



Being a Woman of Grace-Part 1



Just as we have a 911 phone number to call when we're in trouble, God has given us a spiritual 911 number to use for safety and protection. It is Psalm 91:1 that says, "*He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain in the shadow of the Almighty. He shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will trust, and His truth shall be your protection.*" The Bible often speaks of the protection of wings.

Jesus said in Matt. 23:37 "*How often I would have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings.*" He was giving a word picture of protection.



When a storm starts and the wind begins to ruffle a mama chicken's feathers, she makes a special sound that calls her baby chicks to come running from all over the barnyard. She stands still, with her wings outspread, until all of her chicks are under her wings. Then she gently folds her wings around them, covers them with her feathers, and settles down over them. Those little chicks are snug and warm in the downy softness. They know there is nothing to fear, mama will protect them, and they are safe as long as they stay inside their secret place.

We have a safe place of refuge in God. By His grace we have been accepted in His family, and part of that heritage that we have been given are spiritual endowments we call grace gifts.

These gifts are the specific anointings of the Holy Spirit within us that are passed down to us from our loving heavenly Father.

The word "grace" means "graciousness of manner and actions because of the divine influence upon the heart, and it's reflection in the life, including gratitude."



If we're not grateful for the gifts God has given us – but keep wishing we had the gifts someone else has – blaming others for our lack – or feeling we deserved better – we will remain powerless in our life and in our Christian walk.

If we don't appreciate what we do have, God won't trust us with more.

By employing Bible principles in the use of the gifts we have been given, all things become possible. As the angel said to Mary in Luke 1:37, "*With God, nothing is impossible, and no Word of God shall be without power, or impossible of fulfillment.*"

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In tough situations it's hard to remember that sometimes things that look like problems to us, may be the very things that test our faith, and strengthen it. But we won't know it until the trial is over.

The Apostle Peter wrote in I Peter 1:7, *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”*

God's grace is available for every situation, every circumstance, and every decision we will ever make, but it is by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that we obtain it. *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* Romans 5:1,2.

One of our greatest gifts of grace is the gift of our free will to choose.

We choose the attitude we have at any time. It may be a humble attitude of a meek and quiet spirit, such as Jesus had, or an attitude of anger at life because of the bad things that have happened to us.

The attitude that God blesses is one of “compassion.” A compassionate attitude releases the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of others. Therefore, there cannot be an attitude of compassion without the grace gift of “forgiveness.”

The word “forgive” is the root word for “grace.” Wherever the word “grace” is used, forgiveness is implied or understood in it.

Forgiveness is the greatest expression of love for others that there is. It fulfills the second great commandment, “to love our neighbor as ourselves.”

Forgiveness does not mean accepting what was done to us as all right, what it does mean is that you are set free from the pain and the disturbing emotions that were caused by the hurt and keep you in bondage to it. If that hurt is not dealt with it turns to bitterness.



There are situations where we may be justified for being upset, when someone knowingly, or even maliciously wronged us. But that does not justify an unforgiving attitude.

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Jesus set the standard for forgiveness. That is, that the innocent pay the price of forgiveness. He was innocent, and He paid the price. He did it and it is the whole basis of our forgiveness from sin. How can we now commit the sin of unforgiveness of others?

God forgave everything that would have kept us from Him, but, sometimes we tend to think that it was an obligation on His part, but it can be a choice on our part. That is wrong thinking.

Jesus said, *“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive others for their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* Matthew 6:14

Your forgiveness does not cleanse their sin away, only Jesus can do that. Your forgiveness just removes the power of their sin to keep you in torment.

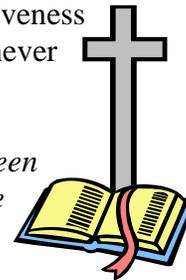


Unforgiveness is our problem. To keep rehearsing another person's sin is judging them, and God does not give us that right – to judge another person.

Even when we know God has forgiven us, and we have forgiven others, but we still have no peace or joy in our hearts, it is usually because we have not yet forgiven ourselves.

Every time we punish ourselves by replaying our past sins, and our feelings of guilt, we must choose the same remedy as forgiving others and release forgiveness of ourselves by accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Our sins are never bigger than God is able to forgive, by the blood of Jesus.

“We have been delivered from the power of darkness, and have been translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood – even the forgiveness of sin.”
AMEN! Col. 1:13



Being a Woman of Grace – Part 1

1. How does God say He will protect you spiritually in Psalm 91:1?

2. The spiritual endowments we receive as our heritage in the family of God are called:

3. If we don't appreciate what we have, what will happen?

4. In God's eyes, what is more precious than gold?

5. How do we obtain grace?

6. Why does God bless a compassionate attitude?

7. What is the standard for forgiveness?

8. Why isn't forgiveness a choice on our part?

9. What have we been delivered from and translated into? (Colossians 1:13,14)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Being a Woman of Grace – Part 1

1. How does God say He will protect you spiritually in Psalm 91:1?

He will cover me with His feathers and under His wings I will trust.

2. The spiritual endowments we receive as our heritage in the family of God are called:

grace gifts

3. If we don't appreciate what we have, what will happen?

God won't trust us with more.

4. In God's eyes, what is more precious than gold?

Faith.

5. How do we obtain grace?

By faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Why does God bless a compassionate attitude?

Because it releases the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of others.

7. What is the standard for forgiveness?

The innocent pay the price.

8. Why isn't forgiveness a choice on our part?

If we don't forgive others, He won't forgive us.

9. What have we been delivered from and translated into? (Colossians 1:13,14)

MEMORY VERSE *"We have been delivered from the power of darkness, and have been translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood – even the forgiveness of sins."*