

GRACE: AN UNDESERVED GIFT

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

God’s grace is that which God does for His people as an unearned favor because He loves them. It is totally free and a gift from God that cannot be earned. It means getting the good that we do not deserve, i.e., eternal life instead of death.

Through the gift of grace, we enjoy His gift of salvation. God gave us Jesus, His only begotten Son so that we may have forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life through Him. And it is given to us who have faith in Him. *“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”* (Hebrews 11:1) Grace happens because of faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6b)

Every believer is a child of grace. Noah, by faith and in reverence, prepared an ark for the salvation of his household. When Abraham was tested by God, by faith, he offered up Isaac, his only son, even if God promised that in Isaac his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the seashore. By faith, too, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, passing through the Red Sea into the Promised Land. Mary became the first disciple when she willingly said YES that her womb be the Ark of the New Covenant, Jesus.

We are all recipients of this gift of grace undeservedly. Personally, I experienced the power and beauty of God’s grace intensely when my first born son passed away 7 years ago. I was in shock and disbelief when I saw my son lying lifeless in cold steel stretcher in the hospital. He was just trying to break a fight between two warring young adults. I did not know how to take it. My world crumbled. My grief and pain were excruciating I thought I would die. But God cradled me in His bosom. Through everyone’s prayers, I felt Jesus was carrying me all along, making me feel the gift of God’s presence.

The Gospel reading on the day my son left this world was the Beatitudes that said *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* (Matthew 5:9) I realized it was God’s way of saying my son was with Him, assured of a place in His Kingdom. Because of God’s grace I was able to accept my son’s leaving us at a young age of 27, burying him instead of him burying me later as his parent. I know that my family and I were able to move on with our life again **by God’s grace alone because He loves me**. It is not because of my works!