

THE DAILY AMEN Devotional January 17, 2018 by Amy Dalke

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us...” Ephesians 1:6-8 ESV

There's this MAJOR thing that God has given to you and me that has the power to impact our experience of everyday life. I pray that what I'm about to say will hit you with fresh impact today, because this is as true for you as the ground beneath you.

GRACE

*The GRACE that God has given us in Christ...means that **we don't get what we deserve.***

*We deserve death & separation from God for all of...forever. (Let that sink in a moment.)
But instead of giving us the death we deserve, God gives us LIFE, in Christ...forever.*

*Not only don't get what we deserve, **by grace we get all the good things we don't deserve:***

- By grace, you and I have all-time access to God...which isn't just a half-hearted permission slip to come before God - it's the right to come before God BOLDLY...with the confident attitude that a child has with a loving parent.*
- By grace, **God's very own POWER works in YOU** to overcome everyday struggles; lifetime habits/addictions...things you thought were impossible to beat.*
- By grace, you have everything you need **IN** you (already) to live by the truth of who you are in Christ- instead of living by “how you feel” at the moment. (2 Corinthians 12:9) (Ephesians 1:3-14)*
- By grace, God placed within you a special gift — a significant, tailor-made, **one-of-a-kind role in the kingdom** of God on earth through forever. Seriously though...we deserve death, but instead we get this abundant grace that goes beyond our wildest dreams. I mean, He not only saved us from death, He also made us to be an important part of His family?! Come on... that's ludicrous! (1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:7)*
- By grace, you have access to **whatever we need in the moment.** All you have to do is ask. (Hebrews 4:16)*
- By grace, we have a constant companion. Like, not just an invisible friend. A REAL LIFE, EVER PRESENT JESUS.*

What's crazy is that we know this stuff right? But let this wash over your mind today with fresh wave of, “FOR CRYING OUT LOUD — THIS IS REAL!” It's not make-believe or wishful thinking. It's not a nice sentiment to put on a Hallmark card to send to a friend who's sad or something, and it's not just a mind-over-matter kind of self-help mantra. THIS IS YOUR VERY REAL LIFE.

But we won't live our Real Life by accident. *We have to live it on purpose. You won't stumble on the good things that are yours in Christ by showing up to church on Sunday.*

[Side note: Do we really think we can get enough of Jesus on Sunday to tide us over for a whole week? I mean I'm not a fan of lame Christian-y metaphors or anything, but seriously people. That's sort of like eating a big lunch after church and then skipping every meal until next Sunday rolls around. I could take this further and make some spiritual reference about how ignoring Jesus all week makes us "hangry" but that takes the drippy metaphor to a whole new level so I won't. You're welcome.]

If we want the joy, peace, strength, life and everything else Jesus has for us, we have to actively, intentionally get to know Him, and put the TRUTH ON AND WEAR IT FOR PETE'S SAKE. (I'm not yelling at you. This is just me talking excitedly.)

So on that note...will you stand today, by faith, in the grace God has given you in Christ?

*Your friend,
Amy*

p.s. If I caught you before coffee...sorry about that. Also, over-happy salespeople annoy me. So this is not a sales pitch by any stretch. This is more like a friend who just discovered that Nordstrom has a pair of Tory Burch boots in your size on sale for like, \$3...