



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Worship Music

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for being so self consumed that I have neglected to see the needs in people around me. I am sorry I've been so selfish that I haven't even recognized the times I could have been a blessing and an encouragement. I repent and I make the decision to reach out to those who are around me. Just as others have strengthened me, I want to be a source of strength to those around me. Jesus, lead me to whom to speak each day, and the Word to say to them, and fill me with whom to pray for and whom to bless and how to bless them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

[Where Would We Be-
Matt Redman](#)

[Bless The Lord Oh My
Soul-Matt Redman](#)

[Jesus Paid It All-
Matt Redman](#)

[Nothing But The Blood-
Matt Redman](#)

Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

["I Met God In The Morning"](#)

["Father's Love Letter"](#)

["Rip Tide, The Next Wave Could Be The Last" Calvary Chapel](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

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Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith
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[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-
Cathe Laurie](#)

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

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Deuteronomy 8:1-20 (AMP)

1 ALL THE commandments which I command you this day you shall be watchful to do, that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers.

2 And you shall [earnestly] remember all the way which the Lord your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and to prove you, to know what was in your [mind and] heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you recognize and personally know that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

4 Your clothing did not become old upon you nor did your feet swell these forty years.

5 Know also in your [minds and] hearts that, as a man disciplines and instructs his son, so the Lord your God disciplines and instructs you.

6 So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and [reverently] fear Him.

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;

8 A land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey;

9 A land in which you shall eat food without shortage and lack nothing in it; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for all the good land which He has given you.

11 Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His precepts, and His statutes which I command you today,

12 Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them,

13 And when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all you have is multiplied,

14 Then your [minds and] hearts be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage,

15 Who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, but Who brought you forth water out of the flinty rock,

16 Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

17 And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.

18 But you shall [earnestly] remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

19 And if you forget the Lord your God and walk after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

20 Like the nations which the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 8. Wonders of the Wilderness Recalled

For 40 years God had humbled and tested them—and fed them with manna, while their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell (v. 4)—that they might learn to trust God and live by His Word (vv. 2–5).

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 177)

Chapter 8

And all the commandments which I command thee this day you shall observe to do, that you may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land. And thou shalt remember all the way the LORD thy God led thee for these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, to prove thee, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not (Deu 8:1-2).

Now, who was the proving for? "All the way through these forty years of wilderness God led thee to humble thee and to prove thee, to see whether or not you keep the commandments." Not to prove to God; He knew from the beginning, but to prove to themselves. Now many times God puts us through tests not to prove to Him anything about us; He already knows about us, but it is to prove to us. Sometimes we think that we are stronger than we really are. God puts us through a test to show us how weak we are and how we've got to depend upon Him. We can't depend or rely upon ourselves; we've got to rely upon the Lord.

And God will oftentimes just put us through tests to prove us, to show to us our areas of weakness that we would not have confidence in our flesh but that our confidence would be in the living God. So God's purpose was to humble them and to prove to them whether or not they would keep the commandments through the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

And he humbled thee, and allowed thee to hunger, and he fed thee with manna, that he might know... that ye might know or make you to know; that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds (Deu 8:3).

Oh, another one that Jesus quoted to Satan, as Satan said, "Command the stone to be made bread". And Jesus quoted this particular verse out of Deuteronomy, "It is written, man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

And thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did your feet swell, for forty years (Deu 8:4).

Can you imagine that, wearing the same clothes for forty years and your feet not swelling in all of that walking in the wilderness? Boy, that's a miracle. Through the forty years your clothes didn't get old and your feet didn't swell. Thou shalt also consider in your heart, that, as a man chastens his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee (Deu 8:5).

Now there are some people today who are despising the chastening of the Lord. They're teaching that you don't need to be chastened of God, that all you have to do is lay claim, make your positive confessions that God doesn't chasten. Well, there are certain ones that God doesn't chasten, according to the scriptures. You read it for yourself because some of you know. I'm on the radio.

For the LORD thy God brings you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of the valleys and the hills; A land of wheat, and barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranate; a land of olive oil, a land of honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat the bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. And when thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he has given thee (Deu 8:6-10).

