SACRIFICE OF JOY

Part 2

Philippians 2:12-18

Dr. Bryan Chapell

> **"God is in you by His grace, not by your performance."**
>
> —Bryan Chapell

Introduction

Even though we want to live with the confidence of God's grace toward us, we often struggle with feeling unworthy of His love. We feel like we have to be a good enough person, or do enough right things to earn His affection, and we don't know what to do if we fail. In today's message, Pastor Bryan Chapell explains the truth of God's grace, which is about a love that is beyond anything we could ever deserve or earn.

Key Points

~In our last message, we learned that God calls us to live with " fear" — not meaning terror and insecurity about failing to earn God's favor, but meaning with humility about our weakness and sinfulness and in awe of His grace. It can be difficult for us to find this balance, though, and when we sin, we may struggle with wondering how God could possibly still love us.

~We don't have to be afraid of letting God down, because He knew all of our shortcomings before we ever made them and chose to love us anyway. When we accept His forgiveness, we're able to move past our mistakes and our guilt, giving those around us a picture of the amazing freedom of God's grace.

~Living in awe of God doesn't mean we'll never feel overwhelmed or anxious, and having joy no matter our circumstances doesn't mean we should look forward to those overwhelming times. But it does mean that we can know that God always has a purpose for whatever we're going through, and that He will always help us grow if we keep our hearts open to Him.

Questions for Reflection

Do you ever feel overwhelmed about whether or not you're following God well enough? What causes you to struggle with this the most? Have you ever asked God to forgive you for something and felt freedom afterward? In what area of your life do you most need God's help finding joy?

NOTES

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