

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 12th

Daily Devotional #12

We Are in the Season of Cleansing

*Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
The sacrifices of GOD are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O GOD, You will not despise.
Psalm 51:2, 3, 6 & 17 (NIV)*

There is something about “amazing grace” I think we have, generally speaking, lost. It is sad, really, for in this that was lost, grace truly becomes amazing.

What is it that we have lost?

We have lost how lost without GOD we truly are.

In truth, we do not see ourselves as all that bad. We are certainly not evil. We are, for the most part, pretty good folks. We give a little here and there to the needy. We care, sometimes very deeply, for a project or cause. We are, when it is all weighed out, more good than bad. So, we see ourselves as, overall, pretty good. That makes grace, overall, pretty easy.

However, as you consider the Scripture above, and think of many other places in Scripture where Israel, or Judah, or major characters (including, but not limited to: David, Abraham, Moses, Paul, Peter, and many, many more) fall far short of the holiness, purity, and perfection of GOD, you might begin considering the imperfection of you... of me...

The real Truth is: only GOD is truly holy, truly pure, and truly perfect. We, every one of us – even the very best of us – is very, very far away.

But that is what is so amazing about grace.

GOD, the perfect, the pure, the holy GOD of All, chooses to love us, to cleanse us, and to glorify us.

He puts us on the path, and walks with us on that path, and trains us along that path... and that path moves us toward, and is headed toward true righteousness, holiness, and perfection. Yessir, and Yes'm, GOD ushers us, walks with us, works with us to **transform us into who we are through and in HIS salvation: *Children of the Perfect, Holy, Righteous KING!*** (Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 2:15; 1 John 3:1)

Perhaps that is why we are not to judge (Matthew 7:1), for we have no right to judge (after all, without amazing grace, we would be judged).

Perhaps that is why we are to be grateful, that amazing grace has forgiven us, inspired us, and glorified us.

Perhaps that is why we are to love all others, that GOD's amazing grace is available to all and HIS love pursues all (John 3:16)... and if I relish in the value I have before GOD, that HE would pay a King's ransom for me, then I should value all other for whom GOD paid that ransom.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

OK, I admit it. I am a wretch.

But the Good News is, GOD knows that (better than anyone – even me), and chooses to love me, save me, and help me become who HE chooses to see me and value me as... HIS deeply loved child.

And that preceding paragraph applies to you, too. And to everyone who calls on HIS Name and dwells in HIS amazing grace.

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!*

And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 (NIV84)

