yourself becoming physically weak, tired, impatient, or irritated. If you're doing a different type of fast, read the Bible and pray during the time you would normally do what you are fasting from (for example, browsing through social media or playing video games).

AFTER FASTING

1. Eat

If you fasted from food, reintroduce solid food gradually. Your body will need time to adjust to a normal diet. Start with fruits, juices, and salad, then add more vegetables. Eat small portions throughout the day. It may be tempting, but try not to eat junk food and sweets right away. If you've finished a different type of fast, remember what God revealed to you as you spent time with Him. Take what you learned from the fast into your everyday life.

2. Pray

Don't stop praying! Trust that God will keep His promises and knows what He's doing. Don't stop believing in and listening to God for the rest of the year. Be in faith and expect God to answer your prayers!

MY PLAN

DAY 1

Fasting Options:

- Social media fast
- Gadget fast
- Skip one meal
- Other _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend:

DAY 2

Fasting Options:

- Social media fast
- Gadget fast
- Skip one meal
- Other _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend:

DAY 3

Fasting Options:

- Social media fast
- Gadget fast
- Skip one meal
- Other _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend:

I AM THANKFUL TO GOD FOR . . .

How did God answer your prayers so far this year?

FOR THE REST OF 2020, I WILL CONTINUE TO BELIEVE GOD FOR ...

What are your prayer requests for the rest of this year?

Myself (e.g., to be closer to God)

My Family (e.g., good health for parents)

My School (e.g., good grades)

My Friends (e.g., for friends to know Jesus)

Others (e.g., for more people to know Christ)

My prayer partner is _____ .



INTRODUCTION AMAZING GRACE

In January, we set apart one week to pray and fast. This was so we could hear from God and know where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do for the whole year. We asked for God’s amazing grace to lead our lives. Now it’s July, and a lot of unexpected things have happened since January. But we know that God’s grace prepared us for this and kept us going. Until today, our faith and attitude stay the same—we humbly ask God to let His amazing grace rule and be seen in our lives.

God’s grace gives us confidence and faith in the midst of any challenges we experience. As we focus on His grace at work in our lives, we can continue to hope, knowing that God will move. As His children, let us look even more closely into God’s amazing grace for us.

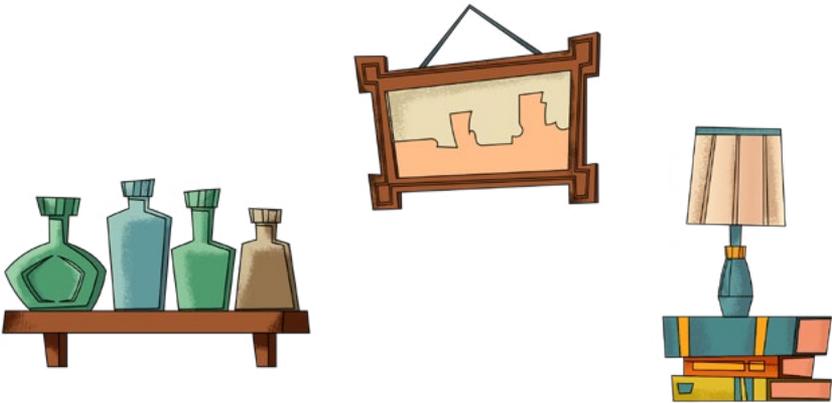
PREPARING FOR THE FAST GOD'S RICH GRACE

READ:

³Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ. ⁴God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us. ⁵So he decided long ago to adopt us. He adopted us as his children with all the rights children have. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it. ⁶All those things bring praise to his glorious grace. God freely gave us his grace because of the One he loves. ⁷We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. ⁸He poured his grace on us. By giving us great wisdom and understanding, ⁹he showed us the mystery of his plan. It was in keeping with what he wanted to do. It was what he had planned through Christ. ¹⁰It will all come about when history has been completed. God will then bring together all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. **EPHESIANS 1:3-10**

One day, Ben's grandmother said she had something for him. "I'll be leaving soon," she said, "so I want to give you something precious." She gave him the key to her attic, which held relics and other old and secondhand objects. Ben was upset at his grandmother for giving him worthless objects. He felt bad that while his friends were rich and owned the latest gadgets and fashions, all he had was old vases and ornaments. He put it out of his mind. Years passed, and Ben forgot about the attic. One day he remembered it, and brought one of the objects to an antique collector to find out its value. To his surprise, the collector told him that the ornament was a rare and valuable piece. Ben brought the collector to the attic to see the rest of the items.

The antique collector was delighted and told Ben that everything in the attic belonged to rare collections that could be sold for millions. Imagine Ben's surprise!



