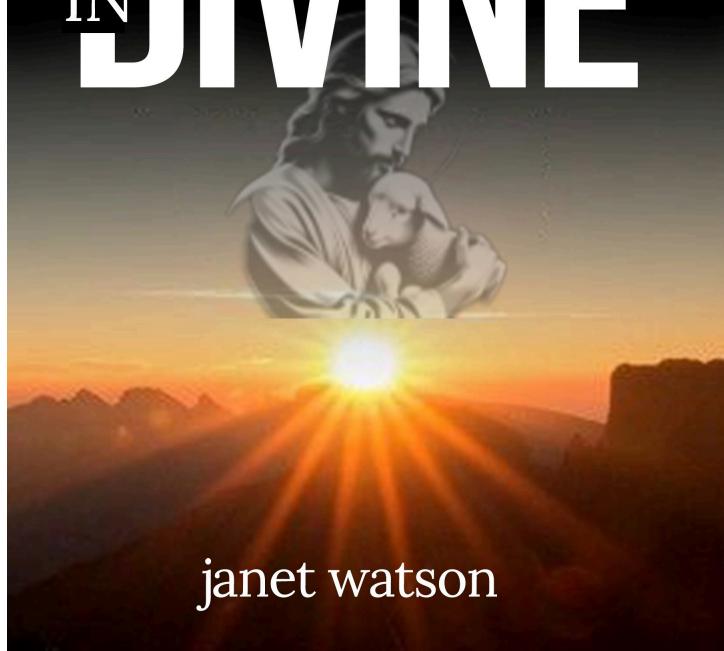


A TAPESTRY OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

# WOVEN IN DIVINE



janet watson

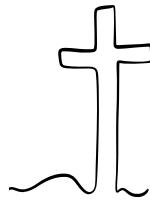
# Eight Devotionals on God's Gracious Acceptance

by [Jan]

## Introduction

Welcome, everyone.

Today, we begin a journey through eight reflections on God's gracious acceptance. Whether you're new to faith, struggling, or just need a reminder that you are welcome with God, these words are for you. Let's open our hearts to receive God's grace together.



# Devotional 1: Welcome to Grace

**You don't have to have it all together to come to God.**

For a long time, many of us have thought we need to clean ourselves up before God will accept us. We imagine Him searching for perfect people, or at least people trying hard. But the story of Jesus tells us something different.

Jesus was always surrounded by people who were hurting, confused, or even a little lost. He ate with people nobody else wanted to eat with. He reached out to people who were sick, grieving, or full of questions. He didn't wait for them to get it together—He just loved them. He offered grace.

Grace means God gives us love and acceptance, not because we deserve it, but because that's who He is. God's grace is bigger than our mistakes, our doubts, and even our deepest pain.

Maybe you're carrying something heavy today—grief, regret, fear, or just exhaustion. God's grace meets you right where you are. You don't have to pretend or be strong for Him. You can come as you are, and He welcomes you with open arms.

## **Scripture:**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28

## **Prayer:**

God, thank You for meeting me where I am. Help me to believe that

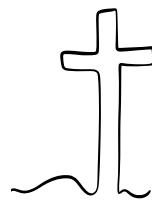
Your grace is really for me. I want to know You—not as a distant judge, but as a loving Father who welcomes me, struggles and all. Amen.

**Pause to Reflect:**

What do you imagine God feels when He looks at you? Try to picture Him looking at you with kindness, not disappointment.

## Devotional 2:

# God's Grace Is Bigger Than Our Mess



If you've ever thought, "There's no way God could love me as I am," you're not alone. Most of us have moments when we feel too broken, too messy, or too far gone for grace.

But God's grace isn't just for the "good" parts of us—it's for the whole, messy story. He doesn't wait on the other side of our problems—He steps right into them with us.

Jesus spoke about lost sheep and coins, about people who ran away and made terrible decisions. Every time, the ending is the same: God **searches**, God **welcomes**, God **celebrates**. There's no hint that we have to "get it right" before He'll accept us.

God already knows your mess, and He loves you anyway. There's nothing you can confess that will shock Him. Grace is stubborn like that.

You don't have to prove anything. You have to let Him in.

