

# THE GIFT OF GRACE

## ThanksGifting – Part 2

### November 18, 2007

**Ephesians 1:5-7 (NCV)** *“Because of His love, God had already decided to make us His own children through Jesus Christ. That was **what He wanted** and **what pleased Him**,<sup>6</sup> and it brings praise to God because of His wonderful **grace**. God gave that grace to us freely, in Christ, the One He loves.<sup>7</sup> In Christ we are set free by the blood of His death, and so we have **forgiveness of sins**. How rich is God's **grace**.”*

**Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)** *“For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God**.”*

God didn't give us His grace just to get us going...

God gave us His grace to keep us \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)** *“But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

Growth is not how many things you are doing for God.  
Growth is how much you are becoming  
like God in character.

### Three Responses To God's Gift of Grace...

**Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)** *“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;<sup>23</sup> to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**;<sup>24</sup> and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

1. PUT OFF THE \_\_\_\_\_.

Responses that don't work...

- Doing \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 9:17 (NLT)** *“And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**. The **old skins would burst** from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. That way both the wine and the wineskins are preserved.”*

- Keeping \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 13:9b(NCV)** *“Your hearts should be strengthened by God’s grace, not by obeying rules...”*

- **Feeling** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:34 (TLB)** *“Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For He is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven.”*

## **2. PUT ON THE** \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

**It is a daily** \_\_\_\_\_ **to put off the old and put on the new.**

## **3. BE MADE NEW IN YOUR MIND**

**Romans 12:2a (NLT)** *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”*

**God wants to change the way you** \_\_\_\_\_ **so that you can see things the way that He sees them.**

### **2 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT GROWTH IN GRACE**

- **Why does growing in grace seem to take so long?**

**Growth is a process that points toward** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **How do you start to grow in grace?**

**Start by** \_\_\_\_\_ **in God’s ability to accomplish this!**

**Philippians 1:6 (NIV)** *“...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

**Philippians 2:13 (TLB)** *“For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants.”*