Like Ben, we have the tendency to look around and feel like we have less compared to others. Worse, we even ignore God's grace because we don't know how priceless and abundant it is!

In his letters to the church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul's favorite word to describe grace was "rich." Why? In the same way that Ben discovered the true worth of the objects in his attic, we will begin to understand the rich grace of God that surrounds us. This grace is wonderful, great, and unbelievable—and God is giving it to us!

Below are two priceless truths that we can learn from the verse above:

- 1. God paid the ultimate price for us.** We know the value of something by how much someone is willing to pay for it, like the antique collector who knew the items were worth millions. Did you know that someone also paid for you? God paid for you with the precious blood of Jesus. Jesus gave His life for you—that's how valuable you are.

2. God saved us because He loves us. If Ben asked his grandmother for a gift, and she gave him one, we would already call her “generous.” But she gave Ben the key to the attic full of priceless treasure even when he did not ask, because she loved him. In the same way, God sent Jesus to save us and forgive us, not because we asked Him to, but because He wanted to. He gives the gift of salvation to all who want to receive it. God gave us the gift of His rich grace not because we are deserving or are successful. He freely gives His grace to us because He is a loving and generous God.



Because of the riches of God’s grace, we can receive His overflowing love and forgiveness.

NOTES



REFLECT

Read Ephesians 1:3-7 and write it down in your journal. Encircle the promises that you can claim. Underline those that you find difficult to understand. Put a star on those that made you say “Wow!” Write your insights about this passage.

God’s grace can be seen in many forms. How have you experienced God’s grace so far? Write them down or draw them in your journal.

Example:

“I have loving parents!”

“God provides for me!”



PRAY

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus Christ so that I can experience freedom and the forgiveness of my sins. I know that You chose me and have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in Christ. May Your grace, which You have given to me freely, make me live according to Your purpose. May You give me the courage to share this gift of grace to those around me, so that they can experience it as well. In Jesus' name, amen.

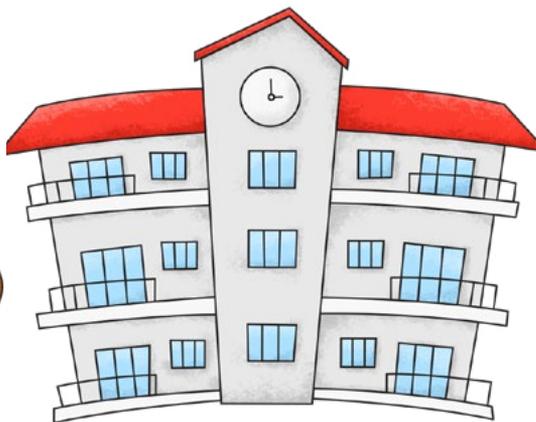
GRACE THAT BUILDS UP

1

READ:

22" Now I am going to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit compels me. I don't know what will happen to me there. 23I only know that in every city the Spirit warns me. He tells me that I will face prison and suffering. 24But my life means nothing to me. My only goal is to finish the race. I want to complete the work the Lord Jesus has given me. He wants me to tell others about the good news of God's grace. 25I have spent time with you preaching about the kingdom. I know that none of you will ever see me again. 26So I tell you today that I am not guilty if any of you don't believe. 27I haven't let anyone keep me from telling you everything God wants you to do. 28Keep watch over yourselves. Keep watch over all the believers. The Holy Spirit has made you leaders over them. Be shepherds of God's church. He bought it with his own blood. 29I know that after I leave, wild wolves will come in among you. They won't spare any of the sheep. 30Even men from your own people will rise up and twist the truth. They want to get the believers to follow them. 31So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning you. Night and day I warned each of you with tears. 32Now I trust God to take care of you. I commit you to the message about his grace. It can build you up. Then you will share in what God plans to give all his people." **ACTS 20:22-32**

What would you do if one day your school decided that instead of Math, Science, English, and the rest of the subjects, all you'll do every day is watch movies and read comic books? While you might be overjoyed, a school like that wouldn't give you a good foundation for the things you'll want to accomplish later.



In the same way that your parents entrust you to your school and teachers to teach you the right things, the apostle Paul entrusted the believers to God and to the message of His grace. This statement has two lessons for its hearers:

- 1. God's grace builds strength in us.** God's grace will *build you up*, as Paul said in the Scripture. It helps us become strong. The way our schools build us up to be ready for the next academic levels, God's grace prepares us for the spiritual challenges that we will be facing. No matter what shakings come our way, God's grace is sure to strengthen and build us up!
- 2. God's grace gives us access to our inheritance in Christ.**

The Scripture says, "*Then you will share in what God plans to give all his people.*" When God gives us His grace, we instantly have a part in the inheritance that God has promised to give His people. This is great news—and we don't even have to work for it!

