


GRACE

FOR THE MOMENT®



*Inspirational Thoughts for
Each Day of the Year*

Max Lucado



*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again
to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption
by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”*

ROMANS 8:15 NKJV

Father, you have made me your child through your Spirit.
In your kindness you adopted me and delivered me from
sin and death.

Remind me today what it means to be your child and to
be free from that law. It is so easy for me to live my day on my
own terms. Help me to live it in light of your grace.

I pray for my friends and family. Help them experience
your love as their father and feel their inheritance in your spirit.

Thank you for accepting me as I am but not leaving me
the same.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Pocket Prayers

God Listens

*I cry out to the LORD;
I pray to the LORD for mercy.*

PSALM 142:1



You can talk to God because God listens. Your voice matters in heaven. He takes you very seriously. When you enter his presence, he turns to you to hear your voice. No need to fear that you will be ignored. Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God, and he listens. He listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. He listens to the gruff confession of the death-row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy, when the spouse seeks guidance, when the businessman steps off the street into the chapel, God listens. Intently. Carefully.

The Great House of God

A Chosen People

You are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession.

1 PETER 2:9



Do you ever feel unnoticed? New clothes and styles may help for a while. But if you want permanent change, learn to see yourself as God sees you: “He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness, like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding, like a bride dressed in jewels” (Isa. 61:10).

Does your self-esteem ever sag? When it does, remember what you are worth. “You were bought, not with something that ruins like gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb” (1 Pet. 1:18–19).

The challenge is to remember that. To meditate on it. To focus on it. To allow his love to change the way you look at you.

When Christ Comes

Worthless Worry

*I was young, and now I am old,
but I have never seen good people left helpless
or their children begging for food.*

PSALM 37:25



We worry. We worry about the IRS and the SAT and the FBI. . . . We worry that we won't have enough money, and when we have money we worry that we won't manage it well. We worry that the world will end before the parking meter expires. We worry what the dog thinks if he sees us step out of the shower. We worry that someday we'll learn that fat-free yogurt was fattening.

Honestly, now. Did God save you so you would fret? Would he teach you to walk just to watch you fall? Would he be nailed to the cross for your sins and then disregard your prayers? Come on. Is Scripture teasing us when it reads, "He has put his angels in charge of you to watch over you wherever you go"? (Ps. 91:11).

I don't think so either.

In the Grip of Grace

A Complete Restoration

*You will know that God's power is
very great for us who believe.*

EPHESIANS 1:19



God loves to decorate. God *has* to decorate. Let him live long enough in a heart, and that heart will begin to change. Portraits of hurt will be replaced by landscapes of grace. Walls of anger will be demolished and shaky foundations restored. God can no more leave a life unchanged than a mother can leave her child's tear untouched. . . .

This might explain some of the discomfort in your life. Remodeling of the heart is not always pleasant. We don't object when the Carpenter adds a few shelves, but he's been known to gut the entire west wing. He has such high aspirations for you. God envisions a complete restoration. He won't stop until he is finished. . . . He wants you to be just like Jesus.

Just Like Jesus

Don't Miss God's Answer

"Is anything too hard for the LORD? No!"

GENESIS 18:14



The God of surprises strikes again. . . . God does that for the faithful. Just when the womb gets too old for babies, Sarai gets pregnant. Just when the failure is too great for grace, David is pardoned. . . .

The lesson? Three words. Don't give up. . . .

Is the road long? Don't stop.

Is the night black? Don't quit.

God is watching. For all you know right at this moment . . . the check may be in the mail.

The apology may be in the making.

The job contract may be on the desk.

Don't quit. For if you do, you may miss the answer to your prayers.

He Still Moves Stones

At Home with God

*“If people love me, they will obey my teaching.
My father will love them, and we will come to
them and make our home with them.”*

JOHN 14:23



God wants to be your dwelling place. He has no interest in being a weekend getaway or a Sunday bungalow or a summer cottage. Don't consider using God as a vacation cabin or an eventual retirement home. He wants you under his roof now and always. He wants to be your mailing address, your point of reference; he wants to be your home. . . .

For many this is a new thought. We think of God as a deity to discuss, not a place to dwell. We think of God as a mysterious miracle worker, not a house to live in. We think of God as a creator to call on, not a home to reside in. But our Father wants to be much more. He wants to be the one in whom “we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28 NIV).

The Great House of God

The Foundation of Courage

“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

HEBREWS 8:12 NIV



Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1 NIV).

“[God] justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26 NIV).

For those in Christ, these promises are not only a source of joy. They are also the foundations of true courage. You are guaranteed that your sins will be filtered through, hidden in, and screened out by the sacrifice of Jesus. When God looks at you, he doesn't see you; he sees the One who surrounds you. That means that failure is not a concern for you. Your victory is secure. How could you not be courageous?

The Applause of Heaven