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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 4 | While You Were Creeping

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, that I have been declared righteous by faith and I have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you that I have access by faith into your amazing grace and I have been enabled to stand firm in the evil day. Help me to rejoice in my trials and tribulations, and I pray that through your sufficient grace, I will develop perseverance and a godly character that is honouring to you. I praise you, for my hope is based on nothing less than the person and work of Jesus Christ who cannot disappoint, because your gracious love has been poured into my heart in great measure through the indwelling Holy Spirit as a guarantee of your precious promises. Thank you, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: prayer.knowing-jesus.com

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Who is the first person (other than Jesus) that comes to mind when you hear the word, ENDURANCE? Why do you think of that person?

NOTES

WORD

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

[ROMANS 5:1-11](#)

In [Romans 5:1-11](#), Paul offers more encouragement by reminding the Romans that through Christ, we have already “gained access” to God’s “grace in which we stand” ([Rom. 5:2](#)). Grace signifies God’s life-giving power that raised Jesus from the dead. Grace continues to bring new and more abundant life into the world to and through Christ’s followers. By living Christ’s obedient life of faith and faithfulness in our own circumstances, we experience God’s life-giving grace that can bring us joy and peace at work, at home, and in every context of life.

Nevertheless, trusting the grace of God often calls for steadfast patience in the face of many challenges. Just as Christ suffered in the course of his obedience to God, we, too, may experience suffering when we embody Christ’s life of faith and faithfulness. Paul even says he “boasts” in his suffering ([Rom. 5:3](#)), knowing that his suffering is a participation in the suffering Jesus experienced in his mission to reconcile the world to God ([Rom. 8:17-18](#)). Moreover, suffering often brings growth ([Rom. 5:3-5](#)).

From [TheologyOfWork.Org](#)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = extremely low; 10 = extremely high), how would you rate your threshold for enduring through suffering? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. What does it mean when Paul writes, “Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand” (verse 2)? What might it mean for your life?
3. “...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (verse 8). Have you experienced this love in your life? Can you share an example of God’s love for you as a sinner whom Christ died for?
4. Have you reconciled to God? If not, would you like to? If so, how might you live to reconcile others to God and to one another?
5. Would you like to trust God with your life, receive his grace, follow him, and enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER