D E V O

Grace

John Mark Pantana

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He became sin who knew no sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ."

Inspiration

I tried for many, many years to live as a good Christian but I could never seem to do or be good enough. I was constantly bogged down by guilt and overloaded with shame. I grew up in church and I just kept hearing how I should live as a Christian. Do right! Do right! Do right! Out of genuineness, I left the church. I thought other people could live the Christian life but I couldn't. I tried to serve God but it wasn't ever enough. I tried to love God with all my heart but I couldn't ever "get there". I was so focused on right and wrong that I neglected to have a relationship with God.

I gave up on my relationship with God for years until I heard a man who proclaimed God's radical grace. I couldn't stop listening and through hearing the good news of Grace again and again, God completely changed my life! My relationship with the Lord is so sweet and He is my best friend! I have an unshakeable confidence that He is for me and that I am righteous because of Jesus' finished worked. I am nothing but who God says I am and He says I am loved and I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

Verse 1

I was looking at my sin
But I was never getting free from it
You've settled it I'm always loved, forever right
with You, what a grand design

Chorus

You are love inside my heart
And I can't imagine one day without ya
You are the love of my life
Oh, what a beautiful Grace I'm in

Verse 2

I was looking for this love
I was waiting for this day to come
You're better than I ever thought you'd ever be
How love changed my frame my mind

Bridge

All the preachers are yellin' holiness
And all the bleachers can't get ahold of it
'Cause sin consciousness creates counterfeits
You want freedom, eyes on Jesus then
As you behold Him you become like Him
But nobody's bold 'cause the righteousness
Preached, well it's works-based obedience
Self-effort, self-confident deviance
Outward behavior that ways immediate
But inward change comes with Grace ingredients
The Gospel is Grace
And people are saying that it's dangerous
But haven't tasted all that He's paid for us,
My goodness how wonderfully it changes us
When we understand where He's placed us in Christ
We aren't separationists
Our righteousness, we receive a gift
It's not leased on some type of work permit
Confessing like our standing is based on it
Well our past, our present, and our future of sin
As far as east from west has been
Once and for all forever put away
That we might come boldly
Everyday every moment wholly convinced
That God our Father
Did all the work on the alter
That we might know Him
Completely, individually, in love and intimacy
The Gospel is simply Grace

Jesus My Righteousness

John Mark Pantana

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, "And their righteousness is *from Me*," says the Lord.

Inspiration

"God doesn't love me anymore. God *hates* me."
"God is not for me. I'm not *righteous* enough!"

Ever hear things like this? Did you know those are weapons meant to *destroy* you? They're from an accuser. And when we *believe* those accusations they lead to guilt and shame and feelings of sorrow. Some *bad prospering* has happened!

The verse goes on and shows us the victory against these accusations: "Their righteousness is *from* Me." Isn't that just amazing. Your righteousness is from the Lord. If you are hearing otherwise you need to awake to righteousness! You are *perfectly righteous* because you have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). You need to start agreeing that your righteousness is not your own. And then notice why those weapons formed and those judging tongues don't prosper: *you* shall condemn.

God isn't the one condemning those tongues of judgment. *You are*. Weapons formed against won't prosper when you condemn them. God won't condemn them for you! You do the condemning! This is the only type of condemning God *wants* us to do.

When you start to hear words like: "God is punishing you for this. Look at how awful you have been!" God wants you to *condemn those condemning words*! God wants you to know that your righteousness is from Him! Don't let weapons of accusations form in your heart. When you know and agree that your righteousness is from the Lord, you'll start condemning those accusations of judgement and *no weapon formed against you will prosper*!

Verse 1

This much I know
There's nothing we can do
The fable is we earn
and work until we prove
The safety of our righteousness
The weight of this is always stress

Good for the morning
Doubt for the evening
If you gonna work it
Work 'til you're bleeding
I know that road is long
I know that road is long

Chorus

Jesus My Righteousness

Verse 2

This much I know
There's nothing we can do
The table isn't earned
Sons don't need to prove
The safety of our righteousness
The blood is good enough for us

Good for the morning
Joy for the evening
I know You gonna love me
Love me like You're bleeding
I know I am a son
I know what You've done

Peace Of Mind

John Mark Pantana

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.

