

GRACE

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS



CHRIST'S ENABLEMENT

OCTOBER 2000

I continue to be amazed by seeing Christ revealed to and in people who receive the healing balm of His grace. This month I share some testimonies of God's grace. May we be encouraged and Christ honored.

God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (Galatians 6:14).

The love of Jesus – Galatians 2:20

I had a special time helping teach a GraceLife Conference this month. This Conference encourages discipleship based on walking in God's grace – on what Christ has already done for and in us through the cross, and is continuing to do in and through us now. A friend of mine says: "Discipleship is God allowing me to get close enough to see Him work in a person's life." I watched people experience God's grace and His unconditional love as they began to discover the reality of who they are in Christ. Here are just a few testimonies.

A woman wrote after the Conference: "The first night of the GraceLife Conference, I saw a meekness and humility I have seen only one other time since I was saved in 1978. I experienced that very special facet of Jesus' nature – His love – and it has begun my healing. I will never be the same."

The director of a ministry for troubled women was so touched by God during the Conference that she wants the Conference brought into the ministry home for all of the women. One of the women from the home attended the Conference with her. I will never forget her tears as she surrendered her life to Christ.

Another attendee knows all about giving unconditional love. She dearly loves her 13-year old daughter who has a genetic condition that has caused multiple physical handicaps and severe mental retardation. This mother is an acclaimed artist, insightfully using her daughter's drawings as a foundation. The mother appeared to melt when we taught that she herself was loved, too, by God's unconditional love, and that she was the apple of God's eye.

Jesus is precious – 1 Peter 2:7

A man who is a professional counselor attended a GraceLife Workshop, a follow-up to the Conference. The Workshop provides more hands-on training in communicating to others the freedom and love of knowing Christ as Life. At 3:30 in the morning following the Workshop, he wrote out a prayer. He wants this prayer to be a blessing to others. By his permission, and by God's grace, here it is for us.

"Since You began this work in my life yesterday, the following hymn has constantly been on my mind and in my heart: 'So precious is Jesus my Savior and King. His praise all the day long with rapture I sing. To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling, for He is so precious to me.' I haven't felt like I do now since the time You were telling me You had a special place of service for me. It's like I know You are working, but I am not really sure where it will all end. I want to be composed, but it's almost impossible to keep the tears back."

"You know, Lord, You have brought very special people into my life this week who love me. You have allowed me the privilege to really take the walls down. It is difficult to believe that I can be so active in the lives of so many people at work, at church, and in the family, and yet still feel so alone. My heart cries out for fellowship, both with You and with people I can really trust. I alone have built walls of flesh that have prevented the very thing I need from taking place. I truly repent and ask Your forgiveness and healing. Father, be my Rock and my Redeemer forever."

"Thank you, Lord, for grace, and for this moment with friends with whom I can be open and honest. Help me to keep those walls down, live by faith and walk in grace, for You are precious to me. Doug"

GRACE NOTE

Living in grace is being real, not fearing rejection from anyone, because you are already totally accepted by God in Christ Jesus the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6).