

# *new* GRACE

Grace (n) *unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification.*

*“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.” (Luke 22:42 )*

**Jesus knew what lay** before Him. He knew the pain He was going to experience not just physically, but also mentally and emotionally. Jesus was not the first person to experience the cross, it was a common practice the Romans used to exact judgement. So, He knew what He was about to endure. In a moment of His humanity, He prayed and asked God for another way. However, the cross was God’s plan in our salvation story. God did not coldly tell Jesus to “get up, shake it off, do what I sent you there for,” God sent an angel to strengthen Jesus, to give Him the grace He needed for what lie ahead.

Sometimes we will face trials and experience pain, we will ask God to deliver us from it (which isn’t wrong, Jesus did). However, sometimes God’s will is for us to go through it, because going through it brings purification, revelation and perseverance. If we are delivered from it, we will not see the fullness of the miracle God has in store on the other side. When God calls us to walk through the trial, He will give us the grace to do so. That does not mean it becomes easy, it doesn’t mean we won’t cry or be frustrated or have questions. It means He won’t leave us to fend for ourselves, it means He will give us the strength we need to endure, it means He has an outcome in store that is for our good and for His glory.

God doesn’t ask us to do things Jesus didn’t also do, we aren’t asked to endure pain Jesus didn’t also endure. Jesus was betrayed, abandoned, mocked, misunderstood, he experienced the loss of someone He loved, he walked with the hurting, He was isolated and eventually sentenced to death for a crime he never committed. What we can learn

from Jesus is that God's grace was ever present, helping him every step of the way.

What can help in seasons of trial and pain is knowing we don't walk through it alone, He walks with us and sometimes when we don't feel like we can put another foot in front of us, He surrounds us with people who will encourage us, pray for us and stand by our side, that is why being planted in the church is important. May we call on a new grace, that will sustain us, strengthen us, help us, purify us and transform us. May this new grace lead us to the outcome that brings all the glory to God.

## ***PRAYER***

FATHER, I ASK THAT YOU WOULD GIVE ME A NEW LEVEL OF GRACE THIS YEAR. WHEN I AM IN A POSITION THAT SEEMS TOO HARD FOR ME TO FACE, WOULD YOU GIVE ME THE GRACE TO NOT QUIT. WOULD YOU HELP ME TO SEE THAT YOU ARE IN CONTROL, YOU MAKE WAYS IN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS AND THAT YOU WOULD GET THE GLORY. NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR YOU AND IF THE SAME SPIRIT THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD LIVES ON THE INSIDE OF ME, IT'S NOT TOO HARD FOR ME EITHER. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.