Inspiration

I met Rose at a Christian conference in North Carolina. She was a vibrant, feisty ole bird! She told me her story and not even six months before: *she was on her deathbed*. "I could hear so many voices yelling: 'You're going to die!'" She needed feeding and breathing tubes just to stay alive. "I could see death and demons swirling around my bed." Despite all the loud voices, she was still able to hear a small, *comforting voice*.

"I will not die but live, and instead of death, I will proclaim what the Lord has done" (Psalm 118:17). God was quoting His Word to Rose. She could barely speak with all the tubes but she muttered, "I will not die but live." Over the next few days, she would experience great big waves of fear trying to get her to relent from *trusting* God's Word. Again and again, "I will not die but live." Guess what happened? She made a miraculous recovery. She could have just passed away and been with the Lord! But God gave her His Word to speak out when her circumstances were screaming otherwise. Did you know your circumstances and even your feelings are trying to get *control* of your mouth? Why? Because your words hold death and life! Hey, royal priesthood. Yeah, you! Bridle your tongue! Do you know the promises of God? Let those be on your lips!

The accuser will try to disqualify you, "You're not righteous enough! God's promises aren't for you!" What does the Word say? All of God's promises in Christ are yes and amen (2 Cor. 1:20). Are you righteous enough? Of course you are! You have become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). Start standing on the promises of God! This is what it means to be a *child of promise* (Gal. 4:28). We no longer live according to the *flesh* (our self-effort or our five senses), but according to the *promises* of God.

Just like Rose' story, there's going to be people, circumstances, and feelings trying to steal your confidence in what God has said. Don't listen to those things! Put your confidence in His Word and *rest*. As you rest in God's promise, He will do all the work! And when you hear doubting voices, speak out what God has said!

Verse 1

When I'm down and I'm out
When I think I've lost my way
Well I know what I'll say

Verse 2

When I'm feeling the pain
When I can't see a thing
Well I know what I'll say

Pre-Chorus

Surely my lips will
Surely my lips will say

Chorus

You're my Rock and You're my salvation
In all my situations I cast my cares You take 'em
You're my Faith and You're my right standing
In all my insecurities I fix my eyes on Jesus
and find Your Peace of mind

Verse 3

When I'm on the mountain top
When my flesh it wants the fame
Well I know what I'll say

It's You

John Mark Pantana

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined together with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

Ephesians 5:30

We are members of His body; of His flesh and of His bones.

Inspiration

I used to always look up at the sky and wonder where God was. Turns out, He was right under my nose! When we receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit joins together with our spirit and we are *born again* into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). That word, "new creation" speaks of something never, *ever* seen before in the history of the world!

God used to dwell in the Holy of Holies of a temple. The High Priest of Israel could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year. If that priest had not observed every ordinance perfectly, he would die upon entering the place where God's Presence dwelled! So how in the world does God *live* in us now?

Jesus' finished work on the Cross has made us absolutely *perfect*! The priests in the Old would make sacrifices every single day but they could "never with those sacrifices, which they continually offered year after year, make those who approached perfect" (Hebrews 10:1). Every priest in the Old stood working continually as their sacrifices could *never* take away sins (Hebrews 10:11). But Jesus, offered Himself as one sacrifice for sins forever, and has made all those who believe on Him: *perfect forever* (Hebrews 10:14). Jesus finished the work of taking *all* our sins away, which is why He sat down at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:13). Truly, Jesus meant the words He spoke while on the Cross: "It is finished!"

Jesus did such a wonderful job that God now finds you a *comfortable* place to live! God's Presence used to dwell in temples but now you are the temple of God and He has taken up His *residence* in you (1 Cor. 3:16)!