### **Scripture:**

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." — Romans 5:8

**Prayer:**

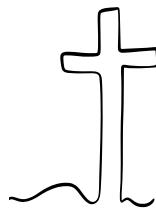
God, I bring You all the parts of me, especially the ones I'd rather hide. Thank you for loving me, mess and all. Help me to trust Your grace more than my ability to fix myself. Amen.

**Pause to Reflect:**

What's one thing you wish you could hide from God? Take a deep breath and talk to Him about it.

## Devotional 3:

# Accepted Even in Our Weakness



Sometimes we believe God only wants us when we're strong, certain, and full of faith. But the truth is, God is drawn to our weakness—not repelled by it.

Think about the people Jesus noticed: the woman at the well, exhausted and shamed; the man whose friends lowered him through a roof to be near Jesus; the father who cried out, “I believe—help my unbelief!” Jesus never told them to come back when they were stronger. He met them right in their need.

Weakness, doubt, sickness, and struggle aren't signs that God is disappointed in you. They're invitations—open doors for God's grace to show up. The apostle Paul said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

You don't have to hide your struggles from God. It's often in those places of weakness that we experience His love and acceptance most deeply.

### Scripture:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” – 2 Corinthians 12:9

### Prayer:

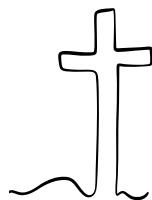
God, I'm tired of pretending to be strong. Thank You that I don't have to impress You. Help me trust that Your grace is enough for my weakness, my doubts, and my struggles. Hold me close when I feel small. Amen.

**Pause to Reflect:**

Is there a part of your life that feels especially weak or uncertain? Imagine Jesus sitting with you there, loving you.

# Devotional 4:

## Finding God in Suffering



Suffering makes us ask big questions. Where is God when life hurts? Why doesn't He just fix it? Does He even care? Even Jesus, hanging on the cross, cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Bible never promises that life will be easy, even for those who trust God. But it does promise that God is with us in the middle of pain. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

Sometimes, suffering makes God feel far away, but He's never been closer. He sits with us in grief, listens to our angry prayers, and holds us when we're too tired to keep going. God's grace is for the days when you can barely get out of bed.

You might not get answers for every "why," but you can know this: God suffers with you. He knows pain, loss, and abandonment. And He promises those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

### **Prayer:**

God, I don't always understand why things hurt so much. But I need You. Help me to feel Your presence, even when everything is falling apart. Thank You for never leaving me alone in my suffering. Amen.

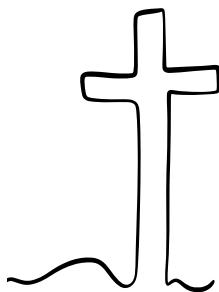
### **Pause to Reflect:**

Where are you hurting right now? Be honest with God about your pain.

Imagine Him sitting beside you, simply being with you.

# Devotional 5:

## Grace in Times of Loss



Loss hits everyone differently. Sometimes it crashes over you, sometimes it creeps in quietly. Whether it's the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or the loss of a dream, grief can feel like too much to carry.

It's easy to wonder where God is in all that. Sometimes people say, "God never gives you more than you can handle," but honestly, there are days when life feels heavier than we could handle on our own.

God never asks you to carry your grief alone. Jesus knew what loss felt like—He wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus. God's grace doesn't erase loss, but it meets you there. He's okay with your questions, anger, and sadness. He doesn't rush you through grief or demand that you "move on." His acceptance means you can mourn honestly, knowing you're still loved.

And when the ache feels like too much, God promises comfort. Sometimes it's loud and obvious, more often, it's quiet—a gentle presence, a hope that, somehow, joy will return.

### **Scripture:**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." — Matthew 5:4

### **Prayer:**

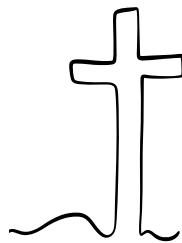
God, I miss what I've lost. My heart feels heavy, and I'm not sure what to do with all this grief. Thank You for being close to me, even when I can't see You. Help me to trust that Your grace is enough for today. Amen.

