



Grace in a “Get What You Deserve World” (Part 2) | Shawn Johnson | 8.21.22

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to week 3 of our series, Right Side Up! Last week we learned that the grace that is freely given to all of us is the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor and kindness from God. This week Shawn did part 2 of his talk “Grace, in a Get What You Deserve World,” and he taught us the big difference of knowing about grace in theory vs. experiencing it. In this series we will continue to look at God’s kingdom and as it is said by many that Jesus came to build the upside-down kingdom, but we disagree. What we read throughout Scripture is that we are upside down and Jesus came to set things right side up.

Before we jump into the study, take some time to check in with your group and ask the following questions:

What are you excited about in this next season?

How have you experienced God’s grace lately?

GROW

Read 1 Peter 2: 9-10 (msg); 2 Corinthians 5:15-17,21

The stronghold of shame started at the very beginning in the garden when Adam and Eve experienced the feeling of being disconnected from their perfect union with their Father God the moment they sinned. In Genesis 3:7, it says that “the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked Adam and Eve became aware of their vulnerability and humanity apart from God; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Just as with Adam and Eve, when we sin our tendency is to hide in shame while the enemy loves to try to keep us right there, away from our Father, the one who tells us who we are.

Where do you see the enemy trying to keep you from the perfect union with your heavenly Father? Do you see a pattern?

The scripture we just read in 1 Peter is a declaration of who we are in Christ. We are God’s chosen people, not rejected but accepted no matter what, no question. We are clothed with new garments of righteousness (Zech. 3:1-4), God’s royal sons and daughters in whom he gave his only son to make the way back home to him. The problem is our unbelief. As Shawn mentioned this week, we can know grace in theory but are we believing this through the experience of God’s scandalous grace? Christ’s grace brings us home and shame keeps us far from it.

Do you wholeheartedly see yourself as clothed in a robe of the righteousness of Christ? Or do you still define yourself by your weak moments or the shame from your past?

M O V E

Remember that we receive grace not because we deserve it but because God’s word says it’s ours through his son Jesus Christ. And because of this grace we don’t have to remain hidden from him. If we sit long enough and begin conversations with God, it will begin this beautiful process of him revealing an area of shame-based thinking that robs us from understanding and believing at a deep level our identity in Christ. He gently reveals this to us because it is part of him beckoning us back home. Deep-rooted lies and core beliefs about our identity can keep us stuck in our shame, keeping us from returning home to our Father just as it did the

prodigal son. Until we begin believing that God is who he says he is, and his love is more vast than our human minds can begin to comprehend the great chasm between us and God will remain.

Read Ephesians 3:16-19

As we surrender and grow in faith based on our belief of God's unfailing love we will truly comprehend and receive the depth of God's love. We can then fulfill his purpose of loving and obeying Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength as well as genuinely loving others as ourselves. Paul shares this Ephesians about the dynamic of God strengthening our faith. This increases our capacity for surrendering to God's love and then being filled with more of him leaving no room for the enemy to keep us chained in shame. Shawn reminded us that God is not with his arms crossed and disappointed but more like on pins and needles waiting to have us home.

Do you envision God as one with his arms crossed or arms wide open for your return back to him? Share.

Do you find it difficult to rest in God's love? Do you find that it is circumstantial, sometimes easier to run to his arms than others?

Truth is that, in the world we will experience sorrow and suffering, but our heavenly Father is always there to use everything for our good when we surrender our lives to Him. He promises to never leave us, and he is waiting for our return home. He sings over you son, he sings over you daughter and as Shawn reminded all of us of this week, "God is proud of you!" May this change the view of your heavenly Father today and all the days to come.

What past experiences have shaped the way you view God as your Father?

Spend time in prayer, reading the bible, and covering yourself in the blanket of God's love this week. Shawn shared several verses, and we encourage you to write them out and post them everywhere you turn as a gentle reminder of WHO you are and WHOSE you are this week. You are a seen, valued and a deeply loved child of God and he cannot take his eyes off you.

P R A Y

Pray for each other. If you're in a co-ed group, it may be easier to break up into groups to more freely share.