

**Families Where Grace is in Place
Grace in the Face of Trials**

GRIT

Definition of Grit – courage and resolve; strength of character

I Corinthians 16:13 – “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous be strong.”

When we encounter adversity and trials our first emotional response is fear and anxiety. Why is this happening? Where is God?

Luke 21:19 – “Stand firm, and you will win life.”

Don't let your fear cause your faith to waiver.

Romans 12:11-12 – “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faith in prayer.”

God only allows you to see the next step in front of you. Don't try to look too far down the road. If we could see what was farther down the road it would be too overwhelming. We would be concentrating on the 5 years or 10 years down the road. We are not promised those years.

Isaiah 41:10 – “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

The Old Testament provides for the believer, a historic account of the Hebrew people. In addition, it also provides for the New Testament believer a type or shadow of our life with Christ.

The book of Joshua provides an account of the Hebrew people taking possession of their promised land. Taking possession of the land provided the people with a tangible victory. The question we might then ask is, “What is it the Lord wants us to possess?” He wants us to possess HIM! He wants a heart that desires to possess HIM.

It is His desire through trials that we draw closer to Him. In doing so, others see that faith and are drawn to Him as well.

Hebrews 10:22-25 ESV – “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

There will be times when we are tried that we ask for deliverance or to not go through the trial. Your heavenly father loves you too much to deliver you before you are completed.

GRACE

Definition of Grace – Favor, goodwill, kindness

Grace in the face of difficulty is expressing the love of Christ even during extremely difficult times. It is much easier to be giving and kind when life is going well, however, to be graceful in the face of adversity is quite different.

The world and people without Christ can be kind and even generous when things are going well. However, when there are struggles in the life of a Christian and the grace of Christ is evident, people are drawn to that.

People are drawn toward a face that has seen Christ and is aglow with His grace.

Exodus 34 – “²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.”

People run away from you when you carry the law, people are drawn to a people that are aglow with the grace of Christ.

GRATITUDE

The quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful.

We, above all others, should be a grateful people. However, as a result of the fall we are not. We have a short memory of what God has done for us. But we have a great memory of things that have not gone our way or how we think we have not been helped or blessed.

It is important to establish physical reminders of the work of our God. It is also important to verbally tell those around us of His goodness to us.

Joshua 4:1-7 – “When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²“Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, ³and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” ⁴Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. ⁵And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, ⁶that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ ⁷then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

You have a story to tell just as miraculous and as powerful as this. Remember to tell your story that it might be a memorial forever to the goodness of our God.

“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God (GRACE) and to the steadfastness of Christ.” (GRIT)
II Thessalonians 3:5