

The Power of Grace and Forgiveness

*“For God did not sent his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him.”*

John 3:17

My grandfather was a carpenter. He built the first house I lived in as a child. I was only four years old, but I still remember when workers laid the gray blocks of the foundation, raised the wooden beams, finished the roof, and completed the landscaping. I was fascinated with the building process, as an empty field was being transformed into a place I would soon call “home”.

I have always been interested in origins. Knowing how things begin provides insight and perspective, a framework of reference. The source of the power in “power prayers” is a connection with the origin of life and power—it is a connection with God through a relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Thankfully, anyone can find that connection. It all starts with a simple prayer.

Many people know **about** God, but they don’t always take the time to know Him personally. They are, as author Max Lucado says, “close to the Cross—but far from Christ.” Some mistakenly think they can earn their way to heaven through good works, money, or performance. But, no matter how hard you try, you can’t make it to heaven on your own merit. Salvation is the **gift** of God, one that each person needs to receive for herself. As Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ultimately, each of us needs to decide about God. In *The Case for Faith*, former atheist Lee Strobel asked himself, “Did I **want** to know God personally—to experience release from guilt, to live the way I was designed to live, to pursue his purposes for my life, to tap into his power for daily living, to commune with him in this life and for eternity in the next? If so, there was plenty of evidence upon which to base a rational decision to say ‘yes’ to him. It was up to me—just as it’s up to you.”

When you know Jesus in this deeper way, you learn the startling power of unconditional love and acceptance, a knowledge that leads to transformation. I’ve experienced it personally, and I have seen it in others. Forgiveness, transformation, and changed lives are the fruit of redemption.

Romans 10:9 states, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” If you have never prayed to receive Christ into your life, why not do so now? In the following prayer, there’s a helpful prayer you can use. If you are already a Christ-follower, take time to thank God for the gift of your salvation.

Praying to receive Jesus into your life is the prerequisite to powerful Christian living. Connected to the power of God, your prayer life—and your entire life—will be ignited and energized.

Prayer: Lord, I humbly bow before you now and confess my sins to you. I am sorry for all of my wrongdoing, and I ask Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died on a cross and was raised from the dead. He conquered death so that I might really live—in power and purpose here on earth and forever with Him in heaven. I choose You. Please be my Savior and my Lord.