What does this tell us? If you feel weak and powerless, God promises to give you power and increase your strength (Isaiah 40:29). If you feel like you don't have everything you want, by His grace you are rich because you have inherited eternal life and the kingdom of God.



God's grace builds strength in us and gives us access to our inheritance in Christ!

NOTES



REFLECT

In the same way that our lessons in school help us with many things, God also uses His word to teach and help us. What are some of God's commands, words, and promises that you turn to when you need strength? How do they help you?

Example:

God knows my needs (Matthew 6:24). I do not worry when I need something because I know that God provides for me.

In school, to make sure that you know your lessons, you do activities and review lessons. How about with God's word? How can you continue being built up so that you will stand strong, no matter what will happen?



PRAY

Father, I know that apart from the grace You have freely given to me, I will not be able to stand strong and have faith. Thank You for the gift of Your grace that builds me up, making me sturdy in my faith. I am confident knowing that whatever comes my way, Your grace holds me and makes me strong. I will not shrink back from any challenge I may face because I know that You are there with me. Thank You that by Your grace, I have access to my inheritance in Christ. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

GRACE THAT OVERFLOWS 2

READ:

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

JOHN 1:14–18 (ESV)

Have you ever wondered if a waterfall will ever run out of water? Is it like a faucet that you can turn off when you don’t need water anymore? The apostle John uses the word *fullness* to explain God’s grace. It means that God is more than happy and eager to bless us, like how a river can’t help but overflow into a beautiful waterfall.

Through Jesus, God’s grace is always overflowing, never running out! He’s just waiting for us to catch it. If you had a pail, could you catch the whole waterfall? It’s impossible. In the same way, every day we receive grace from Jesus’ fullness, and it will never run out.



What if there was an empty lake and someone asked you to fill it with a bucket? You may work and work, but it is impossible to fill without a good source, like that waterfall we spoke of. We often try to “fill lakes” with our own strength. We try to obey God’s commands by ourselves, or face challenges with our own strength. But this won’t work. The only way to truly obey God and face challenges successfully is through the overflowing source of the grace of God.

Today, you may be in need of God’s favor because of the challenges you’re facing. Remember that the supply of God’s grace is greater than any waterfall. You can draw from a never-ending source of grace—Jesus! If things become overwhelming, His grace will enable you to live through the difficult times. In Him, you can always find mercy and grace!



We have a daily supply of God’s love, mercy, and grace in Christ.

NOTES



REFLECT

When we face challenges, we tend to rely on ourselves and our works to overcome them. What are the usual challenges you face?

**What things do you usually rely on to meet these challenges?
On the other hand, how does God's grace help you overcome the same challenges?**



PRAY

Father, thank You for the sacrifice that Jesus made—that He became flesh, lived on earth, and gave His life for us. Thank You for your supply of grace for me that never runs dry. Even with the challenges in life, I am sure that You will supply love, mercy, and grace for me every day, like an overflowing waterfall. With this, my soul is satisfied. As I read Your word, please continue to show Yourself to me. In Jesus' name, amen.

GRACE THAT ENABLES

3

READ:

¹Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it. ²Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you. If you don't, you have believed it for nothing. ³What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. ⁴He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. ⁵He appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the 12 apostles. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at the same time. Most of them are still living. But some have died. ⁷He appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, he also appeared to me. I was like someone who wasn't born at the right time. ⁹I am the least important of the apostles. I'm not even fit to be called an apostle. I tried to destroy God's church. ¹⁰But because of God's grace I am what I am. And his grace was not wasted on me. No, I have worked harder than all the other apostles. But I didn't do the work. God's grace was with me. ¹¹So this is what we preach, whether I or the other apostles who preached to you. And that is what you believed. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11**

The heroes we see in movies usually have two identities: their real identity and their identity as a hero. Spider-Man's true identity, for example, is a teenage boy named Peter Parker. But Peter first encountered a radioactive spider that bit him. This gave him powers that changed the way he saw himself and made him into the hero called Spider-Man. In the same way, **when we experience God's grace, it changes how we see ourselves and enables us to be and do what He wants us to be and do.**

The apostle Paul had one of the most amazing transformation stories in the Bible. Christians of his time were terrified of him because he would hunt them down and kill or imprison them. But when Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he put his faith in Jesus and was totally changed.

