

A family of three is silhouetted against a vibrant sunset over a frozen body of water. The father stands on the left, the child in the middle, and the mother on the right. They are holding hands and looking out over the ice. In the background, several sailboats are docked at a pier, and houses are visible on a hillside under a sky of orange and red.

# IT TAKES A FAMILY

05 - The Right Way to Grow a Healthy Church



**“From him [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”**

**Ephesians 4:16, NIV**

**Live in grace. Operate in grace.**



# THE RIGHT WAY TO **PLANT & GROW**

A HEALTHY CHURCH

By Glen Gerhauer



## **1. Put Intimacy Above Ministry**

No matter how close your phone is to the outlet, it will not charge unless connected. Intimacy with God is connecting with him. It's the power behind authentic ministry (John 15:5).



## **2. Stay on the Way of Worship, Prayer & the Word**

Stick to God's way. "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 14:12, NIV).

## **3. Keep Centered on Jesus & His Love**

When we become weary of doing good, let's remember it's all about Jesus and his love (Gal. 6:9). Our purpose does not revolve around us but around him.



## **4. Expect God to Cause the Growth**

Our Father is the source of growth. He causes us to grow according to his will, timing and way. He prioritizes quality over quantity (1 Cor. 3:6-9).

## **5. It Takes a Family Operating in Grace**

A healthy church works as a family. We are all members of one body, Christ's body. As you share the grace God has given you, God's people grow healthy and robust (Romans 12:3-13).





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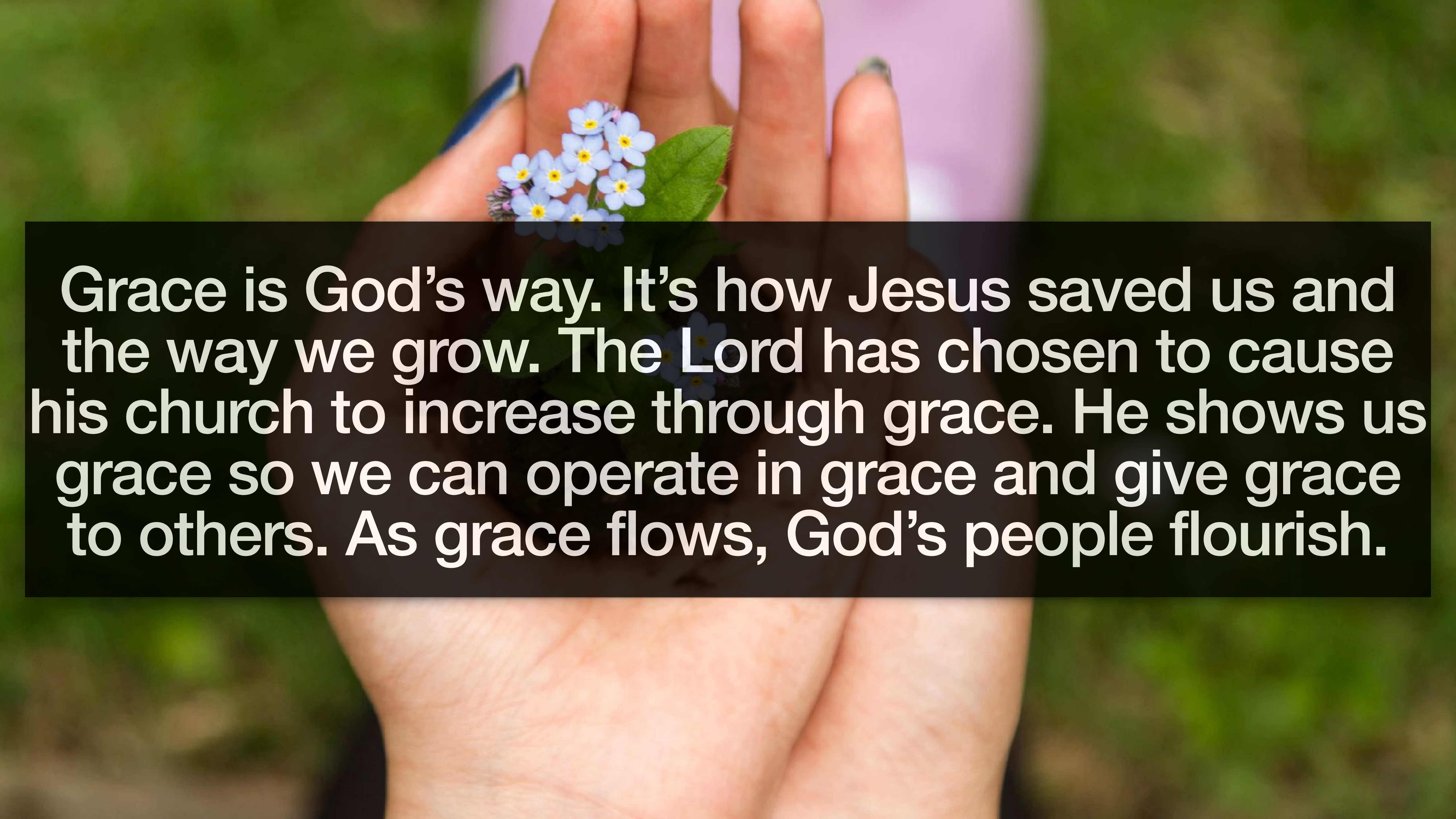
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A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small cluster of blue forget-me-not flowers with yellow centers and green leaves. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**Grace is God's way. It's how Jesus saved us and the way we grow. The Lord has chosen to cause his church to increase through grace. He shows us grace so we can operate in grace and give grace to others. As grace flows, God's people flourish.**



