

## DIGGING DEEPER

**Series:** Grace Trumps Karma  
**Topic:** Saved by Grace  
**Date Taught:** Feb. 18-19, 2012

**Main Idea:** **Grace** is a biblical principle that we way we believe in, but in reality we fall back in to a system that looks more like

Karma than it does biblical grace.

### DAY 1

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-9  
Grace

### DAY 2

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19  
Reconciliation

### DAY 3

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18

### DAY 4

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:18  
Redemption

### DAY 5

Scripture: Hebrews 11  
Faith

*What follows is a daily guide and aid for this week's Digging Deeper. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to take the place of the Holy Spirit personally leading you. Feel free to just use the overview above, use only the parts of the daily guide that are meaningful to you, or do something entirely different. The goal is to connect with God and His transforming power, not to get through the material.*

### DAY 1

#### SCRIPTURE

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 **3 times**

**Spiritual Practice: Lectio Divina** (Divine Reading)

Allow yourself to find a quiet place and time that you will not be interrupted and slowly read the passage above to yourself (out loud if possible). As you read it the third time, take note of any words that might stick out to you or catch your attention and remember what words they are.

**APPLICATION:** Pray to be a person of Grace.

Use this day to be a time where you evaluate your interaction with people and see if you are normally a person of grace or not. Find some time during your day to remember the words of the passage above and what it means to be saved by grace.

### DAY 2

#### SCRIPTURE

Go back and read Ephesians 2:4-9 again today.  
Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

#### OBSERVATION

What in your life feels new? How are you different from the person you were 10 years ago?

Do you consider your relationship with God to be reconciled? Is there any strife or any rift between you and God that needs to be confessed or talked about with God?

#### APPLICATION

How can your conversation this day be conversation of building bridges and helping reconciliation happen instead of being a person of division and strife?

At the end of the day, evaluate your conversations and where God allowed you to help in reconciling people or confess where you failed Him in this area. Thank God for grace in each situation.

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 again at the end of the day.

## DAY 3

### SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 3: 18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,<sup>NIV</sup>

### OBSERVATION and APPLICATION

In the verse above, put a box around "Christ died for sins".

Take some time to think back on the sin in your life. This is not to be a time of beating yourself up over past mistakes, but a time to recount all that God has done for you through Christ.

If any sins come to mind that have not already been confessed to God, do so now.

Now go up and underline "once for all".

What sins seem to haunt your existence and is the first thing that comes to your mind whenever there is talk about sin. Take a moment to claim that the sin is totally dealt with and not a part of how God sees you today through Christ.

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 again today.

## DAY 4

### SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 1:18

<sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect<sup>NIV</sup>

### OBSERVATION

Circle "you know" in the verse above. Do you know? Do you know what Christ has done on your behalf? Think for a minute what it meant for Christ to redeem you by leaving heaven and coming to earth.

Consider the great price paid so we can receive Grace for free.

To get a quick reminder of the chaos that Jesus was born into watch the trailer of the Passion of the Christ (found here: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0335345>)

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 again today out loud if possible. Any new words grabbing your attention after a few days?

## DAY 5

### SCRIPTURE

Read Hebrews 11:1,6

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.<sup>NIV</sup>

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.<sup>NIV</sup>

### OBSERVATION

How does the above definition of faith fit for your life and understanding of what it means to be a person of faith? Certainty and surety are rare things in our world. How does your faith shape up against this definition.

If we are saved through faith (Eph 2:8) do you have biblical faith?

Faith itself is a gift given to us, take some time to thank God for your faith and to ask Him to increase your faith.

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 again today. Allow your prayer time to be shaped by the things that you have learned and seen this week about grace, being saved, and faith.