Not only does God's grace change our identities, it also affects what we do. After becoming Spider-Man, Peter Parker had new and bigger goals. He no longer lived the way he used to. In the same way, Paul now worked very hard to do what God called him to do. He was an excellent preacher, wrote most of the New Testament, and raised many church leaders. But he couldn't have done any of these without the enabling grace of God.

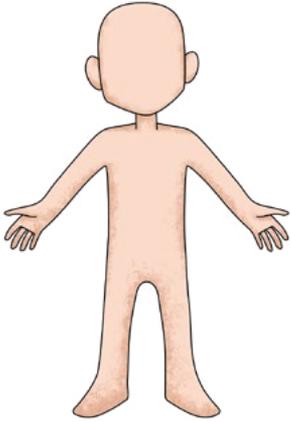
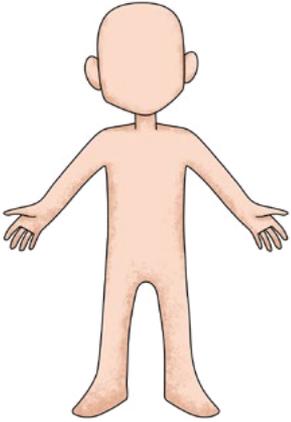
Like Paul, what we did in the past cannot stop us from fulfilling our new identity in Christ. God's grace is like a reset button that allows us to start with a new identity. Like Paul, we can declare, *"Because of God's grace I am what I am."*

NOTES



REFLECT

Write your name on the blanks. Draw how you imagine you were before and now. Can you describe how you used to view yourself (e.g., scared, unimportant)? How do you view yourself now that you know your identity in Christ (e.g., courageous, helpful)? You can be creative and become a hero yourself!

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PRAY

Thank You, God, for Your enabling grace. Even with my past and my sins, You have shown me grace. I pray that as I live for Your purpose in my life, I will always remember that it is not my works that changed me, but only Your grace. I pray to live and act the way You want me to every day. Thank You for the grace that reminds me of who I am in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

BREAKING THE FAST: GRACE THAT EMPOWERS

READ:

¹And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. ²And he said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. ³And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” ⁴And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” ⁵Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” ⁶Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. ⁷Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” ⁸Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁹“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.”

ZECHARIAH 4:1-10 (ESV)

Do you remember a time when your parents asked you to do something new? Maybe you were asked to speak in front of a crowd, order food by yourself, or go to the grocery on your own. Or maybe something even harder. Did you feel scared or nervous? This was also how Zerubbabel felt. Zerubbabel had been told to rebuild God’s temple. Aside from this big task, he was faced with two problems: enemies were against the building project, and God’s people were feeling tired and discouraged. But God had promised Zerubbabel that He would give them grace to finish the task.

Recently, our nation and the world have faced greater and more difficult challenges than just speaking in front of a crowd or buying food by ourselves. The important thing is to remember this: we don't only have our parents to cheer us on—we have our Father in heaven who will enable us to accomplish what He has assigned to us. *Not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit.* We will finish the task, not because of our confidence, skills, or talents, but by God's Spirit!

God makes sure that His will always gets done. In the story above, Zerubbabel worked six more years before the temple was completed! He never gave up even if it took years. He was relying on God's grace, which gave him strength to finish the task. In the same way, we will be surprised by how much we can accomplish through the Spirit of God.

God is fashioning a different kind of building. This building is us. We can be sure that God will complete the good work that He started in us (Philippians 1:6). And He will not only complete His work in us, but will even work through us for His will to be done.

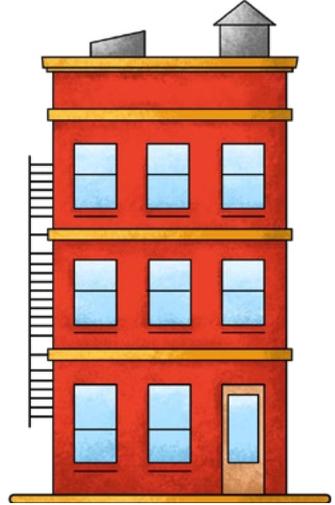


With God's grace, we can fulfill His call for our lives.

NOTES

REFLECT

When you face challenges, how can you rely on God's grace?



What challenges are you facing right now? Think about how God is using these challenges to build you up. For example, your faith is built as you trust God to move in your nation's problems. Your patience is built when you tell people about who Jesus is even when they don't want to listen.



PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for the grace with which You begin and complete Your good work in me. I know that without Your grace, I can't do anything You ask. Please remind me that I can do Your will not by might nor by power, but only by Your Spirit. I pray for Your grace to sustain me and help me finish all the tasks You have set for me. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.



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