



Our Stunning God is Gracious

Oops! “God helps those who help themselves.”

Rather: “God helps those who admit helplessness.”

Question: Where do you stand on the scale of “Ability versus Helplessness?”

Human effort—the stubborn belief in personal merit and ability:

...is impressive in physical accomplishments. Genesis 11:5, 6

...is bankrupt in spiritual accomplishments. Romans 3:9-20, 23

God’s grace—the pure gift of forgiveness and help despite spiritual bankruptcy:

...is sufficient for eternal forgiveness. Eph 2:8, 9

...teaches us to say “No!” to ungodliness. Titus 2:11-14

...is sufficient for thriving in a very hard world. 2 Peter 1:3

...enables us to accomplish our personal, pre-ordained, good deeds. Eph 2:10

...demands that we give grace to others. Matthew 18:21-35

Core Truth: Our stunning God is gracious...so we have temporal and eternal help.

“The 300 Second Challenge”: For 300 seconds every day will you commit to pursue God through reflection and prayer around this question:

“Father what are You saying to me and where are You leading me?”

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

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The idea is to *know* God and to *draw near* to God and to *experience* God and *submit* to *personal transformation*.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas. A spiritual journal would be an excellent way to record your thoughts and prayers:

- **Today.** Please read Genesis 11:1-6 and Romans 3:9-20, 23. What are the messages about the ability of man in these two passages? What are the messages about you in these two passages?
- **Monday.** Please read Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Genesis 15:6. How do the truths of these two passages relate to each other? What do they say for you personally?
- **Tuesday.** Please read Titus 2:11-14. What are the several actions which the grace of God teaches us? How are we “taught by the grace of God?” Is there a key application sticking out to you from this passage?
- **Wednesday.** Please read 2 Peter 1:3. Does it feel to you like you “have all that you need for life and godliness?” What is stirred up in your heart by this verse and this question? Is there a prayer focus that all this leads you to?
- **Thursday.** Please read Ephesians 2:10. The message here is that God has pre-decided on some good works for us to do. This demands attentiveness and sensitivity on our part. Can you name one to five “God ordained good works” that He has put in your path recently?
- **Friday.** Please read Matt 18:21-35. Do you need to forgive someone fully—to set down a grudge or abandon bitterness toward someone?
- **Saturday.** Please read Matt 18:21-35. Do you need to request grace from someone?

*“When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You,
“Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.” Psalm 27:8*

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.