

GRACE

Great Good News!

January 2004

I am as the root and life of a tree. He who believes I have grafted him into Me as My branch by grace, My life (the sap of the tree) will rise up through him to produce the fruit of My life to truly nourish others; for without being grafted, or without believing you already are grafted, into Me, you can do nothing of eternal value.
(Gregg's paraphrase of Jesus' parable in John 15:5)

FRUIT THROUGH A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

I was invited to teach a GraceLife Conference to a circle of friends in Belton, SC. The light of the gospel shined through their countenances as we sat at the feet of Jesus and learned of Him!

Here are their testimonies. ⇨



I loved the conference! It was a time to sort of reproduce the many jumbled exciting thoughts and revelations in my head. I loved seeing fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and seeing their minds being renewed as well. Someone recently told me that grace is not doing what you want, it is doing what you couldn't do! This point is definitely the core of the resurrection life. Christ in you, the hope of glory! The gospel of grace has radically changed my life and like one of the girls said, "even wiping crumbs off the counter is different." Thank you, Gregg, for your time and acceptance; life is hopeful and freedom is so much fun.

Gregg, yes, I am so encouraged, too, by what God did in our little group. This grace-journey is so precious to me, too. I want to ask you to pray for a little study God in His amazing grace is allowing me to participate with Him as leader (at church). I feel like God is leading us and has just provided the teaching and the scripture and the words. There are 17 women and when I listen to them it seems like chains are falling off. I just am so jealous for the gospel.

The Lord has been ministering this message to me for years, however, through the blessing of the CLM conference, I was able to grasp it in a way that I could communicate. During the conference I needed to re-sort thoughts aloud to the body of Christ that was present there.

FRUIT THROUGH A LITTLE BOY

I am part of a team of volunteers who minister to 25 to 40 boys every Tuesday evening at the Boys Home of the South. We have chapel services, activities, and refreshments. One of the house-parents recently shared with us that "he surrendered his life to Jesus (in early January) and ended a 32-year struggle." This house-parent testified of the people and circumstances that God used to draw him over the years...and one circumstance was when he picked up and read one of the boy's Bibles after chapel one Tuesday evening last November. That was about the time we studied John 6:9 in chapel how Jesus used 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish from a little boy to feed over 5000 people. I can't help but to think of this little boy's Bible being a little loaf of bread that miraculously nourished this house-parent, and could ultimately nourish 5000 others through this house-parent in years to come. This house-parent has already enlisted other volunteers from a church to join us on Tuesdays!

FRUIT THROUGH JOY AND AN OLDER LADY

This past year, my wife Joy and I have been ministering by phone to an older lady who lives alone and is healing from past emotional pains. During one call this month, this precious lady noted, "Well, I know God won't put anymore on me than I can handle." I thought about how I have seen so much more put on Joy this past year than she could ever handle. The truth is that God will ALWAYS put more on us than we can handle, so that we will depend on Him. 1 Corinthians 10:14 does say, "God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...but HE (not us) will also make the way of escape." I could have told this lady that she was wrong and was not quoting the Bible correctly, and I then could have been so proud that I stood up for absolute truth in the Bible. Ugh! That would have crushed her. This lady didn't need to know that she was wrong, and she didn't need for me to deceive her into believing that she could figure out on her own what's right and wrong in the first place! That's the original lie. This lady needed re-assurance that God's love is planted deep within her in the indwelling Jesus Christ. So I shared with her that God loves her so much that He wants her to know that He will remain faithful to her to handle everything for her through His dear Son whom He gave to be her life. Seeing *principles* apart from the *Person* (of Christ) sets us up to be frustrated and then to fail.

January has been the most uncomfortable for Joy. The strong, long-term dose of IV antibiotics continues to drain what little energy she has and has spawned other side effects, including more leg pains. The *good news* is that her incision is nearly healed, her blood work indicates the infection is nearly gone, and the antibiotics (after nearly 2 years) will likely be stopped forever by the end of February. The *great good news* is that God has seen to it through the gift of His dear Son that she does not suffer alone and that the Son is producing unspeakable fruit through her.

On the back is an overview of the GraceLife Conference. I am excited to teach this overview for 30 minutes or 3 hours in churches, homes, businesses, one-on-one, etc

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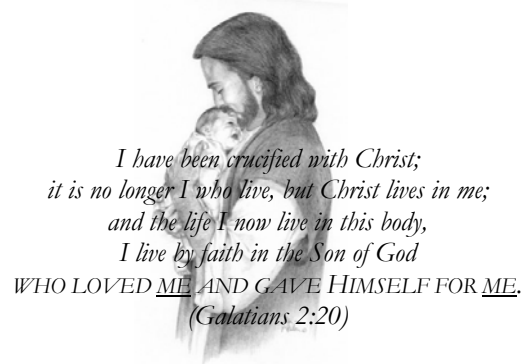
GraceLife Conference Overview

JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR YOU...

We all are born with God-given needs for love and acceptance, and to know we have a worthy purpose in life. What are “good” and bad ways people (including Christians) can seek to get these needs met apart from Jesus Christ?

True love, acceptance, and worth are only from Jesus, who gave His whole life for you.

In the following verse, replace the word ME with your first name (Jesus so yearns to be on a first-name basis with you):



...IN ORDER TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO YOU...

We all have ONE call from God...but not to preach, not to feed the hungry, not to be successful...not to DO anything.

*When it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb
AND CALLED ME THROUGH HIS GRACE TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME,
then that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.
(Galatians 1:15-16)*

God calls you for one glorious reason only: *to reveal the life of Jesus Christ (Holy Spirit) in you.*

...IN ORDER TO LIVE HIS LIFE THROUGH YOU!

The life of Christ in you reveals the real you, and then He actively ministers true hope through you to others!

Jesus is the glory of God through you in everything you do...this is God's greatest purpose for you.

Everyone who is called by My name, WHOM I HAVE CREATED FOR MY GLORY, I have formed him.

(Isaiah 43:7)

God has spoken to us by His Son...WHO BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY and the exact image of God's Person.

(Hebrews 1:2-3)

Even when life pressures come, Jesus is the fragrance squeezed from you...for Jesus is the true source of your life!

We were burdened beyond measure...

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ,

and THROUGH US DIFFUSES THE FRAGRANCE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY PLACE.

(2 Corinthians 1:8, 2:14)