

“For it is by grace you have been saved ...” Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

THE GRACE CARD

WITNESS THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

THEGRACECARDMOVIE.COM

THE POWER OF GRACE

Study written by Pastor Lynn Holmes

Senior Pastor, Calvary Church

Let’s Watch ...

Grandpa George’s Library (Clip 1)



After a discouraging Sunday service in his role as a pastor and a difficult week on the job in his role as a police officer, Sam seeks the counsel and comfort of his grandfather, George, a retired minister who was active during the days of the Civil Rights movement. After a long walk, Grandpa George invites his grandson to his study and offers him a modern-day parable, hoping it will create the hunger in Sam to dig deeper to discover the true pearl of wisdom that has just been shared—the awesome power of God’s grace.

Let’s Read ...

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” (Psalm 145:8)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23, NLT

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you.” Isaiah 30:18

“The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17, NCV

“[Don’t] treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.” Galatians 2:21, NLT

Let's Consider ...

To understand the Christian life, you must understand *grace*. It is the heart of our faith and the heart of our relationship with God. Grace is the means by which God brings himself to us and restores us. Grace is best defined as: God giving me what I need, not what I deserve. I deserve to be punished for my sins, but in grace, God offers me forgiveness. Through forgiveness, I am able to experience blessing upon blessing. Grace is a gift that we accept in faith, and that is totally undeserved. We tend to offer people conditional love: I love you, *if*. But Jesus Christ offers each of us unconditional love: I love you, period! And when we are the recipients of such an awesome gift, our hearts are transformed and the desire of our hearts becomes helping others understand this amazing grace.

We hear Grandpa George tell the story about Mr. Eskue asking for forgiveness and offering grace to people that had been enslaved to him and to others. He wanted to treat these children of God with honor, respect, and love. It was this grace that prompted Sam's great-great grandfather to offer to Mr. Eskue his handwritten *Grace Card* in return. Think of the lives changed by those "simple" acts of uncommon grace.

Gratitude should be one of the defining characteristics of those of us who are the recipients of such lavish grace. In our gratitude for what Christ has done for us, we are instructed in God's Word to treat others with the same respect and honor we would want to be treated ourselves. Remember the golden rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The lesson that Grandpa George is trying to teach Sam? Forgiveness and grace are to be offered even to those who seem undeserving of it. Grace is a powerful offense against the evil attacks of this world: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:10.

Grace has the power to transform lives!

Let's Discuss ...

Can you describe the transformation in your life, when you first believed and accepted the gift of God's grace?

How would it change the way you look at other people if you saw them with the same value that God does? Are certain people easier (and certain ones harder!) for you to look at this way? Why do you think that is?

The free gift of grace comes only through Christ. It is a *free* gift, but not a *cheap* gift. Jesus Christ was and is our only door into heaven. Do you think you "deserve" to be saved? (see Romans 3:23) Do you think you have earned this gift of grace? Do you think others who have done more evil in their lives then deserve the same grace?

What does the gift of grace offered by George's grandfather and Mr. Eskue say about the value they placed on others? What does Christ's willingness to offer you the free gift of grace say about your value in his eyes?

Grandpa George's own grandfather wrote these words as a boy: "I promise to pray for you every day, ask your forgiveness, grant you the same, and be your friend always." To whom in your life do you need to offer The Grace Card?

Let's Not Forget ...

I have messed up many times in my life, and in repentance I have seen that God's grace is always willing to receive me back in love and mercy. We all need God. "The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the good news about God's grace," says Paul in Acts 20:24 (NCV). Sharing the transforming grace of God with others is a sacred responsibility. When we experience the transforming grace of God and his miraculous intervention, we should be filled with the desire to share that same wonderful reality with others!

© 2010 Graceworks Pictures, LLC. All Rights Reserved. © 2010 Calvary Pictures. All Rights Reserved.
© 2010 Layout and Design, Provident Films, a unit of SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT. All Rights Reserved.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NCV are taken from the New Century Version. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.