

# 40 Days of Grace, week 4: Abusing grace: what about works?

## Grace in action in our lives each day

### 1. God's grace is available to everyone, including me!

*"For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people." Titus 2:11*

### 2. Trusting in God's grace releases me from the guilt in my past

*"God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. <sup>21</sup> So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, **now God's wonderful grace rules instead**, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21*

*"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. <sup>3</sup> The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. <sup>4</sup> He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4*

### 3. Understanding God's grace draws me into a new way of living...

#### a. Away from abusing grace

*"Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?" Romans 6:1-2.*

*"Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a ghastly thought!" (J. B. Phillips)*

#### b. Into delighting in His grace

*"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" Romans 8:31*

*"When God our Saviour revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life." Titus 3:4-7*

#### c. And generously using my talents He has graciously given me

*"Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that **all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good.**" Titus 3:7-8a*

*"For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people...He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, **totally committed to doing good deeds.**" Titus 2:11 & 14b*

*"So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. **As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.**" Romans 7:4.*

*"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So **use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.** Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." Romans 6:12-14*

*"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for **doing certain things well.**" Romans 12:6*