



# Seeking Him

September 2024

## Grace

The world just witnessed the summer Olympics, where athletes had a brief moment to impress the judges with their skill, dedication, and sacrifice. They worked to earn favor with the judges, to show they deserved a spot on the podium. At great cost to themselves they strove to prove they were worthy of a reward. Some won medals, but many left empty-handed.

What an opposite reality with our God! Not only do we come to Him empty-handed, with no fancy skills or extraordinary abilities to impress Him, but He isn't looking to be impressed. God isn't sitting behind a judge's bench rating our performance.

Yes, God is a judge. He is the ultimate, eternal judge. But if we have put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, then God judges us based on the work accomplished on the cross by Jesus, and He credits that work to us. He declares we have been made righteous, not because of our work, but because of Christ's (Eph. 2:8-9). It's God's grace, an undeserved gift purchased by Christ for us.

What if Simone Biles offered to give you or me one of her gold medals? I would say there's no way I deserve it. I didn't earn it. In a much deeper and more profound way, that's like Jesus' offer to us. He paid the price,

made the sacrifice, and stands victorious over death. And He offers us the reward of forgiveness and salvation. We don't deserve it. We didn't earn it. But we need it.

John Piper explains that grace is "both the inclination of the divine heart to treat us better than we deserve, and is the extension of that inclination in practical help."

Not only does God offer us the undeserved gift of saving grace, but through His grace He gives us powerful, practical help in our daily lives. We are invited to approach God's throne of grace, where He offers "grace to help in times of need" (Heb. 4:16). When we are all too aware of our weakness, God's grace is enough for us to withstand hardships with contentedness and humility (2 Cor. 12:8-10). Like giving daily manna as sustenance to the hungry Israelites, God daily feeds us more of His grace, reviving our hearts and enabling us to live humble, honest, repentant lives.

In contrast to Olympic athletes who strive to impress the judges and the world, we are reminded by Oswald Chambers that "We are not meant to be seen as God's perfect, bright-shining examples, but to be seen as the everyday essence of ordinary life exhibiting the miracle of His grace."

We often tumble through life like a gymnast falling off a balance beam, losing our stability and direction. God in His grace picks us up and fills our hands with more of His grace, enabling us to continue to press on in living a godly life. Our life is meant to transparently display His greatness, not ours, to display His grace, and our need for it.

~ Heidi Rutta

"The more you understand the magnitude of God's grace, the more accurate will be your view of the depth of your unrighteousness; and the more you understand the depth of your unrighteousness, the more you will appreciate the magnitude of God's gift of grace."

~ Paul David Tripp

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 4:16**

## Personalize & Pray These Scriptures

Romans 5:20

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Ephesians 2:1, 4-9

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## Christmas Marketplace

November 15: 5pm to 8pm  
November 16: 8am to 2pm  
(in the multi-purpose room)

Get a start on your Christmas shopping with unique, handcrafted items!

Bring a friend and linger over a bite to eat in our café.

The first 50 shoppers on Friday and the first 100 on Saturday will receive a reusable tote bag, and all attendees are eligible for door prizes!

## A Prayer & Heart Response for September

Oh, Lord, I am a wretched sinner. Apart from You I am helpless and without hope. But You, God. You poured out your unmerited favor and grace on me. I didn't earn it or deserve it. But You gave of Yourself, freely, sacrificially, & abundantly. Thank You not only for Your grace in saving me, but for giving me the grace needed to walk faithfully day after day. Your grace is sufficient for every sin, every challenge, every trial I face.

## Women's Bible Studies & Prayer

The **Wednesday morning Women's Bible study** reconvenes at 9:30am on September 11 in the Harbor.

The **Precepts Bible Study** meets on Tuesday evenings beginning September 10 at 6:30pm or Wednesday mornings beginning September 11 at 9:30am, both at eFree.

The **Women's Prayer Fellowship** will reconvene on Wednesday, September 4 at 10:45am in the Fireside Room.

**"By Faith"** runs September 4 through October 9 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Books are available in the church office for \$10 each.

For questions about any of these opportunities, visit the church website or contact the church office.



Momville, a Christ-centered community for moms of littles, returns this month! Meeting in the Commons at 9:30am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, this group of moms fosters community, provides rest and encouragement, and connects the hope-filled message of the gospel to everyday moments.

## Glenna Marshall



Women's Ministries is hosting a one-day women's conference with Glenna Marshall on Saturday, October 5. In addition to being a pastor's wife and mom of two sons, Glenna is an author and speaker who loves to speak about everyday faithfulness and scripture memorization. Tickets are \$40. Glenna will speak three times:

- Session 1:** What is Faithfulness?
- Session 2:** How Bible Study Upholds Our Faithfulness
- Session 3:** Faithfulness In Every Season

In addition to the three sessions with Glenna, a continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

Come worship with us and be equipped and edified to persevere and remain faithful in every season.

Visit [glennamarshall.com](http://glennamarshall.com) to get acquainted with Glenna and to be encouraged through her writing!

## Arise Café

Saturday, September 7  
8am in the Commons

Join us as we come back together after a long summer and seek to invest in one another and build community. Together we will worship, hear testimonies from Theresa Amundson and Jamie Faul, and enjoy sweet fellowship. Bring a dish to share and a friend! No sign-up required.

*"Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to God's Word as our authority, we're passionate about creating a culture in which Titus 2 relationships (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ."*