You're to have a thanksgiving. Now the warning though,

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandment, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command you this day: Lest when you have eaten and art full, and have built good houses, and you're living in them; And when your herds and your flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied. Then in your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage (Deu 8:11-14);

And so the warning that your peril, the national peril will come not during the conquest, not during the development but in the times of national prosperity, there are the real dangerous periods of the history. When you become strong, when you are possessing the land, when you have eaten and are full, when you have an abundance, when you have a healthy bank account, then you are in great danger, the danger of forgetting God. I'm no longer trusting in God. You no longer have to trust in God, you think, because now you've got a bank account, you think. Who knows? You know they could—you could go to the bank tomorrow and they could be locked. What would you do?

We're not to trust in riches but to trust in the Lord. By the time of prosperity is the time of danger because the danger is that we may forget God and we then are prone to attribute our success to something other than God. Well, it's because I was so diligent, it was because I was so faithful, it's because I was so good. And we're prone to see the cause for the blessings to be something other than the true cause is because God is gracious and merciful and God is given us the power and God is brought us into this place. And we forget that it was God who did it for us and we begin to think that we did it for ourselves or it was something of us. We begin to give glory to something other than God for His wonderful goodness for us. So beware, lest in the time of prosperity you forget God and begin to attribute the success of the nation to something other than God. And thus, you begin the evil practice of worshipping other gods; the gods of silver and gold, the materialistic gods of the world today.

For it shall be, that if you forget the Lord your God, and you walk after other gods and serve them, and worship them, [God said] I testify against you this day that you will surely perish (Deu 8:19).

God said, "I testify against you, you're gonna perish." (Through The Bible; C 2000 Series; Chuck Smith; 1979-1986)

And the nations which the LORD destroyed before your face, as they perish, so shall ye perish; because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God (Deu 8:20).

So the solemn warnings as Moses, as a hundred and twenty-year old man is talking to the people who are about to go in now and conquer the land. "I'm leaving you fellows. My time is limited." He knew that the time had come. And his time is up, he can't cross Jordan; God has told him that. So he's giving them this final charge, final warnings, final instructions before he lays down his mantel and Joshua takes up and leads the people across Jordan in the conquering of the land that God had promised.

So Deuteronomy becomes an important book in the history of the people. All of the warnings are here. As I said, "You can never say that God didn't warn you". God is faithful. We, a lot of times, ignore the warnings but God is faithful to warn us and you have never fallen into any trap of what God warned you the trap was there. You've never stumbled except God warned you the stumbling stone was there. God is faithful to warn us. He warned them, he laid it out even as he warns us.

So, next week we'll continue chapter nine through sixteen of the book of Deuteronomy. Shall we stand.

Great is thy faithfulness, Oh God my Father. Faithful to His word, faithful to His people, faithful to His prophets and if you will walk in His path of righteousness, you will know the blessings of the Lord. For they will surround thee and encompass thee like the air that you breathe. Oh, that men would walk with God and follow after him and commit their lives fully, totally, to obey His will; to be pleasing unto Him. May that be our commitment this week.

Oh God, that my life might be pleasing unto Thee in all that I do and all that I say. "Let the words of my mouth, the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight Oh Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer" (Psalms 19:14). When I lie down and when I get up and when I sit and when I am writing or wherever, may there be that conscienceness of God and the talking of God and of His ways and of His goodness and of His righteousness, that we might live in the continual presence, conscienceness of the presence of God, and thus, be pleasing unto Him.

God be with you, bless and keep you in His loving grace through Jesus Christ.

Many people have a great, unfounded fear that the grace of God will lead to sinful living. They fear that if believers realize God doesn't judge them by works but by faith in Christ, they will run wild. "Wait a minute, Chuck!" they say. "You open the door like this and people are going to do all kinds of evil or horrible things and rationalize it by saying, His grace covers everything I do."

This objection is not new. Paul's preaching of the gospel of grace among the Gentiles brought immediate protests from the Jews. They thought that given such liberty, the Gentiles would go crazy. Peter, too, could see the dangers of misinterpreting Paul's gospel, and in his epistle said, 'As our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction' (II Peter 3:15,16).

Unfortunately, there always have been those who take the Word of God and twist it from its context - to their own destruction. They take Paul's gospel as an excuse for a riotous life of sin. But the gospel can never be truly understood in that way.