Jesus pursued us like a valiant bridegroom. When He hung on that Cross, He did it for the joy of having His bride: *you*! When you received Jesus, you got *married*! You are in an unbreakable covenant with God. Jesus is the head of the body, and we are now *bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh*. We can get to know the Lord intimately and without hesitation because of what Christ has done. What a mystery! We are *one* with the Lord.

Verse

Lord, You are one with me
I am one with You
Show me what I've got inside
God inside of me

Lord, You are one with me
I am one with You
I want to know more of Your intimacy

Chorus

Deep, deep, deep waters
Flow inside of me
It's You

Deep, deep, deep love
Exists inside of me
It's You

Ending

Love, love love, flowing in my veins
Peace, peace, peace, flowing in my veins
Faith, faith, faith, flowing in my veins
Well I know what I'll say

Paradise

John Mark Pantana

Inspiration

Relationships are complexly awesome. Sometimes you just want to mozy on the couch together. Sometimes you go on an adventure. And, date nights are to be treasured. I view my relationship with God in a similar vein. More than half of my relationship with Him is jovial goodness; *goofy delight* with my Papa. And then there are moments when it’s like date night; it’s a unique moment. An encounter, if you will. We don’t chase them or *base* what we believe on them -- but they are pretty great.

I had one of those with God while worshiping one Sunday. I was *alone*. I was singing and playing guitar. I was just mouthing whatever came to me. And then a holy nostalgia welled up in my heart. My life's various seasons started panning through, moving forward, like an ongoing scroll. I saw Jesus in each scene, sticking closer than a Brother, fighting for me, rescuing me. Like the Director's cut, I got behind-the-scenes footage of God's faithfulness. One memory rushed to the forefront of my focus. I was in Alabama. It was early in the morning. I was laying on the couch, attempting to focus my attention on God's Presence when all of the sudden I saw Jesus' *face*.

He had the *warmest*, strongest, most joyful smile you could ever imagine. He had *grin lines*. There was untold majesty in His demeanor but the aura of acceptance I felt welcomed me to draw closer. All your religious garbage *melts* when you get a glimpse of Jesus. And then, He kissed my face! Imagine a world where there's no perversion. Absolute purity. Selfless, unearned love overflowing onto you. I received a deep emotional healing. Freedom is always a fruit of God.

Ever since that moment, I've become much more excited to be with Jesus after this life. While we are living, we want to see heaven come to earth. And I believe He is with us now and we can experience Him now. In fact, that is exactly what happened to me! But the more I know Him this side of heaven, the more I’m excited for the other side. It’s going to be so rad. This song dances between the excitement of being with Jesus in the life to come while getting to know Him now.

Verse 1

One day my faith will find the eyes of perfect Love
A glorious smile,only I know the ways
You've fought for me over and over
Spending life finding new discoveries
You've made for me

Pre-Chorus

The morning brings a million mercies
The morning sings a lover's mystery
The morning brings a peaceful waking
I'm alive, I'm alive, I'm alive

Chorus

It's paradise and I'm swimming
In the pools of God
Oh yes and I'm soaring
In the skies of Grace
And I'm resting
In the arms of Strength
I'll finally kiss the feet of heaven's King of Kings
(Now I’m finding heaven inside me)
I'm overcome by Love

Verse 2

Today my faith will find the eyes of perfect Love
A glorious time, remembering
The ways you've rescued me over and over
I'll spend my life, finding new discoveries of
You and Your mysteries

Silent War

John Mark Pantana

Psalm 34:19

The righteous man may face many dangers and see many trials but the LORD *delivers* him from them *all*.

Inspiration

There was a season in Arkansas where I would wake up and wish I hadn't. Unless you've had anxiety attacks it's hard to explain them. Think of a truck pinned to your chest and your brain spinning into primordial soup. Fear on crack *without explanation*. And depression is like living without color. Everything is void of meaning. Days blur together. Motivation is scarce.

