

## GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU



Grace and peace to you my sisters!

Hebrews 4:16 talks about approaching God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Ephesians 2:8 Tells us that by grace only do we have salvation through faith. In 2nd Timothy 2:1 we are told to be strengthened by the Grace that is in

Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 1:7-8, we read in Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished on us...

Grace is simply getting something you don't deserve. From the verses above - we know grace helps us in times of need, we are saved by it, strengthened with it and it has unending supply.

God stewards grace out lavishly, He pours it on us. To lavish is to give extravagantly – without measure. The riches of God's grace are a treasure that has no bottom, nor any boundary. His grace will not run out on you. There is no end to HIS grace. Just when we think we have used it up - James 4:6 says He gives us more.

Can I just admit that I haven't always lavished grace quite like God does. There are times in my past when I have held on to grace like money. Saving it for the right time, negotiating when I use it, and budgeting it based on who I believe deserves it. I haven't allowed those who hurt me to find grace when they needed it. The contrast of God's grace and mine was night and day.

I was had received grace for free and was charging others for it! When I realized it, I asked God to search my heart and show me areas where I had been frugal with grace. He did it for me and He will do it for you!

Because of God's grace I am graceful. I pray God grace and peace be yours.

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*Karen Bigger has been a member of OCBF for 1 1/2 years. She serves with the youth as a volunteer with Junior High., has over a decade of experience in management, marketing, and consulting organization. In 2009, Karen received a life changing opportunity that altered everything. Her perspective and blueprint to living "as if" even in the midst of "what if" is a message of hope and a challenge for us all to live on purpose.*