

Subject: Inspirational Stories – Faith -- On Grace

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The following article was requested by an RSI minister after reading the chapter about mystical faith in my book, Faith It Till You Make It. I pass it along for your enjoyment. I welcome feedback.

**On Grace
by Rev. Bernardo Monserrat**

Grace is the spontaneous explosion of Spirit into human activity. It is a sanctified means through which the mystery of life is revealed, enlightened, and eased. Grace results when the soul saturates with sanctity and overflows unto manifested creation. Though the intricate manifestation may not have been requested, Grace's sacred gift is quickly understood and appreciated. It demonstrates either as a single occurrence or as a mode of operation within the individual. As a single occurrence, it has the semblance of a miracle. These are serendipitous phenomena that lack a cause or source. As a mode of operation, grace becomes a lifestyle, a way of being.

Living in Grace is a mystical experience that operates on the individual in two different manners: First it allows the individual to see all outward manifestations as the presence of God. Secondly, the person living in grace is more conscious of its gifts. Aware of grace's magical qualities, the person holds the gifts in awe and gratitude. Furthermore, when confronted with life's oddities and betrayals, grace protects the individual from self-defeating reactions. This allows for prayer-filled responses to these difficult situations. Over time, a dependency on grace develops, and the individual comes to know it and expect it. Grace is recognized as a blessing that comes for no logical reason or intention. Yet, it permeates the individual's perceptions, activities and relationships.

This way of being is an early sign of a mystical life. The individual who lives in grace possesses a spiritual elegance that is both humbling and intoxicating. With a quiet demeanor, this individual's walk through life whispers loudly on behalf of Spirit. With effortless commitment and determined resignation, this spiritual sophistication is the natural outcome of time spent in prayer, spiritual practice and religious education. A grace-filled lifestyle is the soul's reward for the individual's dedication to God. With full intention and complete dedication, these individuals willfully resign all judgments about life to God's singular purpose: love and creation. No longer imprisoned by their individualistic needs, they use their talents to create and promote a loving and peaceful environment. This endeavor begins in their minds and hearts. Perennially vigilant for signs of anger, jealousy, wounding or discontent, they include in their spiritual practices the willingness to forgive themselves and others.

Grace, whether as a single manifestation or a lifestyle, is the outpouring of spirit through our souls and into our everyday experiences. This gift never circumvents the soul. As

grace comes through the soul, it transforms it. This enables the soul to become an increasingly clear conduit for God's love to descend upon the world.

We invite grace into our lives when we direct our spiritual practices towards accepting all of life as God's sacred manifestation. When these practices reveal the mystery of God's larger purpose, grace gives us the patience necessary to wait in full expectancy. Grace guides our perception towards clarity, serenity and peace. Learning to live in God's mystery is the mystic's highest quality. For that, we receive grace, and grace will deliver us from the stress and strains of the mundane life.