You're Dead!In Romans 5, Paul lays out our relationship with God through grace in strong, glorious terms. In verse 20 he states, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." In the first verse of the next chapter he imagines some people saying, "Well, then, let's go out and do a lot of sinning so that grace might much more abound. The abounding grace of God is wonderful. Let's give it a chance to really abound." Paul answers, in effect, "Perish the thought! How can we who are dead to sin live any longer therein?" (see Romans 6:2). His answer contains an important key to the Christian walk and experience. Suppose I was caught robbing a bank. I am sent to jail and am put on trial. After many weeks, the jury comes in with a verdict: "We find him guilty." The judge then appoints the day when I am to be sentenced. I am looking at five to life because I used a gun and shot holes in the ceiling and scared the tellers silly. Finally, the day arrives that I am to appear before the judge for sentencing. The law has done its job. It has apprehended and condemned the guilty. I go into court and the judge says, "Will the defendant please rise." I stand up, and he says, "The court finds you guilty and you are sentenced to spend five years to life in the state penitentiary." The news is so bad that I have a heart attack and die right on the spot. Does the court keep my carcass in jail for five years? No. My death immediately sets me free from the condemnation of the law. My sentence has no more power over me because I am a dead man. This is the point Paul makes about those of us who, through faith in Jesus Christ, have been justified before God and are now living under His glorious grace. We are no longer living after the flesh; our old self is dead. The law had sentenced us to death. The demands of the law were fulfilled when we became crucified with Christ. The old me and you were crucified. So if the old self is dead, then how can we be living any longer in sin? We are dead to that old life. "I am crucified with Christ," writes Paul, "nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). We don't live an old, selfish life anymore. Our ego-centered days are over. No longer do we live after the flesh. We are now free from the law, our sinful nature, and our awful guilt because our old, guilty man was crucified with Jesus Christ. Now we walk after God by trusting in Jesus.

If You're Dead, Act Like It; The kind of faith that brings me a righteous standing before God is the kind of faith that manifests itself in the works of God. If I am still living in the filth and corruption of my old flesh - using the grace of God as a cloak for my lascivious way of life - then I am only deceiving myself. I am not really a child of God. James 2:26 says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." A person who has been born of the Spirit of God will manifest it in his lifestyle. Jesus said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose,

the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great" (Luke 6:46-49). The apostle John wrote, 'And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:3,4). And twice in that same letter he adds that whoever is born of God cannot practice sin (see I John 3:9; 5:18). Do not frustrate the grace of God. Believe and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and walk in the newness of that relationship.

Love God and Do What You Will; At this point, some will ask, "Still, if our good works don't save us, what's to keep us from running around smoking, or carousing, or hanging out in seedy bars?" It's not that I can't do these things; I simply don't have the desire. The love of Christ constrains me to live a life that pleases Him. Having tasted the goodness of His love, I don't want to walk away from Him. I want to draw as close to Jesus as possible because I love Him and He loves me. I don't want to get involved in anything that would dishonor Him. Ironically, I live a much straighter life under grace than I ever did under the law. Under a legal relationship I am always pressing the limits. I am always trying to ascertain whether specific actions are right or wrong. I am always looking for loop-holes. I rationalize and justify the things I am doing. I live to the legal limits, plus a little bit more. God doesn't want to bind you with law; He wants to draw you to Himself with His love. This is the gospel of grace. A love relationship with God is vastly different from that. No longer do I debate whether something is right or wrong. Rather, I find myself asking, "Is this pleasing to my Father? I love Him and want to please Him. He loves me so much that I don't want to hurt Him. Would my Father be pleased if I did this?" Sometimes even where the law is silent, my heart tells me God would be grieved if I carried out an activity I'm considering. A loving relationship is what God is seeking with each of us. He doesn't want to bind you with a law. He wants to draw you with His love to Himself. This is the gospel of God's grace, the righteousness which God imputed to us apart from the law. So many of us fail to understand that love is the only true motivation for goodness. Fear is never a primary, driving force in the Christian life. If we are good only because we are afraid to be bad, that is not true righteousness. We can have circumspect external conduct as a cover for all kinds of wrong and twisted motivations. If fear of consequences is the only thing that keeps us in check, we may merely be an example of evil under restraint. That isn't true goodness. True goodness is always and exclusively motivated by love. If our moral choices are based on fervent love and a desire to abstain from things that grieve the heart of God, we have discovered the true motive of righteousness. The fruit of the Spirit is love. One of the outstanding characteristics of love is goodness. When we are conscious of love, we experience joy. When love takes hold of our lives, we know peace. The demonstration of love is always patience and longsuffering. The character of love is gentleness and kindness. The bottom line is that when the Spirit is producing His fruit in us, the need for burdensome externals like the law disappears. The law is fulfilled by love. So we make a wonderful discovery: a righteous life is no longer a burden to us but a joy because we have a love relationship with Jesus.

