



TRACK ONE

ARMOR OF LIGHT PRAYER WALK: STOP#1 THE GRACE ROOM*

As you start this prayer journey, please remember that we are using "The Prayer Cottage & The Sacred Garden", a story by Rocky Fleming, simply as a tool to symbolize how powerful prayer can be as God speaks to you through His Word and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Allow your mind to follow the imagery from the story as you imagine entering the prayer cottage and the sacred garden. The story is just a tool to teach how powerful prayer can be. These concepts are backed up with Scripture and discussed more in-depth in **Track Two (on the back).*

Welcome to the Prayer Cottage where you are invited to imagine what it is like to come inside and sit in the **Grace Room**. Inside this special room of grace, *everyone* is welcome.

So, come on in out of the cold darkness and relax in a cozy chair by the crackling fire. Imagine many frames hung on the wall; they remind you of all the people, warm memories, & abundant blessings in your life. Can you see them? What is it in those frames that you are thankful for? Spend this time preparing yourself as you enter into prayer and count your blessings with a heart of gratitude.

TRACK TWO

ARMOR OF LIGHT PRAYER WALK: STOP #1 THE GRACE ROOM

What is grace? Grace is compassion and forgiveness even though we do not deserve it.

You probably already know that God extends grace to all of us, but do you know why? It is because He **desires an intimate relationship with us**.

To have a close relationship with God, you must understand the way God loves you. Through His love you are given a foundation of grace. If you understand what a foundation is, then you know that God's grace is fixed, it is permanent—it's absolutely immovable. Your relationship began and will be completed by God's grace to you in Jesus Christ. Grace is not only a very important concept but the very nature of God Himself. Your life with God and for God is built on this characteristic of God—His grace—His unconditional love for you.

There are three aspects to begin understanding God's grace. The first is that you are **justified** by grace, and grace alone. Meaning you receive grace not because of your good works, your church affiliation, or your moral character, but rather, your justification through acceptance and faith in Jesus which is God's ultimate, unconditional act of love (His grace). From your saving faith in Jesus, God looks at you just as if He looks as His Son...blameless.

The second is that you are **sanctified** by grace. This means through every minute of our life God walks with us in grace to help us to become the man or woman that He wants to form. He is the Potter; you are the clay. He will constantly be molding you into His image. Through His grace, God's love stands steady beside you to forgive you and empower you to change and become more like Him. God's grace is sufficient for anything you will face. (2 Cor. 12:9)

And the third is that you are **glorified** by grace when you go to heaven. **You cannot enter by any other means except by the grace that was given to you through Jesus Christ.**

When you understand this perspective, you can begin to recognize the depth of God's unconditional love, which is His grace. He extends grace to us unconditionally and we receive it by faith in Him. There is nothing you have done or can do to deserve God's forgiveness of your sins, or to earn a place in God's family. You do **not** have to work to *get* or *keep* God's grace.

In order to attain a close, enduring relationship with God, you must address God with a grateful heart. During prayer, when you commune with God, your heart must be engaged, and you must convey thankfulness for the forgiveness God extends to you through His grace. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Continue on the prayer walk to the next room we must visit on this journey toward an intimate relationship with God.