Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections gives you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

God's Gentleness

Reflection: 1 Kings 19:11-13; Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 21:1-5; 2 Corinthians 10:1

Life Response: Ephesians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15,16



A Discipleship Journey – Amazing Grace <u>God's Unmerited Favor – July 18, 2021</u>

"Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off." - Max Lucado

Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. - James 2:26

Sola fide - justification by faith alone

GRACE produces faith, Faith = Righteousness + works

God's grace will find you first.

"Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" - 2 Sam. 9:1

God's grace <u>remembers</u> us.

"There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." vs.3

God's grace <u>pursues</u> us.

"He is in the house of Machir... at Lo-debar." vs. 4 Lo-debar means "<u>no pasture</u>"

God's grace <u>carries</u> us.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. - 2 Cor. 12:9 Grace is where you abandon your crippled past.

Abandon a crippled life

Abandon a crippled mentality

Grace is where you discover who you were born to be.

Grace puts you in the right place with God.

An intimate place - Vs.11 "he was like one of the king's sons"

A perpetual place - Vs. 7 "you shall eat at my table ALWAYS".

Grace is where you embrace God's favor at His Son's expense.

By grace we live in the achievement of another.

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." - Isaiah 53:4-6

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

To hear this message again, go to gracepointny.org/media or follow our podcast.

Questions for Reflection

- 1) Read the opening quote by Max Lucado again. Do you see God's grace as the power to live right? In what way?
- 2) What are some objections that you struggle with personally or hear from others when it comes to the idea of Sola Fide, justification by faith alone?
- 3) Think of a time in your life when the grace of God pursued you? Where was your Lo-Debar or barren place?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 12:9 What does it mean that God's power is made perfect in weakness? What weakness can you boast in today?
- 5) How does God's grace truly free us from our past?

Grace is where we embrace God's favor at Christ expense. Read Isaiah 55:4-6 and take some time in prayer to thank Jesus for the price He paid for you.