

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . .

"Grace is God acting in our lives to bring about what we do not deserve and cannot accomplish on our own." – Dallas Willard

What does it look like to grow in grace?

How do you respond to this thought? Grace isn't opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.

Respond to these thoughts and their connection with grace and peace:

"Humility requires trust. It is her core feature. Humility believes that I can trust God to teach, direct, and protect me. Humility also believes that God has provided others in my life to do the same. In this case, I am depending on God to tell me how the world looks and works, giving up my rights to notions I had before. I am 'leaning into his evaluation of reality, one I did not previously have or know. This is why we define humility as trusting God and others with me." (TrueFaced)

"The environment of grace provides me with truth, acceptance, healing, safety, perspective, freedom, and power that I did not before know; these realities are foundational to resolving my sin issues." (TrueFaced)

"Grace teaches us to trust that God can handle our sin, and only God. Our thoughts begin to run like this: *I can't handle my sin. I can't save myself. I can't change myself. Thank you, God, for already making me godly, so you could stand with me, ready to address my sin out there in front of us. Lord, thank you there is no pile of sin and junk between us. If there were, I wouldn't stand a chance of intimacy with you. I know I can't survive away from you. Once, I thought that this particular sin would fulfill and satisfy me. But, Father, as we look at it together, I am learning to trust your assessment of what will satisfy me. So, what do you want us to do about this sin? I am not going to try to manage it or throw it to the ground. I trust you for the next step.*" (TrueFaced)

"But grace is much more than a theological position. Equally and simultaneously, grace is an actual environment, a realm, a present-tense reality that weaves around and through every moment of even our worst day." (TrueFaced)

"Grace wonderfully reorients all our relationships. We no longer see one another with our sin between us. We no longer see one another through the grid of our shame, blame, and anger. We no longer feel we must compete with each other. We no longer come to our relationships feeling ashamed, condemned, and unacceptable. We no longer hide our real faces from each other. We begin to discover that our character is actually formed in relationships." (TrueFaced)

"God's final objective for us is not resolving sin or "getting well." God's ultimate goal is maturing us into who He says we are, and then releasing us into the dreams he designed for us before the world began. That's where all of this is going. That's what has awakened your hope. When we swim in the ocean of God's grace, we can't help but respond with playful abandon. We will grin, laugh and splash around. We will burst into song at inappropriate times, dance, play, serve, fall on our knees in worship, give our lives away, and embrace each other. We'll sin less. We'll love more. We are free. And we'll naturally think about others. We'll sacrifice to reach to the lonely, the lost, the helpless, the forgotten. Everything, everything seems fresh, vibrant—alive. We find ourselves pausing in the middle of a busy day, shaking our heads and whispering, "Go figure . . . me." (TrueFaced)

"Peace is seeking the well-being of others and of oneself."

How are trust and humility connected to the ideas of grace and peace?

What does it look like to live "the gospel of grace?"

How do you need to let God work His grace in you?

How will you offer grace and peace to those around you this week?