

## **SAVED BY GRACE - John Kirkpatrick**

What is your identity? Who do you think you are?

### **1. There are two types of identity**

Personal - We are human beings  
Spiritual - We are children of God.

Romans 6.5 How does this verse tell us that we are God's children?  
He lives in us, - he is in us and we are in Christ. We are together with him, he is part of our identity.

Satan will try to erode our identity, to cause us to lose faith, confidence in prayer, and neglect worship. Some who once walked with God, have now lost their identity. Do you know of people in this situation? Are they forever lost? We may forget our identity, but does God ever forget or abandon us?

### **2. Saved by grace - Ephesians 2.8**

What is grace?

It is what God gives us, that we don't deserve, and cannot earn. So how do we receive this undeserved favour?

### **3. "Saved" - from what? Ephesians 2.1**

a. What kinds of physical dangers do we face in this world that we need to be saved from? E.g. drowning, accidents of all kinds, diseases....

What dangers have you been saved from physically?

Once we were dead in sins, unresponsive, no spiritual life at all.

b. Sin - is missing the mark. What is God's standard?

Ephesians 2.2 . Who was influencing us, and in what ways?

Have you ever disobeyed anyone? Cheated? Lied? Deceived?(we don't need the details!).....

We were influenced by the spirit of this world, not knowing we were in bondage.

c. Ephesians 2.3. Many refuse to leave that bondage behind and turn to God. There is judgment for such people. But we are saved from that judgment when we turn to him, we are saved from what we deserved. Isn't that amazing? Are we thankful?

### **4. Grace - What about our part?**

Is this too easy? Is it real? Something so easy can't be true, can it?

What do we have to do to receive it?

Can we add anything to it? Does it require faith plus anything - such as baptism or good works? Does God's grace need anything we can add?

No, Jesus has done everything necessary for our salvation. John 19.30 – what did Jesus say? Hebrews 1.3. What more did Jesus have to do to complete the work?

Nothing – it was all done, He sat down at God’s right hand, his work completed. We can’t add to what is perfect, we are saved by grace, not by our efforts. Ephesians 2.8 tells us this.

So have we anything to boast about? Certainly not about our efforts or our good deeds, but we can boast as Paul did, about our wonderful Saviour and what he has done for us.

### **5.How abundant is God’s grace?**

The song Amazing Grace tells the story.

His grace reaches into our **past** \_ It is there in all that has passed for us.  
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Grace also reaches us in the **present**: it’s ongoing, continuing each moment

Through many danger, toils and snares I have already come,  
‘Tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

And grace reaches also into the **future**: this grace continues forever, and we can know it and live in it, and trust him to provide forever.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.  
Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease  
I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.  
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine,  
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.

How good is that?

### **6.Accepting God’s grace**

First we need to recognise it. It’s his gift, we can’t earn it. We need to know that without God we have no hope, no life.

Then we have to receive it – by faith – and live in his grace. Exercising this faith is necessary every day. We live by faith. What does this mean?  
We believe that what God says is true – we acknowledge his grace throughout the day, His grace is there for us, but we must receive it moment by moment.  
How easy is that when life is so busy?

How real to you is God’s grace? How has he shown his grace to you today?