Just putting one foot in front of the other can be an all out war. It was deep in my depression that God became real to me in a new way; experiential Savior. Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. When humans are annoyingly preachy or cold, God is a steadfast shoulder to cry on. I learned so many things from that trial and yet I know that it wasn't *from* God. Sometimes when we learn axioms from low places, we say God led us into the pit. It's just *not* true. It's the devil who attempts to kill, steal, and destroy. God is simply the master recycler turning all things for our good. And that is precisely what happened to me. Silent War is about a very dark season in my life and how Jesus eventually rescued me *out of the fog*.

Chorus

One foot in front of the other
It's a silent war

Verse 1

I was looking for a fight to get a high
I was looking for a job to pass the time
Couldn't lie to myself, couldn't feel a thing
I was waiting for my life to get in line
I would wake up in the morning and I'd want to die
I would feel anxiety that controlled my mind
I was falling down a hellish slope
I would grab anything to cope
All the pipes and the lines
And the girls and the wine came low

Verse 2

I had been to church just to pay my tithes
I was looking at God like He hustled mine
I couldn't get it, didn't want to live a lie
I tried the game of a middle-class saint
I tried the mask for a 9-5 day
Put back some pills with a whiskey chase
I was cruising down an empty road
Losing every shred of hope
All the pride and the dimes
And the fight and the crime came low

Bridge

Eyes crying out for something more
I'm not satisfied with all the world
Eyes crying out for something more
I'm not satisfied with all the world has to offer me
I hear a voice calling my name
Warmth fills my heart, it's Jesus to blame
I see my past melting away
Warmth fills my lungs with joyful praise
Jesus, Jesus, I see You Jesus
I see Your heart, I see the light
I see Your heart, I see the light
It's Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
My heart fills up with love so bright
This love inside I can't describe
Depression dies when Jesus is mine
Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy is mine
Jesus, Jesus, You fight my battles for me
You win the war
You win the war

Let My Love

John Mark Pantana

Ephesians 5:25-26

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might set her apart and cleanse her *thinking* with the washing of water by the Word.

Inspiration

I used to have *no boldness* with God. And I have met countless people who will not go to God because they *feel* a sense of shame. There is an underlying urge to clean yourself up before approaching God. This is the *conscience* inherently knowing that God is holy and that "someone must pay for my sins". You can deal with this in a hundred different ways. The way God wants us to *deal* with the conscience is by believing in Jesus' finished work on the Cross.

Before Christ, all the Old Testament priests would make sacrifices *every day* for sins to cleanse their conscience but these sacrifices "cannot make him perfect in regard to the conscience" (Heb 9:9). When you punish yourself with guilt or others with shame, or try to appease God with good works or hush God's voice; you're attempting to purge your conscience from a sense of debt. Many are cutting themselves because their conscience is demanding, "Someone must pay!" Someone did! The blood of animals in the Old could never take away your sins, but "how much more shall the blood of Christ cleanse your conscience from dead work to serve the living God?" How wonderful. All of your sins have been put away. You don't have to punish yourself anymore! Your debt has been completely paid. This is what Jesus came to do for you. And none of it is based on your merit or loveliness. Jesus is your husband, speaking words of acceptance to you that He might set you apart and change the way you think about God and yourself.

You know what Jesus is saying now? I love you. Are you struggling with addictions and entanglements? He's saying, "Come to Me! Just the way you are! Warts and all. Addictions and all. Gunk and all. I am the bath. Constantly come to me. A million times. My grace is deeper, wider, bigger, more extravagant than your failures. I supply your righteousness. I am your supply. I am your God. I am! Let My love wash over you!"

Verse 1

You are loved
You're not waiting for the day
I wrap you in a hug
I want it to be now

You're my son
You're not trying to become
Rest in what I've done
Let your heart be free

Pre-Chorus

Stop trying to wash
I am the water

Chorus

Let my love wash over you
Let my love wash over you
Let my love wash over you
Just let go, let go of control

Verse 2

You are caught
Caught up in a web
But I'll unravel you
If you trust My touch

You are My bride
Glowing glorious and bright
As My shining Son
This is who you are to Me

Don’t Even Worry

John Mark Pantana

Luke 10:41

“Martha, Martha,” the LORD answered, “you are worried and anxious about many things.”

