

Called to Grace

Scripture Reading — 1 Peter 5:12-14

I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

1 Peter 5:12 —

John Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace" is a favorite of many people. We all hunger for the grace that "saved a wretch like me," assures us of safety "through many dangers, toils, and snares," and builds our confidence that grace "will lead [us] home."

Today's text invites us to "stand fast" in the "true grace of God." Only you can decide whether God's grace is merely a favorite song or a conviction of the heart in which you will courageously stand.

Is there any other gospel that declares that I am God's precious child born by grace? Is there any other religion that clothes me in holiness as a gift of divine love? Is there any other faith that allows me to live confidently and without fear of the future? The answer is a resounding no.

I don't want a gospel that says, "Earn salvation for yourself." I don't want a religion in which obedience is motivated by fear to appease some "wrath of the gods." I don't want a faith that's uncertain about the future.

I want true grace—the unmerited favor of him who calls me out of darkness, who clothes me in holiness, who gives me confidence that his kingdom will never end. And I receive that grace with confidence, for I know that God gives it as his gift! I hope you know it too!

Prayer

Dear Lord, as your child I love you; as your holy child I obey you; and as your living child I give testimony to your grace and glory by living your call. In Jesus, Amen.

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