

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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The struggle we have been through over the past year has resulted in a new appreciation for grace: The grace we receive from God, and the grace we show one another. The struggle has also resulted in a bitterness towards others which wounds and destroys relationships. The struggle has changed us; by all means, **let's keep the grace** which this year has inspired, and get rid of the bitterness. We'll discover how to do both, by the power of the One whose struggle led to the grace we now receive: Jesus.

1. Read Romans 5:1-5. Using your concordance, consult at least three other places in the New Testament where the word “justified” is used. What is a Word-inspired definition of “justification?”
2. Now do the same with the word “grace,” and define that term:
3. Think of a time in this past year when you struggled, and were about to “fall apart.” How did God enable you to “stand,” according to vs. 2, even though you might not even have been aware of it?
4. Paul, in vs 4, was inspired to write “glory in our sufferings,” not “glory because.” What reasons can you identify why that is a very important distinction?
5. Identify a time in this past year when your suffering followed the progression seen in vs. 3-4, and describe how the “hope” you now have will make a difference in the way you feel and act the next time you suffer.

Pray: Lord of all grace, and God of our salvation, inspire us to value your grace – the undeserved love you show us because of Jesus – so much that we reach to others with that grace; and by so doing, we witness to the restoration you offer to all, even in the midst of struggle. We pray it in your name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; amen.
