

**Grace is Greater**

**Part 1 of 8**

**Grace Is Greater Than Your Depression**

This weekend we’re starting a series called Grace Is Greater. Hebrews 12:15 says, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God." Over centuries a lot has been spoken on the subject of grace. Yet perhaps nothing’s as hard to explain as God's grace. It doesn't make sense. It isn’t fair. It can't possibly cover over what I've done. The best way--perhaps the only real way--to understand it is to experience it…or let me say it more accurately: to experience Him, because Grace is a person - Jesus. In this series we want you to begin moving past your hang-ups toward an understanding of grace that’s bigger than your mistakes, your failures, your desire for revenge, and your seemingly impossible situations.

I truly believe the main reason we have weak churches is we preach a weak gospel. We will never have great churches unless we preach a great gospel. Do you know the difference?

• A weak gospel says you better love God; a great gospel declares he surely loves you!

• A weak gospel preaches God can forgive you; a great gospel declares he already has.

• A weak gospel points to your badness; a great gospel reveals his abounding goodness.

• A weak gospel says God can; a great gospel says God will and has!

• A weak gospel says God gives depression to help you grow or to teach you a lesson; a great gospel says he heals all our diseases and delivers us from all our enemies.

**[Possible insert of personal testimony referencing depression]**

I believed 3 truths profoundly set me free and I believe will free you:

1. BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF GRACE IS WHAT FREES YOU

Jesus said it like this: “you will know the truth, and that truth will give you freedom” (John 8:32).

2. GRACE IS BELIEVED AND RECEIVED

The apostle Paul states, “Death once held us in its grip, and by the blunder of one man, death reigned as king over humanity. But now, how much moreare we held in the grip of grace and continue reigning as kings in life, enjoying our regal freedom through receiving the gift of perfect righteousnessin the one and only Jesus!” (Romans 5:17

2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.”

3. RIGHT BELIEVING COMES BEFORE RIGHT LIVING

4. BELIEVE RIGHT AND GOOD WILL FOLLOW