**Pause to Reflect:**

Is there something or someone you're grieving? Be honest with God. Picture Him sitting with you in the sadness, offering comfort.

## Devotional 6:

# When We Fail, God Still Loves Us



### Devotional 6: When We Fail, God Still Loves Us

Failure is rough. Whether it's a mistake you made yesterday or something that's haunted you for years, shame tries to convince us we're unlovable. Maybe you've asked, "How could God still want me after what I've done?"

But God's love doesn't depend on you getting everything right. The Bible is full of people who stumbled—Peter denied Jesus, David made terrible choices, Paul persecuted Christians before becoming one. God didn't give up on them. He doesn't give up on you.

Grace isn't a reward for good behavior; it's a gift for people who know they need it. When you mess up, God doesn't turn His back. He draws closer and reminds you that your worst moments aren't the end of your story.

When you're ready to come to Him—whether with regret, guilt, or exhaustion—He's waiting. Not with punishments, but with open arms. He forgives. He restores. You're still His.

#### Scripture:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." — 1 John 1:9

#### Prayer:

God, I've messed up. Sometimes shame makes me want to run from You. But I'm tired of hiding. Thank You for loving me when I fail, for forgiving me, and for giving me a fresh start. Help me to believe Your grace is bigger than my worst mistakes. Amen.

#### Pause to Reflect:

Is there a failure or regret you keep replaying? Tell God about it. Imagine Him looking at you with compassion and love.

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# Devotional 7:

## Living Each Day in God's Acceptance

**Scripture:** It's one thing to know about

unrighteousness." — 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all

### Prayer:

God, I've messed up. Sometimes shame makes me want to run from You. But I'm tired of hiding. Thank You for loving me when I fail, for forgiving me, and for giving me a fresh start. Help me to believe Your grace is bigger than my worst mistakes. Amen.

### Pause to Reflect:

Out God's grace. It's another to actually live like it's true—especially when doubts and insecurities sneak in. Maybe you think you have to earn God's love, or worry He might change His mind about you. It's easy to fall back into old patterns of striving and self-doubt.

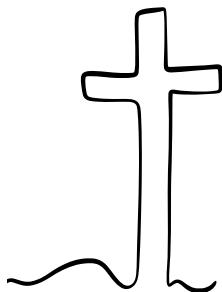
But grace isn't just a one-time gift. It's something you get to lean on every day. God's acceptance isn't shaky—it's as steady as the sunrise. You don't have to wonder if you're loved; you can start every day knowing you belong.

So what does living in that reality look like? Sometimes it's as simple as taking a deep breath and whispering, "God, thank You for loving me right now, just as I am." It might mean letting yourself off the hook when you mess up, or choosing kindness over criticism—toward others and toward yourself.

You can receive God's grace by praying honestly, reading scripture, and spending time with people who remind you of truth. The more you soak in His acceptance, the more it changes the way you see yourself—and others.

## Devotional 8:

# Never Alone—God’s Gracious Presence for the Journey



This is the end of these devotionals, but God’s grace is only just beginning. No matter what comes next, you don’t have to face it alone. God’s acceptance isn’t a one-time event—it’s a lifelong promise. Whether on a mountaintop or deep in a valley, His presence goes with you.

There will still be days when you doubt, struggle, or wonder if you belong. That’s okay. God isn’t surprised by your questions or your fears. He’s not keeping score. He’s walking beside you, patient and steady, offering grace again and again.

When you feel unseen or overwhelmed, remember that God sees you. When you feel too weak to pray, know that He hears even your sighs. When you’re celebrating, He’s cheering with you; when you’re grieving, He’s holding you close. His love is the one thing in your life that never runs out.

So keep going. Keep bringing your real self to God—the messy, honest, hopeful, struggling, beautiful reality of who you are. Grace is for the long haul, and you are always, always welcome.

## Scripture:

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — Matthew 28:20

## Prayer:

God, thank You for walking with me through every season. When I feel alone, remind me that You are near. Let Your grace shape my days and give me courage for whatever comes next. Help me to trust that Your presence is enough. Amen.

**Pause to Reflect:**

Looking back, what has God shown you about His grace and acceptance? Take a moment to thank Him for His presence in your life.