



THE GOAL OF GRACE

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"But unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Ephesians 4:7.

What is the end of grace? What is the goal of grace? Is it not the kingdom of glory? Said in another way, the object of grace is none other than the kingdom of glory! But the question we are going to seek an answer to here is more than just the goal of grace. We seek to answer the question, "Is the goal of grace the end of grace?"

We are now in the time and the kingdom of grace. But when the kingdom of grace becomes the kingdom of glory, will the kingdom of grace end, and will grace also end?

And the answer that you already know is, "Yes" and "No"! If you do not already know that you know the answer, in a moment, you will know. But first we will look at the word "grace."

Interestingly, the main word that is translated as "grace" does not appear in the book of Matthew or Mark. It appears once in the book of Luke and four times in the gospel of John—in chapter 1. That word is *charis*, pronounced *khar'-ece* (Gr. *char-is*). It occurs 156 times, means graciousness, and is translated "acceptable," "benefit," "favor," "gift," "grace(-ious)," "joy," "liberality," "pleasure," "thank(-s, -worthy)."

But it is never translated as "forgive" or "forgiveness." There is a related word for "forgive." It is *charizomai*, *khar-id'-zom-ahē*, and it is found 23 times in the New Testament.

But there is another word that is translated as "forgive"; it is *aphiēmi* [*af-ee'-ay-mee*], which is found 147 times in the New Testament. And this word, translated as "forgive," is found four times in Matthew—twice in the Lord's prayer and twice in the explanation after the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:14. Luke also used the word *aphiēmi* for "forgive" in his version of the Lord's prayer.

Why do we bring this up when our subject is grace? Because forgiveness is the action of grace.

Grace is what God carried out in Eden so that man could be forgiven. We might say that what God did in Eden was to forgive Adam and Eve, but that would not be theologically correct. He provided a way to forgive, because He is gracious.

All we can say about this is, "God is good." But He is better than that—way better!

In a conference several years ago, a speaker said that when Adam and Eve sinned, God pronounced the death sentence upon them. Afterward, a brother went up to him and asked, "Did God really pronounce a death sentence upon Adam and Eve when they sinned in the garden, after they ate the fruit?" Earlier God had warned them, "For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:17, *New King James Version*. Thus, in sinning, Adam and Eve called down upon themselves the sentence of death. But to save them, God did pronounce a death sentence—not upon them, but upon His Son, the Lamb of

God slain from the foundation of the world. Grace found them. It was then that God gave the first revelation of Himself, who gave His most precious Gift.

Now, the title of this article is "The Goal of Grace." That was seen in the garden—the Voice of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and calling, "Adam, where are you?" Adam, Adam, can you hear the sound of the Voice filtering through the trees? He knew where they were. He could have easily said what He said to Nathanael, "I saw you under the fig tree"; but grace waited for an answer.

We do not know what part of the day it was when the first man and woman ate the fruit; but when the Voice of God came walking in the garden, they had had time to figure out how to assemble a covering for themselves from fig leaves after discovering that they needed something to cover their nakedness. He came in the cool of the day—evening. Did He wait because He needed to put on grace?

When did grace first exist? It has been said that love is something we do not have until we give it away. Is that also true for grace? Was grace already somewhere in the bowels of God when man sinned? Or did He have to find it and put it on? No, God is greater than that!

When God made the world and everything in it and breathed life into Adam, grace had already come into the world; and God made man to take care of it. It was not just grace in Adam; it was Adam in a world of grace—countless bushels full of grace.

The first time the word "grace" appears in the Old Testament is in Genesis 6:9. Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of God. And the word in Hebrew is *chén*,



pronounced *khanw-nan*! The Scriptures say that Noah found grace in the eyes of God, while all those people whom Noah left behind on the other side of the waters found none. They received no grace, although it was offered to them. And there is the answer to our question. There is a “yes,” and there is a “no.” Those who accepted God’s grace lived, and those who rejected it died. And those who lived continued to live by grace. Noah received grace before the flood, and He also received grace after the flood.

Here we come to the point of our reckoning. Just what is the goal of grace? And when that goal is reached, will grace end?

Is the goal of grace the end of grace? Yes and no. It is not the end of grace for those who are saved by grace. That is only the beginning of grace. But for those who have rejected it, it is the end of grace and the end of life. They chose to believe that by themselves they were rich and increased with goods, not accepting that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Like WPBN, the Weather Channel, they were interested in which way the wind was blowing, instead of listening to the still, small voice from heaven. Turn WPBN off!

God’s grace is unmerited favor, as we have often heard. But we ask another question—and this one may be hard. Did Adam fall from grace? Did he fall from unmerited favor? All that Adam had and was came from the voice, breath, and hand of God. Was that not grace in action? Many may say that I am wrong here, but I say that Adam fell from grace, because all that he had were gifts from God—undeserved gifts. He forgot, he was unthankful, and he went his own way.

Yet, God faced the fall of man and revealed who He really was and is. That cost Him a lot! It cost Him the most precious Possession that He had. He was

willing to be eternally separated from His only begotten Son so that man could be divorced from the thing that divorced Adam and all mankind from Him—sin, selfishness.

