

Amazing Grace

Week 7: Restoring Grace

August 8, 2010

What are those things that you wish you could restore in your life, family, community, city and world?...what's keeping you or holding you back?



How we measure grace in our own lives determines how we see it operating in the lives of others.

Sincerity . . . How much do I mean it?

Subtraction . . . If I just stop it

Service . . . What can I do to make God happy with me?

Similarity . . . At least I'm better than them

PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST - Mark 14:27-72

Over-confidence- *"Everyone else may stumble in their faith but I won't"*v.29

Laziness- *"Couldn't you stay awake with me one hour?"*v.37

Ignorance- *"One of those standing near drew his sword and struck the ear of the high priest."*v.47

Fear - *"Peter followed at a distance."*v.54a

Convenience- *"Then he sat down with the guards and warmed himself by the fire."*v.54b

SO, WHAT DOES RESTORING GRACE LOOK LIKE?

1. Restoring Grace reminds me that God's love is based on who He is rather than on what I do.

"God's compassion never ends. It is only His mercy that has kept us from complete destruction." (Lam. 3:22 LB)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, and this not of yourselves... not of works... it is a gift from God so that no one can boast." (Eph. 2:8-9 NIV)

2. Restoring Grace removes immovable difficulties

Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God." 2 Chron. 19:3

3. Restoring Grace clears out the dead areas in our lives

When you take away their breath, they die and turn again to dust. When you send your Spirit, new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth. Psalm 124:29,30

4. Restoring Grace restores our joy

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Psalm 51:10

5. Restoring grace brings the impossible into the possible

This is the covenant I am going to make with you. I will perform wonders that have never been done before anywhere in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people around you will see the power of the Lord—the awesome power I will display through you. Your responsibility is to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Ex. 34:10

6. Restoring grace gives us the courage to dream again for His best.

"I live in that high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I refresh the humble and give new courage to those with repentant hearts." Isaiah 57:15

7. Restoring grace releases God to act and to answer our prayers

“...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2Chron. 7:14

8. Restoring Grace begins the healing process in the body, soul and spirit

I will never forget your commandments, for you have used them to restore my joy and health. I am yours; save me! Psalm 119:93,94

***Jesus had predicted Peter's failure over dinner, now He chooses to restore Simon over breakfast.
By a fire, Peter had denied Him. Now, by a fire, Jesus restores Him! John 21:1-19***