

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

The Grace of God

2 Samuel 9:1–13



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Some Bible words have been handled and mishandled for so long they've become shopworn and of very little interest to anyone. Not so with the word *grace*; it still retains its luster and mystery. Perhaps this is because grace, unlike so many other biblical ideas, is never earned or rewarded. Grace is only given as a free gift, a gift given to all who are undeserving and disabled—and that includes all of us.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. Grace Defined

Grace is free, sovereign favor to the ill-deserving; it is not God helping those who help themselves.

### 2. Grace Proclaimed (Selected Scriptures)

The proclamation of God's grace was given by the apostle John, regarding Jesus (John 1:14–17), and by the apostle Paul, regarding salvation (Ephesians 2:8–9).



## Quotable

*God doesn't fold  
His arms and  
frown, waiting  
for us to meet Him  
halfway. Instead,  
He demonstrates  
grace.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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### *2 Samuel 9:1–13*

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#### 3. Grace Illustrated (2 Samuel 9:1–13)

David's question about Saul's house was prompted by grace (2 Samuel 9:1–4), and David's actions toward Mephibosheth personified grace (9:5–13).

- David, out of sheer grace, extended his love to a nobody, just as God, in sheer grace, extended it to you and me.
- Just as David sought and found this undeserving man, so God sought and found us.
- As David restored this man to a place of honor, God has done that for us.
- As David adopted Mephibosheth from a place of emptiness, so God has adopted us into His forever family.
- Just as Mephibosheth's disability was a constant reminder of the king's grace, so our disabilities remind us of the same.
- There was no rank at David's family table.



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### DIGGING DEEPER

#### *Grace Is Life*

God's nature exudes grace. We can rely upon that truth because we can see that God's deeds exude grace, both in our lives and in Scripture. From start to finish, God's Word reveals His grace to those with eyes to see and ears to hear. Even from the first chapter of the Bible, we see that God displayed His grace in His creation of the world, in its plants and animals and, ultimately, in humanity. God's gift of creation, undeserved and underappreciated by humanity, associates His grace with the gift of life. This, too, seems to be the emphasis of the first explicit mention of grace in the Bible: when Noah found grace—often translated “favor”—in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8). This mention of grace comes just after God declared His intention to “blot out” humanity (6:7), making the gift of grace a gift of life to Noah and his family. Likewise, just as God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, delivered His people from oppressors during the time of the judges, and provided Jonah a fish in the midst of his rebellion, we see in the Old Testament that God's grace regularly provided people with the chance at life—undeterred by bonds within and without.

The New Testament continues this theme. Jesus, whom John described as “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14), came so that we might “have life, and have it abundantly” (10:10). The apostle Paul echoed a similar sentiment in Romans: “Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17). As Paul indicated, grace has both present and future implications. Just as God's grace has impacted people throughout history, God, through His grace, will continue to bring life into the future—when Christ returns, God's people will enter into an eternal life with Him.

Over and over again, the Bible teaches us that grace leads to life—not just some disembodied existence. Indeed, we see fulfilled in grace the promise of life as it was meant to be lived—a life free from bondage to sin, a life free to serve God and others.



### LET'S LIVE IT

All of us are disabled in one way or another, which is why we need grace. But some of us have disabilities that are more obvious to the world, and we long to be accepted. The tragic truth is that even the family of God is not as accepting or gracious as it should be to people with disabilities. Yet the grace of God teaches this overriding truth: there *because* of the grace of God go I.

Thinking about those who are disabled, how can you be a “David” to at least one person this week?



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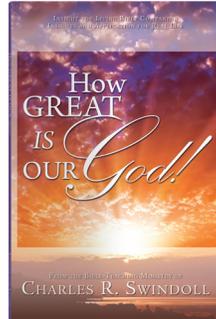
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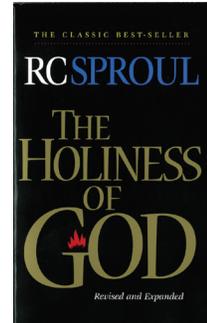
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