A Lingering Problem; It is possible for us to know and experience the grace of God. We can live in the joy and peace of justification by faith in Jesus Christ and the confident assurance of our righteous standing before God in Him. This confidence comes through the knowledge that I was crucified with Christ. The life dominated by my flesh is dead and I now live a new life dominated by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. I have a new nature, the nature of Jesus Christ. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). This is an incredibly liberating truth. But I still have a problem. I am still in this body, and as long as I am in this state I am subject to the powerful forces of my bodily drives. Thus, there is warfare going on inside of me. The flesh brings up his guns and begins to fire away. My flesh - my old man - is dead, and yet it's as if I have to carry this old carcass around with me. I'm like the partner of Sam McGee, living with "a corpse half hid that he couldn't get rid." It's crucial to remember that Scripture makes an important distinction: My spirit is redeemed, but my body is not. That creates a tremendous conflict. Paul declared in Romans 8:22,23, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [that is,] the redemption of our body." How often I groan and weep before God because of the weaknesses of my flesh. God, hasten the day when you deliver me from this body of corruption!" I am anxious to get rid of this old corpse. shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:53-57). In my moment of weakness, the Spirit raises up conviction and power and my mind is turned toward the Lord. One day, we will all be liberated from our fallen nature. Scripture says, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then After Jesus had prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, He came to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:37,38). No truer words were ever spoken. My spirit, indeed, is willing, but my flesh is weak. I groan and travail and I say, "Oh In the meantime, all is not lost. In my moment of weakness, the Spirit raises up conviction and power and my mind is turned toward the Lord. I seek His help and His strength. I begin to experience His victory. I have found that I must rely daily upon the strength and power of Jesus Christ to live the life He wants me to live. There is no place where I can put my life in neutral and coast along. The minute I do, the flesh begins to rise up and usurp power and authority. I must keep my appetites subdued, or else they will rule over me. Paul wrote, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway [or disapproved]" (I Corinthians 9:27). Now, if I am caught off guard and find myself again yielding to the flesh, does that mean I am no longer saved? Do I have to get saved all over again? No. I still believe in Jesus Christ. I still love the Lord and it is still my faith that is imputed to me for righteousness. It is precisely because of my faith and my new life in Christ that I cannot go on being dominated by my flesh. Though I may fall into a pit for a time, I can't stay there. God won't let me stay in that state. He won't let me get by with some of the things that I might like to do that everybody else is doing. They may do it and get by with it, but I won't. He will see to it that I won't! If I try to follow worldly ways and do the things that the "life in the fast lane" crowd does, I am either going to fail at it, hate it, or get caught. Because He loves us and we are His children, we simply can't get by with sin like the world does.