Inspiration

It was January. I don’t think I had seen the sun in two weeks. The white noise of the rain had become normal. I could feel sadness suffocating me like slowly poured tar wrapping itself over my breathing ports. When I worry, it doesn’t come to the surface in overt ways. I tend to disconnect myself. I was worried about many things. I stopped talking to humans. I felt alone. Even when I did escape my self inflicted bubble and interact; I still felt a void of emptiness.

The only refuge for me was God. I didn’t really have much to say. A random, “Hey Dad” would half heartedly ooze from my droopy lips. I was in a boring lull when suddenly an old chorus popped in my head. I had written it months ago. It was quietly filed between hundreds of other ideas. "Don't even worry. Don't even side with those lies." I kept humming it for a few days. It got stuck in my head real good; a chronic ear-worm. Is that you sub-conscience? As I drove alone in my car, humming the tune, I started to *sense* the presence of God. It was like getting a whiff of momma’s cookin after many meals deprived. It dawned on me. God was singing these words to me. I retreated home, tucked away with my guitar and the rest of the song just flowed. It was an odd, wonderful thing. I was the one writing and yet I felt more like a scribe than an author. God finally got through to me and it was via song. Picture a loving Dad trying eighteen different ways to get his teenage daughter’s attention. She hasn’t been listening and nothing has been getting through. And finally, the persistence pays off. On the nineteenth try, he gets her attention. What a kind-hearted Dad. Did you know God is a sweetheart?

Chorus

Don't even worry
Don't even side with those lies
Don't even worry
You're waiting for peace
To pass the time

Verse 1

Are you prison to your thoughts?
Are you seeing worst case scenarios?
Are you tired of being tossed?
Are you weary? Come, oh come to me.

Verse 2

You are always on my mind
You are always cared for and your needs
You are loved beyond all border lines
I am everything, oh, everything you need

Bridge

All risen seas
And fighting wars
All the mysteries
Fall at my Word
Fall at my Word

All flaming darts
And weapons formed
All the armories
Fall at my Word
Fall at my Word

Ending

Any circumstance I'm in
Doesn't matter what it is
Doesn't phase You, phase You

Taste And See

John Mark Pantana

Psalm 119:103

How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! The joys of those who take refuge in Him!

Inspiration

I love the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon conducted an experiment to "search out by wisdom all that is done under the sun" (Ecc 1:13). It's one man's exploration into all the pleasures this world has to offer. This experiment wasn't low budget either. Solomon was a rich playboy. The world was his oyster.

When he built, he built cities. When he gardened, he planted forests. When he partied, he threw raves every night for ten thousand diehards. He employed the world's finest musicians to be his jesters. His mouth only tasted the best cuisine. He hand selected the most beautiful woman from every province to be his own. He is to this day the richest man to ever live. No one has come close to his abundance of material goods or experienced more worldly pleasures than our boy Solomon. And his constant refrain? "Vanity of vanities." Solomon discovered a meaningless existence exploring God's creation. These things are not evil. God called His creation good! It's when we attempt to find our satisfaction from these things we are left disappointed.

Don't settle for scraps. Jesus has set the table for you to come and feast on all the goodness of God! Have you tasted the goods of the world and seen how empty they are? Come and have a real meal! There are pleasures at God's right hand that extend for all eternity (Psalm 16:11). God is ringing the dinner bell. You were created to feast on the delicacies of God Himself! He is pure pleasure and satisfaction! Come! Taste and see!

Verse 1

Sweeter than the honeycomb
Richer than the wine
Better than the finest things
We can taste this life

Pre-Chorus

You are my desire's King
Love is all I'll ever need
You are my delicacy
C'mon, c'mon to the dinner table
C'mon, c'mon to the dinner table

Chorus

You're healing my heart when I'm drinking in You
Like jumping in the water in the summer of June
Soothing my soul when I'm feeding on You
Like eating Mama's cooking in the afternoon
Now is the time feast
Now is the time feast
Taste and see, taste and see
The Lord is good, good, good to me

Verse 2

Sweeter than the honeycomb
Richer than the wine
Survey all the earthly goods
And they'll fail you every time

Bridge

You bring satisfaction
You make man's heart happy
Wellspring of life
I'm here to dine

Seventeen

John Mark Pantana

Inspiration

Seventeen is the telling of a true redemption story; a marriage restored. As the couple spoke, it was borderline mind-boggling how their story shifted from hate to love. I don't think it's of no consequence that Jesus turned water into wine at a *marriage* feast.

