

THE GRACE AWAKENING
GRACE: IT'S REALLY ACCEPTING!
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

Truly, “it is more blessed to give than to receive,” as our Lord Jesus taught (Acts 20:35). In a selfish world where greed and envy remain at the forefront of most lives, encountering those who have cultivated the grace to give is a pleasure. Such people are refreshing models of true servanthood. There is, however, another side to such generosity: the grace to receive another’s gifts. In our culture that emphasizes independence, self-assurance, and productivity, a subtle pride begins to develop deep within most of us. This pride can easily lead to an attitude that says, *I’ll take care of myself, thank you . . .* which leaves little room for acknowledging one’s needs or accepting another’s attempts to give. Grace that is really amazing is grace that is truly accepting.



Discovering the Way

1. The Flip Side of Several Strengths

We must watch out for the dark underbelly of several strengths: with a lifestyle of discipline comes a tendency to judge; with a well-developed education comes a sense of exclusivity; and with an emphasis on independence comes pride.

2. Scriptural Examples of Resisting and Accepting Grace

We see from the lives of biblical figures that we tend to resist grace when our guilt has not been adequately dealt with or when our pride is still paramount. On the other hand, we accept grace when we release all our expectations or when we no longer put confidence in the flesh.



Starting Your Journey

How can we better accept the gifts of others? It takes an admission of humanity and a heart of humility.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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by Charles R. Swindoll
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