

# Resting In God's Grace

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For years I lived with a wrong view of God's grace. I believed I was going to Heaven based on Jesus dying on the cross for me, but I believed (wrongly) that I had to clean up my life in order to please God and gain His favor. Despite my best intentions, I always felt like I wasn't good enough—I was powerless to keep the promises I made to Him.

As a "baby" Christian I didn't know or understand the power I had through Christ to overcome my sin, my flesh and the Enemy. I didn't understand *I stood on Christ's righteousness and not my own*. So I would sin, then make promises to God that I would change. But I didn't know how, and my will power would only last so long. I feared God could not give me favor since I wasn't 100% obedient. I lived on a roller coaster of emotions and guilt.

## But God...

In a watershed moment, the Lord revealed His grace and unconditional love to me and in the process, I experienced His liberation, love and power...I was even empowered to get clean from a drug addiction!

*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. 2 Corinthians 9:8*

**1.** In the years since I have been delivered from my addiction and the destruction that came with it, my trials are different. I am receiving God's grace to overcome trials like the death of my brother, a prodigal whom I had been fervently praying for for years, financial setbacks after taking a big step of faith in my career, living with chronic pain and trusting and waiting on the Lord's timing for restoration. But the solution and my security are the same: living in His grace. He is able to make all His grace live in your life—do you believe that promise? *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy **and find grace to help in time of need.*** Hebrews 4:16

**2.** His grace is what empowers me to stand on His promises, knowing who I am in Christ. I no longer work to be perfect for God. Instead, I come to Him *just as I am*. *Jesus took my sin and gave me His righteousness* (2 Corinthians 5:21) so I am accepted, perfect, sinless in His eyes. Then He equips me to accomplish His purposes and plans for my life. Give Him your sin and accept His gift of perfect righteousness.

- His grace saves us
- His grace empowers us
- His grace sustains us

**3.** Just as we cannot save ourselves apart from His grace, we cannot live the victorious Christian life apart from His grace. Our self-righteous efforts cannot please God, but our trust and faith in Him and His grace is very pleasing to Him. By His grace, the heartaches and the suffering from this fallen world are producing in us something so beautiful and eternal. Tell yourself 'God is already pleased with me and He will help me change.'

**RESOURCES** *Because He Loves Me: How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life* by Elyse Fitzpatrick  
*The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning *True Faced/Two Roads* by John Lynch, YouTube video

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