Verse 1

Oh my soul
Cries out for help
Lord restore
It's only getting harder
But I'm wanting her to stay

Pre-Chorus 1

We've been fighting every night
With our backs up to a knife
Lord restore
How did we end up here
Our marriage disappeared
Lord restore

Chorus 1

Seventeen years and after all we've done
How could we throw away all our love
Just come over, come over and tell me
Seventeen reasons we fell in love
Praying to God we won't give this up
Come over, come over and
Tell me, tell me you are mine

Verse 2

Oh my soul
Cries out to You
Lord restore
We're only feeling further
And I'm wanting it to change

Pre-Chorus 2

I've been listening to fears
Never more than recent years
Lord restore
We've been hurting every day
Is our marriage in the grave?
Lord restore

Chorus 2

Seventeen years and not a days gone by
The thought of you hasn't been on my mind
Come over, come over and tell me
Seventeen reasons we fell in love
Praying we'll find a way to make it up
Come over, come over and
Tell me, tell me you are mine

Bridge

We're getting on our knees
To give it all to You
Only Jesus turns water to wine
Your love is all we need
To make it through this storm
We'll be singing on the other side
Jesus, Jesus saves

Chorus 3

Seventy years will have come and gone
We'll be holding hands with a real strong love
Come over, come over and tell me
Seventy reasons we're still in love
Thanking the Lord for everything He's done
Come over, come over and
Tell me tell me tell me
Tell me tell me tell me you are mine

All In All

John Mark Pantana

1 Corinthians 15:28

Once the last enemy of death has been put under Jesus' feet, then Jesus Himself will subject Himself under God, so that God may be all in all.

Colossians 1:16-17

All things were created by Jesus and for Jesus. And He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.

Inspiration

All things that are made were made by Jesus! Every cell in the universe is *held together* by Him. He's all in all. Each sunrise paints a glimpse of His creativity. The *tranquility* of a snowfall hints of His meekness. The *power* of the ocean roars of His majesty. The pedal of a summer lily whispers of His *gentleness*. The endless galaxies ring of His *wonder.* God has left traces of Himself in all creation. Have you ever turned the bend of a beautiful mountain range and been *filled with awe*? All of creation *sings* and proclaims the goodness and the wonder of God. But do you know what God called the *very best* of His creation? You.

God knitted you together with brilliance and care. You are an extension of God's personality. You are made in His likeness! Each person is a window into knowing an aspect of who God is. God so loves each and every person that He gave Himself up for all to know His love (2 Peter 3:9). What King lays down His life for His people? This is our God. There is none like Him! He sculpted you from the dust and yet His heart is to *set the table* for you. He breathed creation with untapped power and yet He *washes our feet.* He is full of wonder! He is our Creator. He is our Father. He is all in all.

Verse 1

Every sunrise in this life
Every lover intertwined
Every time I see You there

Pre Chorus

You are in everything
All in all and You love life

Chorus

You're the gentle breeze
You're the summer air
A silent breed
You're the western seas
You're the tidal wave
A wild scene
You're the lion's roar
You're the humble lamb
Inside me
Life is in Your hands

Verse 2

Every winter in my mind
Every blunder I've devised
Every time I see You there

Bridge

Oh how and oh how I wonder
What's in store
Oh how and oh how I wonder
What's in store
Through the next door
Life is in Your hands

Verse 3

Every star in galaxies
Every wonder in our dreams
Every time I see You there

By His Stripes

John Mark Pantana

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely He has borne our sicknesses and carried our diseases; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Matthew 8:16-17

That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and *He healed all the sick*. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."

