

Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. Philippians 2:12

We have a role to play in our walk of grace

and if we don't do our part, then we _____ on the work of grace in our lives

“Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us whereby our inner being is progressively changed, freeing us more and more from sinful traits and developing within us over time the virtues of Christlike character. However, though sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, it does involve our wholehearted response in obedience and the regular use of the spiritual disciplines that are instruments of sanctification.
“ Jerry Bridges

Spiritual disciplines are important to our growth and development in our relationship to God

but none of these is meant to earn favour with God, or to make Him _____.

We cannot serve God or pursue holiness with any vigor at all if we are dealing with a guilty conscience.

Therefore we need the gospel to remind us that our sins are forgiven in Christ, and that “the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin”

The work of grace in our lives is a _____, and we need to rest in the

process that God is working in us

But we also need to be _____ with Him

“Our part, that is, our response to the Holy Spirit’s work and our cooperation with Him in His work is the pursuit of holiness.... the pursuit of holiness, though requiring diligent effort on our part, is dependent upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.”

“Jesus came full of grace and truth”

He came to reveal God's grace to us

Before Jesus came to earth no one had any understanding of grace

The message of grace was revolutionary when Jesus introduced it to the world

And it is just as revolutionary in our world today

We have trouble with grace because it goes against _____.

The message that you can't _____, and no amount of performance good or bad can _____ it is hard for us to accept

We also struggle with grace because our society is based on _____

We are rewarded for good behaviour

Because it is ingrained in us to perform we try to _____ for God's approval

And our struggle to perform causes us to end up being one of three people

1. _____
Someone who is proud of his/her accomplishment, knows they are better than other people, and just knows God is pleased with them

2. _____
Someone who knows they aren't

Working in Grace

measuring up to God's standard and are to ashamed to look God in the eye

3. _____

The people who figure what's the use, and quit trying. Their never going to measure up anyway so why bother. Might as well enjoy life

And in all of our flurry of activity and struggle we _____ the message of grace

And our fight for approval causes us to render the grace of God _____ in our lives

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Galatians 2:21 NASB

If we try to work our way into God's approval then we render the work of grace useless

See the message of grace is

You can't _____ anything from God, and no amount of _____ good or bad can change God's _____ and approval of you

God's acceptance doesn't hinge on our performance

It is based entirely on the work of _____ at the cross

Grace is 'G_____ R_____ At C_____ E_____.'

The transforming power of God doing in you what you cannot do for yourself

"We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus" 2Corinthians 5:21

And we are _____, and we are accepted regardless of our actions simply through _____ in Jesus

This is a message we need to preach to ourselves each and every day

God's favour, acceptance and blessing hinges completely and totally on the work and sacrifice of Jesus and nothing else

We need to always remember that absolutely nothing we do can improve or deteriorate our standing with God

Because everything we have in God is only through Jesus and His sacrifice

"The grace that brings salvation to us also disciplines us. It does not do the one without the other. That is, God never saves people and leaves them alone to continue in their immaturity and sinful lifestyle." Jerry Bridges

The message of grace is two fold

"_____ " or just as if you never sinned

Because of Jesus' work on the cross and His paying our penalty, God is able to declare us as

_____ The second work of Grace in our lives is the work of sanctification

Sanctification is the process of us _____

There are many Christians today who have a view that God is going to do everything in their lives.

Christlike behaviour is just going to magically happen

Their thought lives and attitudes will simply change overnight

And everything will be bliss and happiness

There is _____ and _____ that we need to invest ourselves in if the process of becoming like Christ is to happen

It is God who is at work in us

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13

And He is the one who is perfecting us, and making us to be like Christ

And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again. Philippians 1:6

But we have a role in our development.