So, the next time you say those words of the Lord’s prayer, “Father..., forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” think about just what that means. The word “forgive” in that sentence is not *charizomai*, but *aphiēmi* (found 147 times in 133 verses in the New Testament and most often translated as “leave” or “forgiveness,” meaning to “put away”).

It is also found in the famous verse that is often quoted and usually not fully understood. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. Many translations use the word “cleanse” instead of “forgive,” and for good reason. *Aphiēmi* means to “put away,” as in “divorce.”

Do you remember the word for grace in the Old Testament? It is *chén*, pronounced *khanw-nan*. Think of the story of Hannah and her great wish—to bear a son. The name Hannah came from the root word for grace, and from grace came Samuel—gift of God. So, did grace die, and did Hannah die when Samuel was born? Many women have died in childbirth, but not all of them. Hannah lived and had other children.

The goal or end of grace is the kingdom of glory, when all things and all beings will testify of God’s wondrous works. Psalm 26:7. When grace through faith works a transformation—a metamorphosis—man is embraced in the loving arms of Jesus and rises above all carnal cares and fears. The image of God is restored in each person who surrenders to Him. Not everyone on earth will endure the refining process, but those who endure to the end will be enraptured by God’s grace and greatness for all eternity. Who does not want that?

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them [they have no dawn].” Isaiah 8:19, 20.

For those who choose not to know grace, it will end when the kingdom of grace gives way to the kingdom of glory. Those outside that kingdom will know eternal death, eternal separation from God. We do not need to stumble or fall. God’s grace is greater than that, for if we do fall, Jesus is there. We can go to Him. God has put us in Christ by His act. If you are out of Him, come into Him now. Christ casts out no one who comes to Him. He is sufficient for everything.

The opening verse (Ephesians 4:7) contains a phrase with a glorious promise—“according to the measure”—and a few verses later the apostle Paul used it again in verse 16—“according to the effectual working in the measure of every part.” The same thought is in other places, such as Romans 12:3, where it says that man should “think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Faith only as large as a mustard seed is sufficient to move mountains (Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6), but a measure is a full bushel. The term “measure” in the Bible, translated from the Hebrew word *ephah/bath* (10 omers) in some places is translated “bushel.” An omer, the basic standard of dry measure, was equal to about 42 eggs in weight (3.5 lbs., or about a quart of grain), 16,000 wheatberries, enough to make three loaves of bread. If Paul meant the larger standard measure, a bushel of wheat, that weighed about 60 lbs. and contained about 1 million kernels or wheatberries.

God is so great! No! He is greater than that! That is how sufficient God’s grace is. And He offers it to everyone. Oh, how enormous are God’s love and grace! He is still calling. Do you hear His voice through the trees? Turn off WPBN, and listen to the wind from Heaven—the still, small voice. It is calling you now, and you do not need any wizard that peeps and mutters to answer His call. “God is good,” you say. But He is greater than that. Eternal grace still waits, but not forever. If you won’t when you can, you can’t when you would. Today is the day. All you need to do is say “Amen!” to the grace that never ends! His grace will do the rest. Say, “Amen!”

She Sleeps in Jesus

Gretchen Schendel
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Dear brothers, sisters, and friends,
It is with deep sadness that I inform you that our daughter, Sister Sandy Nelson, has fallen asleep in Jesus. Now she waits for that glad day when "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

After a five-year battle with melanoma, Sandy fell asleep shortly before 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, 2025. She will be greatly missed!

Sandy loved life. It was her greatest joy to teach children and lead them to Jesus. In fact, she just loved people in general; they energized her. She wanted so badly to live, to be a wife and a mom, and to take part in the finishing of God's work here on earth. In spite of, no doubt, hundreds of prayers, we received our answer today. God said, "No."



*Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.*

*We'll catch the broken thread again,
And finish what we here began;
Heav'n will the mysteries explain,
And then, ah then, we'll understand.*

*We'll know why clouds instead of sun
Were over many a cherished plan;
Why song has ceased when scarce begun;
'Tis there, sometime, we'll understand.*

*God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with unerring hand;
Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see;
Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.*

*Then trust in God through all the days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Though dark thy way, still sing and praise,
Sometime, sometime we'll understand.*

—Maxwell N. Cornelius (1891)



May we all determine to meet on the sea of glass, singing the song of victory and praise to Jesus, who gave His life on Calvary's cross to redeem us from the tyranny of Satan, our mortal enemy, and to give us eternal life.

With a mixture of sadness—and yet relief that Sandy is no longer suffering—I encourage you and myself to lift our eyes to heaven, for our redemption is drawing near.

AN ONLINE fundraiser has been set up for the Nelson family on GoFundMe. Go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for "Honoring Sandy Nelson: A Legacy of Love and Service."