*You can only grow in  
grace through living in  
a family.*

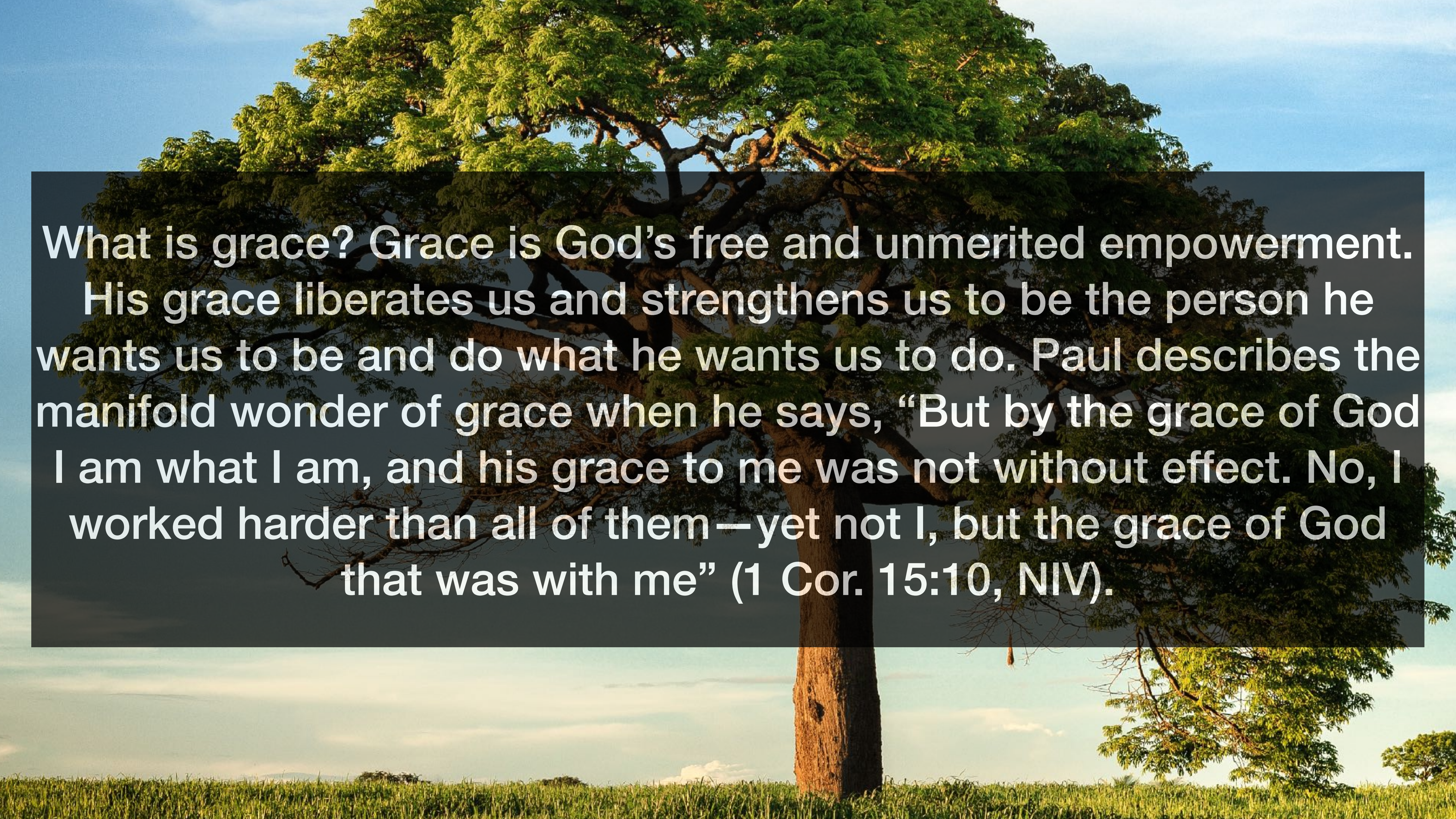




**In a family, you learn to be kind and help one another. You live out forgiveness and unconditional love. Family is the place where you practice the faith you confess. It can be challenging, but it's immensely rewarding.**





