

Unstoppable Life

Unstoppable Grace

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:17

"But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:20b-21

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

Ephesians 1:7-8

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."

1 Corinthians 15:10

Like a prevailing wind at our backs, the grace of God moves us unstoppably toward the goal of life. God's favorable desire and assistance to us in our failure and brokenness, his undeserved kindness and commitment to our complete and ultimate salvation, is personally expressed in:

1. His gracious attitude

2. His gracious communication

3. His gracious actions

4. His gracious resources

In responding to God's grace and building our lives on His gracious intervention in our lives we understand that:

1. grace is an act of God's will

2. grace is a part of God's character

3. God's grace will prevail in our lives



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“Unstoppable Grace” - Romans 5:12-21; 2 Corinthians 9:8;
Ephesians 1:2-8; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Hebrews 4:16;
Ephesians 2:1-9; Jonah 2:8; 1 Timothy 1:14

1. Grace is one of those really big concepts that we struggle to understand. It bundles up a saving mix of undeserved kindness, regard, mercy, and help that is freely expressed from powerful to powerless, from right to wrong, from rich to poor. Grace defines the way the Almighty, Omniscient, Holy God has freely chosen to relate to sinful and dying humanity in His Son, Jesus Christ. Does “grace” define how you think about God, and more importantly, how you think He thinks about you?

2. Paul uses a sophisticated argument in Romans 5:12-21 to compare and contrast the impact of two choices on the human race, the sin of Adam and the sacrifice of Jesus. In his argument Paul says that the trespass of Adam is “not like” the gift of Christ. The condemning effect of sin is overwhelmed by the outpouring of God’s grace to redeem and restore through Jesus Christ. “Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5:20). The “all the more” character of God’s grace meets us at every point of need and makes what is impossible for us, possible in God. Where do you need to know the reality of God’s prevailing grace in your life right now? Where do you need to change your perspective about what help you have and how things will turn out in the end?

3. Grace has the power to transform who we are and what we do, not out of fear but freedom, not out of shame but love. Paul understood “by the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor 15:10). What identity does God’s grace want to give us? How does God’s grace want to shape your life and choices today?

4. The prophet Jonah said that when we cling to “worthless idols” we forfeit the grace that could have been ours (Jonah 2:8). How does holding tight to worthless things hinder us from receiving the help, change and life that God graciously wants to give us? How do we embrace the powerful and prevailing current of God’s grace toward us and toward life?

5. Paul tells us that he struggled with the torment of a “thorn in the flesh” and he pleaded with the Lord to take it away, but the Lord told him, “my grace is sufficient for you” (2 Cor 12:7-10). How can God’s grace be sufficient even in the face of weakness or difficulty? How is God’s power available to us in situations where He doesn’t take what threatens us away?
