

God's Grace allows My Honesty

Mark 9:21-24 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (NIV)

God is the most Awesome, frightening being in the entire universe. No mortal can stand before Him, even look at Him, or be in His full presence. If we were to come before Him we would tremble with fear, say woe is me, realize how unclean and pathetic we are, be speechless, or collapse as dead. (like Job, Daniel, Isaiah, John in Revelation, etc)

And yet: God extends amazing grace to us; He gives us His righteousness that we might come into His presence, be with Him, be known and know Him.

God's Grace allows us to have a relationship with Him

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

Romans 5:20 But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, (NIV)

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)

Romans 4:5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. (NIV)

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (NIV)

Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

This relationship is not based on my effort to become right with God (religion) but on God giving me grace.

Therefore, I can come to God exactly as I am (I do not need to pretend).

God receives me as I am (and his love transforms me).

I can learn to be honest with myself, with God, and others.