A large, leafy tree stands in a field of tall grass under a clear blue sky. The tree's trunk is thick and textured, and its branches spread out, casting a shadow on the grass. The sky is a vibrant blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**What is grace? Grace is God's free and unmerited empowerment. His grace liberates us and strengthens us to be the person he wants us to be and do what he wants us to do. Paul describes the manifold wonder of grace when he says, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me" (1 Cor. 15:10, NIV).**



**GRACE = POWER**

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

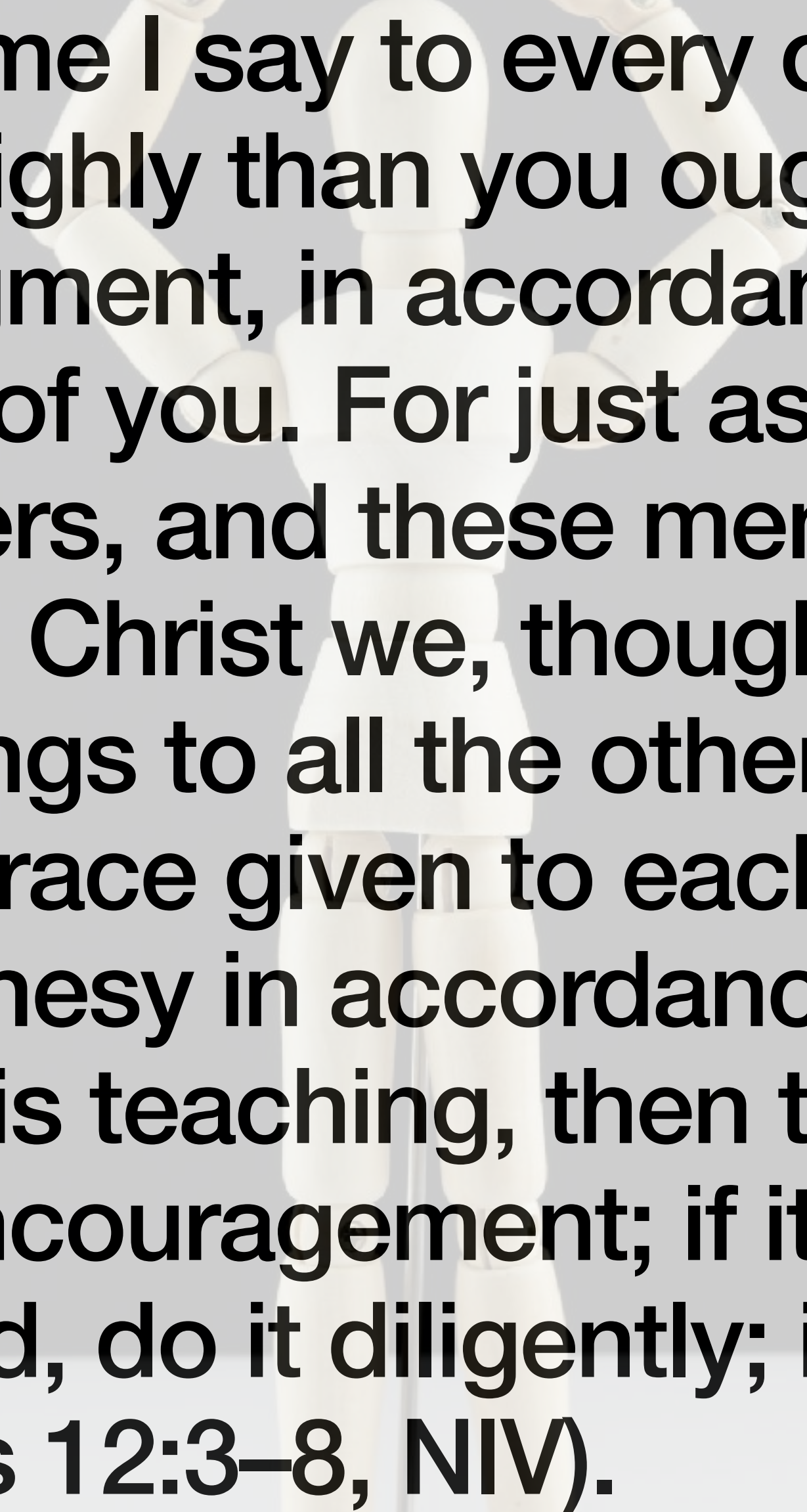


**χάρις & χάρισμα**

**Charis & Charisma**

**Grace & Gift**

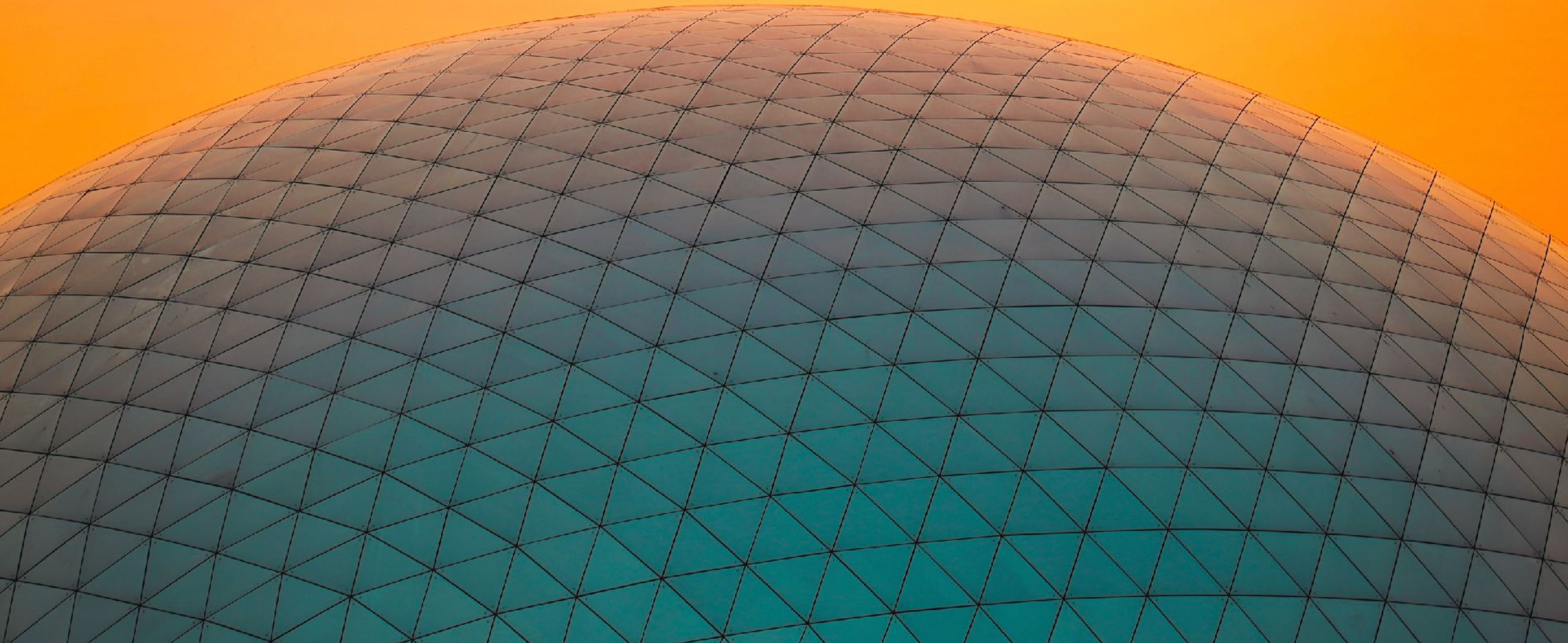




**“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:3–8, NIV).**



**STAY IN GRACE**





Grace is like a sphere. Go outside that sphere and you'll enter the realm of the flesh (cf. 2 Cor. 10:12-18).

**Your  
own  
works**

**Frustration**

**Loss  
of Joy**

**Grace:  
What God has  
empowered you  
to be and do**

**Burnout**

**Manipulation**

**Control**

**Anger**

**Grumbling**



# HOW TO KNOW WHAT GRACE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU




Eph. 4:7;  
Rom. 12:6





*When you are operating in grace, you experience these seven p's. This is also how you discover his gifts in you.*

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- 1) Power
  - 2) Pleasure
  - 3) Passion
  - 4) Peace
  - 5) Purpose
  - 6) Purity
  - 7) Person - grace exalts the person of Christ



A silhouette of a runner is centered on a path that leads towards a body of water at sunset. The path is flanked by dark trees and bushes, and the water in the background reflects the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative.

**“God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”**

**- Eric Liddell**



**Our church's goal is not to put a burden on you or wear you out. Instead, it's to encourage you to operate in the grace God has given you. When we each move in grace there's a great joy.**





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