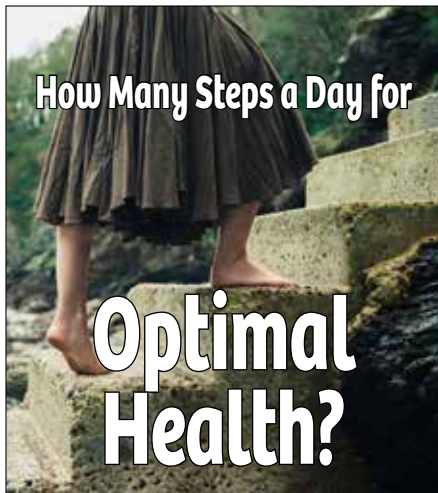
The following description is written there:

"With heavy hearts, we share that Sandy Nelson has passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. A devoted wife to Christian, a loving mother to Stephen, Jonathan, and Jeremiah, and a cherished daughter, sister, aunt, and cousin, Sandy's life was a testament to faith, love, and selfless service.

"As a founder and educator at Small Cloud Christian School, Sandy didn't just teach—she inspired. Her lessons were more than academics; they were about love, kindness, and the joy of serving others. No matter the challenge, she met each day with a smile, a word of encouragement, and an unwavering belief in God's goodness. Her cheerful spirit lifted those around her, making every life she touched a little brighter.

"Now, as her family faces this profound loss, we have an opportunity to step up and support it. Let's come together to ease the family's burden and honor Sandy's legacy of love and generosity. Any contribution, big or small, will make a difference.

"Thank you for your generosity and prayers."



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Some time ago, I wrote an article about the importance of walking as one of the forms of physical activity that help to maintain and improve health. Since then, new studies have shown that a minimum number of daily steps may improve heart and brain health and in turn improve longevity. This article will examine the number of steps one should walk daily depending on his age, fitness level, and health history.

For decades, the golden standard for how many steps one should walk every day was set at 10,000. How did we get to that number? Ten thousand certainly seems like an ideal goal—it is round, memorable, and ambitious without seeming impossible. It is also arbitrary, according to Dr. I-Min Lee, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and lead author of a 2019 study that reevaluated daily step goals. “The original use of ‘10,000 steps a day’ was not really on a scientific basis,” says Lee, who found that a Japanese company that manufactured a pedometer called *Manpo-Kei*, or “10,000-step meter,” was the first to promote the number.

Previous research suggested that there is a different standard between how many steps women should walk every day, compared to men. But more recent studies have shown that the recommended number should not be differentiated by gender, but rather by age. According to a 2022 study published in *The Lancet*, death from a health-related issue was cut in half for both men and women who walk an average of 6,000 to 10,000 steps per day. To obtain their findings, the researchers examined 15

studies that tracked a total of 45,000 adult average daily step counts and their health outcomes for a 3- to 14-year period.

The study found that taking more steps per day was associated with a progressively lower risk of all-cause mortality up to a level that varied by age, not gender. For adults 60 years and older, the positive effects of walking were observed at 6,000 to 8,000 steps per day. For adults younger than 60, that sweet spot increased to 8,000 to 10,000 daily steps. Participants who hit these benchmarks were 50 percent less likely to die from a health-related issue than people of the same age who did not meet the threshold.

Doctors generally consider fewer than 5,000 steps per day to be sedentary, so this means that many people in the U.S. are not getting as many steps as they should to benefit their health.

According to the Arthritis Foundation, walking can improve:

- Muscle strength
- Range of motion
- Blood flow
- Flexibility
- Joint stiffness
- Mood and sleep
- Breathing

Walking can also help to prevent or lessen certain health problems, such as obesity, osteoporosis, and age-related memory loss.

Set your own fitness goals, and then try the following ideas for fitting more walking into your routine:

Take the dog for a walk. If you do not have a dog, volunteer to walk dogs at an animal shelter, or combine your ac-



tivity with social time by joining a friend to walk his or her dog.

Try music. A bouncy tune or something with a strong beat can make activity more enjoyable and help motivate you to walk farther or faster.

Include the family. Instead of an afternoon nap, go for a walk or hike together.

Go in person. Instead of sending an email to someone else at work, walk to your colleague’s desk.

Walk while waiting. Take a walk instead of sitting when you are early for an appointment or waiting for a flight.

Schedule workday walks. Put reminders on your calendar for short walking breaks to ramp up your energy throughout the day. Do you have a one-on-one meeting? Plan to walk and talk.

Park farther away. Choose parking spots farther away from the building entrance. If you take the bus, get off a stop early and walk the rest of the way.

Take the stairs. Even going down the stairs counts as steps and burns calories.

How far will you walk today? Your goal will depend on your starting point. But nearly everyone can reap great benefits by walking more, step by step.

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Disclaimer: This article is intended to provide helpful, informative material on the subject of walking for health and fitness. It is provided with the understanding that the author and the publisher are not engaged in rendering safety, medical, health, psychological, or any other kind of personal professional services. If the reader requires such services, a competent professional should be consulted. The author and publisher specifically disclaim all responsibility for any loss or risk, personal or otherwise, that is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use or application of any of the contents of this article. Check with your personal health care provider before beginning a new exercise program.

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