

# GRACE

Great Good News!

October 2003

Having been reconciled through the death of His Son,  
**MUCH MORE**, we shall be saved by His life (Romans 5:10)

At a GraceLife Conference I helped teach this month at Horse Shoe Baptist Church in North Carolina, a young man read this verse and loudly spoke out the words MUCH MORE for emphasis. Since then, I have listened closely to myself and others, and have been compelled to share the MUCH MORE of the gospel. The first column in the following table includes true statements I have heard. There is truth in these statements...but not the whole truth...and some people try over and over to “commit” themselves to this. Through this ministry, I am seeing many lives transformed into real hope and joy only as God leads people to “surrender” their hearts and minds to the MUCH MORE of the gospel truth in the second column. Notice how the first column is subtly self-centered and the second column is Christ-centered.

Some Gospel Truth	The <b>MUCH MORE</b> of the Gospel!	Key Scripture
I'm saved and am going to heaven later.	I am saved by Christ's life now!	<i>Having been reconciled through the death of His Son, much more, we shall be saved by His life (Romans 5:10).</i>
I have been given a mind and am expected to use it.	I have been given the wisdom of Christ!	<i>For who has known the mind of the Lord that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).</i>
I can have hope if I keep a focus on Scriptural truths.	Since I have Christ, He is my only true hope!	<i>The Lord Jesus Christ is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1).</i>
I can be equipped to witness to certain people.	I witness Christ's life to everyone I meet!	<i>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 2:14).</i>
I'm frustrated...I need more patience.	I have all of Christ indwelling me, so I already have all His patience!	<i>The fruit of the Spirit (the indwelling life of Christ) is love, joy, peace, patience (Galatians 5:22).</i>
I am hurting...I need more peace.	The indwelling Christ is my peace, and He leads me to know Him in my pain!	<i>For Christ Himself is our peace (Ephesians 2:14).</i>
God convicts (convinces) me of my sinful acts.	God convicts (convinces) me of my righteousness identity, the very righteousness of Christ given to me!	<i>Christ became for us righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30). The Spirit bears witness with (convinces) our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).</i>
Lord, I pray that You will bless me indeed.	Because I have been given the life of Christ, I am already fully blessed!	<i>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).</i>
I must be active in ministry.	The source of my activity is Christ Himself!	<i>Christ we preach (minister)...striving according to His working that works in me mightily (Colossians 1:28-29).</i>
I'm not qualified to minister because I am not trained.	Christ in me is the ministry! And He will lovingly train me to know Him!	<i>My (Jesus) grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).</i>
Christ's love for me motivates me to serve Him.	Christ love in and through me is my sole motivation to do anything!	<i>For the love of Christ compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14).</i>
I want my sick body to be healed.	I am completely healed by Christ in the deepest sense!	<i>By whose (Christ's) stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:24).</i>
GRACE means “God's Riches At Christ's Expense.”	Grace is not only receiving an undeserved gift, but includes the power to use the gift, the life of Christ Himself!	<i>By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (1 Corinthians 15:10).</i>

GRACE NOTE: The gospel is not about Jesus...the gospel IS Jesus! (see much more on back)

During a break at a GraceLife Conference in Simpsonville this month, a lady shared the following book excerpt with tears of love and joy in her eyes. She really ministered the MUCH MORE of the gospel to us...the love and joy of Christ through her...such a precious oneness with Him.

### THE DANCE OF GRACE

Steve McVey, *A Divine Invitation (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2002), 99-100.*

He entered the room, which was filled with noise and activity. There was music, laughter, and talking. His eyes scanned the room, searching for that one whose very face caused his breath to quicken and his heart rate to increase. He loved her, yet it was more than that. He *wanted* her. He wanted her to be his, and not just tonight, but forever.

Then he saw her. Across the crowded room, she stood – as if she had been unknowingly waiting for him all her life. She was beautiful. No, not beautiful – she was *stunning*. “God, I must have her!” ever fiber of his being resonated. “I want to spend my life with her. I want to love her and cherish her and hold her. I want to take care of her and spoil her.”

He walked across the room, never taking his eyes off her for even a moment. The room was filled with people, but his eyes were on her alone. As he approached her, his presence caught her attention and she looked upward into his penetrating eyes. This was the moment he had been waiting for, the time he had longed for as long as he could remember. Gently and lovingly he spoke: “Would you care to dance?”

The description I have given is a true story. The two did begin to dance that day and they have never stopped. He asked her to marry him and she said yes. His plan is to do exactly what he intended from the beginning – to share his life with her and to love her so much that she will never regret the day she met him.

Not only is the story true, but you actually know the people involved. The one He desired to have so much is *you*. The Person who wanted you so badly is Jesus Christ. One day He walked into the room of this world to find *you*. He was captivated by you and determined that He would make you His own. He knew in His heart that He *must* have you, that He couldn't live without you.

If you doubt my words about His love, read the following marriage proposal that He wrote you. These aren't my words, but His, copied here word for word exactly as He wrote them for you:

*How beautiful you are, My darling. How beautiful you are! There is no blemish in you! Arise, My darling, My beautiful one, and come along. You have made My heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes. How delightful you are, My love, with all your charms.*

This note to you is recorded in the Bible, in the Song of Solomon (1:15; 2:13; 4:1, 7, 9; 7:6). This book of the Bible is a love story about you and Jesus. Its words are sometimes so graphic, so intense, that throughout church history there have been those who have argued that it shouldn't even be in the Bible. But, your Divine Lover has made sure it is there. The Song of Solomon is a love poem written for you. Its eight stanzas call you beautiful no less than fifteen times!

There is no true healing and hope until a person unconditionally receives the MUCH MORE love of God. There are many people, including Christians, who do not experience this love...they stay so busy trying to get dressed up for the “dance” that they miss this gracious invitation! Discipleship is being God's ambassador to reveal to people that in Christ they have already been made beautiful and lovable in Jesus Christ (see Romans 6). And this miracle is available to anyone who simply receives God's MUCH MORE love as a precious gift of His grace, not because any of us deserve it.

*An attendee of the recent GraceLife Conference in Simpsonville is so excited about her MUCH MORE life in Christ that she has ministered the truths to her friends...and they have invited me to teach three 4-hour GraceLife Conference sessions in Belton, South Carolina in November!*

#### UPDATE ON JOY

Joy has run a low-grade fever most of October, which has made her feel so drained, and miserable with constant fever blisters and ulcers in her mouth. I could tell her tiredness was more than a loss of stamina, which is still true. The doctor did a blood culture to rule out the possibility of infection in her blood...what a relief for that test to come back negative. Then the doctor concluded that she has a “drug fever” from the long-term dose of oral antibiotics. I now believe that she has been experiencing some of this for months. So, Joy stopped taking the antibiotics on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and the doctor believes this will make her feel better. We continue to be MUCH MORE hopeful.