



## Standing in GRACE

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* Romans 5:2

Grace says, "I'll die for you while you are still a sinner."

Grace says, "Come, just as you are."

Grace says, "You don't deserve me, but I am yours forever."

Grace says, "Once bestowed, eternally flowing."

Grace says, "The door is always open. Come in and stay...forever."

The door is always open. In John 10: 9-10, Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." This is grace. Salvation is an act of grace—undeserved favor—dispensed when we surrender to Christ as Lord and Savior.

Heaven's mercy pours over the repentant sinner, and grace flows down. The grace we receive upon our salvation is **justifying grace**. We can do nothing to effect or accomplish our own salvation. Christ has done all the necessary work in paying our debt of sin. He paid the price; and remarkably...miraculously, we are justified. We have been declared, "Not guilty," even when the guilt was all ours. He took our guilt away. When we trust Him, we step through a doorway of grace.

The story gets better. The grace never ends! God *continues* to pour grace and mercy over us as we learn and grow and continually commit our lives to Christ. His **sanctifying grace** gives us all we need to live obedient and holy lives. When we are saved, we are set apart and God's Spirit begins a transforming work in our lives we could never accomplish in the flesh. The fruit of the Spirit delineated in Galatians 5: 22-23 comes from a regenerated heart that is under the constant control of the Holy Spirit.



We can rejoice in the grace God gives us because it allows us constant access to God. We don't have to travel to a tabernacle in the wilderness on a pilgrimage to offer sacrifices year in and year out for the forgiveness of sins. Christ's work on the cross and His resurrection enables us to stand in a position of grace. The Bible says when we are saved we "have already passed from death into life" (John 5:24) We don't vacillate between death and life...we pass through the door of grace, moving from death into life and we can reside in that place. We can stand in grace. God's **preserving grace** keeps us in that position. We don't have to offer sacrifice after sacrifice, and Christ doesn't have to go to the cross more than once. When He hung from the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished." Jesus now stands at the right hand of God interceding for us at the mercy seat of God, His act of grace completed.



We have access to God, we have access to His grace, and we stand in grace. Jesus is a safe harbor for us. We are securely anchored in the grace He provides to us. And THAT is reason to rejoice in the certain hope that is ours!

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