Are There No Standards at All? ..Someone may still be wondering, So if we are under grace, can we simply ignore God's standards of personal conduct? Not at all. In our new relationship, we have received the dynamic of God's power and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. In Christ we receive a new nature that longs to live in harmony with God's love and holiness. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we need no longer strain and strive to do what is right. This is what John meant when he wrote, "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" (I John 5:3, NIV). God's presence within us empowers us to choose what is right and to refrain from evil. Those who have read the classics are probably familiar with the story of Ulysses. During his travels, this ancient adventurer heard stories of the island of the sirens - deadly enchantresses who made such beautiful music that any sailors passing by would turn their ships toward shore and be dashed upon the rocks. No one had ever heard the song of these sirens and lived. This sounded like a worthy challenge to a daring man like Ulysses. He decided to become the first to hear this music and survive. In order to achieve his goal, Ulysses put wax in the ears of his crew and instructed his men to tie him securely to the ship's mast. As they rowed past the island of the sirens, the seductive music began. Ulysses began to strain against the ropes, struggling to get loose so he could swim to shore. He cursed at his sailors to turn the boat toward the rocks, but the wax prevented them from hearing his cries. Ulysses continued to fight against his bonds until the ship moved out of range and into safety. Ulysses had heard the song of the sirens and lived - yet ever after he was haunted by the memory of the beguiling music. Greek myths also tell of another ship that passed this island and yet survived. As its crew was being drawn by the deadly melody to disaster on the shoals, a gifted man on board named Orpheus grabbed a lyre and began to play. The music of Orpheus so far surpassed that of the sirens that the men turned away from the rocks and sailed to safety, enraptured by these new, exquisite melodies that gave life. When we face the pull of temptation, most of us can relate to either Ulysses or Orpheus. For some, the siren song of the world has an almost irresistible attraction. They find themselves bound in place by the law, yet struggling against the rules when enticed by the power of the flesh. Their only hope is in the law that holds them back. The joy of oneness in Christ far surpasses anything the world or the flesh can offer. But there are those who have heard a new song - the music of heaven in their hearts. They discover that the love of Jesus Christ is so strong and satisfying that, although the world is still attractive, they gladly leave it behind so they may be powerfully drawn into His beautiful presence. They don't have to be tied or bound. They aren't struggling against restricting ropes. They have discovered the glory of walking with God in intimate fellowship. The joy of such oneness in Christ far surpasses anything the world or the flesh can offer. The allure and attraction of sin has lost its power. Those who have discovered this kind of fulfillment don't need laws. Instead of slavishly following a regulation that says, "Now, don't bash your neighbor's head in!" they have no desire to do so because their heart has been touched by the love of God. They simply want to see their neighbor saved. Just the other day, I saw this principle in action. As I was driving down a busy street near Calvary Chapel a car pulled in front of me, causing me to nearly lock up my breaks. The car was driven by a little, gray-haired old lady. She didn't see me or a number of others she nearly ran into. If the other drivers had not paid close attention, there would have been a terrible accident. She made so many foolish moves I found myself praying, "Lord, please help that little old lady get home safely." Those who know me will testify that my attitude of concern in that situation was nothing short of a miracle! It is glorious to be able to experience the changes brought about by our loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

A Constant Love; Because of Christ, we can experience true oneness with God. God isn't close to us one moment and distant the next. And even if we fail, even though we are still weak in so many areas, our righteous standing before God doesn't vary with our shifting attitudes or changing moods. Our relationship with God is steady and secure because it isn't based upon us or our performance. Our relationship is predicated upon the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. He took our sins upon Himself and died in our place to make our salvation by faith a reality. We can leave behind the mentality that says God only loves us when we are "good" and rejects us when we are bad.

I call my granddaughter on the phone quite often. I like to talk to her in the morning and ask her how things are going. Sometimes when I talk to her, she says, "I am a grouchy girl today, Grandpa." Do I love her less when she says that? She knows that she is out of sorts. But it doesn't alter my love for her one bit. Nor do I love her any more when she is a sweet little angel. I just love her. I love her grouchy and I love her sweet.

God looks at us the same way. When we are grouchy we are prone to think, God can't love me today. I don't even love myself. I am miserable. I don't want anyone around me. We are also prone to think God doesn't love us when we have failed. Not so! If our standing before God were based on our performance, it never would have been necessary for Jesus Christ to die.

When Jesus accounts our faith as righteousness, He gives us a beautiful, stable, loving relationship with Himself. We enjoy the kind of standing that says, "Come on in and sit down. Let Me help you; let Me strengthen you."

God loves you. You are so very dear to Him that He chose you and called you to be His eternally. That is why the grace of God does not lead to wild living. There's infinitely more joy to be had in the Savior than in sin.

("Why Grace Changes Everything"; Chuck Smith; Chapter 10: "Won't They Go Wild?")

**(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pg 274-276)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devos; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)**