Inspiration

I remember being terrified of Communion Sunday. The preacher would say, "If there's any sin in your life you cannot partake otherwise you'll be drinking down God's judgment on yourself!" This boy let the plate pass. Shoot. You ain't gotta tell me twice. I was young, innocent, and well behaved but I wasn't ready to bet my life on it. The environment during Holy Communion was always so intense and joy-less. Everyone would be "searching their hearts" for any unconfessed sin. There was no assurance of God's forgiveness and even fear that God would strike you dead if you did it wrong! What a terrible lie from the pit of hell.

Communion is a celebration of the finished work of Jesus on the Cross (1 Cor. 11:26). I think we should lean closer to undignified dancing during Communion than fall over dead from a fear-induced panic attack!

God doesn't want you to take the Communion in an unworthy *manner*. What manner is that? It's partaking with *condemnation* in your heart and *not* discerning the Lord's body for your health (1 Cor. 11:29). There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). When you take the wine, you are celebrating that by Jesus' blood you have been eternally forgiven and that God will never condemn you for your sin (Heb. 8:12). Hallelujah! When you take the bread, discern the Lord's body by seeing His body scourged for your wholeness (Isaiah 53:5). Many believers are weak, sick, and are dying before their time (1 Cor. 11:30) for this one reason: not discerning the Lord's body! Why? Because His body is for our health! We're just missing out! Start taking Communion in a *worthy manner* by honoring Jesus' sacrifice and ascribing worth to what His death means for you!

Verse 1

At the Cross you took my sin
Guilt and shame, never again
I see you at Calvary
Taking it all for me

Chorus

I am loved
I am healed
I am prosperous
I am always the apple of your eye
Thank you Jesus
Thank you Jesus

Verse 2

At the Cross you took my pains
Sickness gone in Jesus' name
I see you at Calvary
Taking it all from me

Bridge

By His stripes
I am made whole

Mighty Grace

John Mark Pantana

John 1:16-17

From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace; blessing upon blessing. For the law, which is deserved favor, was given by Moses but Grace and Truth, which is undeserved favor, came by Jesus Christ.

Inspiration

What is Grace? Even translators struggle to interpret the word. *Hesed,* the Hebrew word for grace, is so rich that we use many English words to shade its meaning. Some translations say, "Your *lovingkindness* is better than life itself" (Psalm 63:3) while others say mercy, kindness, love, steadfastness, or faithfulness. When David said, "Oh Lord, Your *mercies* are new every morning just like the dew on the grass (Lam. 3:22-23) he coined the Hebrew word for grace: *hesed*.

Grace radically transformed my life. You know why? Because God's Grace *is* the gospel! I heard thousands of messages growing up but none of them ever changed me. It's because the messages were not Grace! Everyone was focused on another message. No one was proclaiming the the too-good-to-be-true news of God's Grace in all of it's unashamed glory!

Paul said, "I do not set aside the *grace* of God, or treat it with contempt, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing! (Gal. 2:21). Grace is intimately connected to *righteousness*. We've all heard, "Grace is getting something you don't deserve". What is that something? It's God's righteousness as a gift! The too-good-to-be-true news is that we have become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). If right standing with God could come by keeping the law (our own efforts or obedience), then Christ died for no purpose!

What's the good news? You are righteous! You've been clothed with Jesus' robes of righteousness. You have received God's very own righteousness as a free gift. This is the amazing, mighty, beautiful Grace of God.

Verse 1

Lord, what can I say
You show me endless Grace
Love, how can I thank You
You tell me all is paid

Verse 2

Lord, when I fall down
You tell me who I am
Love, You see no wrongs
You see the perfect Lamb

Chorus

Mighty Waves
Are crashing In
Grace upon Grace has left me
In the tide of Your great love
You wash my mind with
Mighty Grace

Verse 3

Lord, I am undone
You dress me in Your Son
Love, love on the Cross
You said the work is done

Bridge

Release your guilt
Let go of your shame
Jesus became sin
There is no condemnation
Let Him love you
Let Him love you