



4Ws GOD'S EXTRAORDINARY GRACE: RESTORES ORDINARY PEOPLE

August 9, 2026

WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: Days Of Elijah, Joy, Great Jehovah, Amazing Grace, The Blessing, Turn Around

WELCOME

Have you ever made a mistake that you wish you could take back?

WORD

Acts 13:13

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,

Acts 15:36-39

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,

2 Timothy 4:11

¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

Have you ever made a mistake you wish you could take back? Perhaps you failed in your family, work, relationships, or walk with God and wondered, "Can God still use someone like me?"

The story of John Mark reminds us that our failures do not have to define us. God's extraordinary grace restores ordinary people. When we fail, we can receive His grace, return to Him, and re-engage in His mission.

Receive God's Grace

John Mark was introduced to the Christian community through his mother, Mary, whose home was a gathering place for believers (Acts 12:12). He was also the cousin of Barnabas, a man known for being full of faith and an encourager (Acts 11:22-24).

John Mark was surrounded by God's grace from an early age. For many of us, growing up in a Christian home or being part of a Christian community is itself an expression of God's grace. Even the ordinary blessings we often overlook—waking up, breathing, having food and water, these are gifts from God.

But grace is far greater than these blessings. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us that we are saved by grace through faith, not by our own works. Salvation is God's gift, made possible through Jesus Christ.

We must never forget that grace. When we stumble, our first response should not be to hide from God because we feel unworthy. Instead, we must remember who He is and receive again the grace He has already extended to us.

Return to God

John Mark eventually joined Paul and Barnabas in their missionary work as a helper (Acts 13:5). Though his role was not prominent, it was important. Scripture reminds us that serving in the background is not a lesser calling. Every act of faithful service matters to God.

But John Mark later left the mission and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Scripture does not explain exactly why he left, but the consequences were significant. When Paul and Barnabas later planned another missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to bring John Mark, but Paul refused because John Mark had deserted them.

The disagreement became so sharp that Paul and Barnabas went their separate ways. Barnabas took John Mark with him.

Perhaps you can relate to John Mark. We all carry failures: mistakes in our marriages, families, friendships, work, ministry, finances, or private lives. Sometimes we wonder whether we have disqualified ourselves from being useful to God. But grace does not give up on us.

Peter instructs believers to clothe themselves with humility, humble themselves before God, and cast their anxieties

upon Him because He cares for them (1 Peter 5:5-7). Returning to God begins with humility: acknowledging our sin rather than defending it.

David provides a powerful example. Despite his serious failures, he was described as a man after God's own heart. What distinguished David was not a life without sin, but a heart that humbled itself when confronted. Psalm 32:5 describes his willingness to confess his transgressions and receive God's forgiveness.

Failure does not have to be the end of our story. When we humble ourselves, repent, and return to God, His grace meets us there.

Re-engage in God's Mission

John Mark's story did not end with his failure.

After Barnabas took him with him, John Mark continued serving. Years later, Paul's attitude toward him had completely changed. In Colossians 4:10, Paul refers to Mark positively. In Philemon 1:24, Mark is listed among Paul's fellow workers. And near the end of Paul's life, he specifically tells Timothy, "Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service" (2 Timothy 4:11).

The man Paul once considered unreliable had become a trusted fellow worker.

Restoration may not happen overnight. John Mark's journey unfolded over many years. There were seasons of quiet service, growth, and perseverance before his usefulness became evident again. God's timeline is often different from ours, but He is never finished with those who return to Him.

This is also why receiving God's grace should never become an excuse for continuing in sin. Romans 6:1-2 reminds us that those who have died to sin should not continue living in it. God's grace saves us and teaches us to reject ungodliness and live in a way that honors Him (Titus 2:11-14). Grace does not leave us where it found us. It calls us back to God and empowers us to live differently.

God's Grace Is Still Working

Perhaps you are carrying a failure today. Maybe you have wandered from God, or you believe you have missed His plan for your life. Remember John Mark.

Philippians 1:6 assures us that the God who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion. Our confidence is not in our own perfection but in His faithfulness.

One day, we will stand before our King. May we hear Him say, "Well done." And may there be people whose lives were touched because we allowed His grace to restore, transform, and use us.

We are ordinary people. But we serve an extraordinary God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Have I truly received God's grace? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. Is there an area where God is calling me to return? (Joel 2:12)
3. Where is God inviting me to reengage in His mission-and am I depending on His power rather than my own? (Ephesians 2:10; 3:16-21)

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for someone who is struggling with failure or discouragement, asking God to help them experience His grace and return to Him. As God opens the opportunity, care for that person by reaching out, listening, and encouraging them. Then share how God's grace has met you in your own failures and remind them that their failures do not have to define them—God can restore and use them for His purposes.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria) --- many have been beheaded and murdered; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Continue to pray for Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory. For Jewish people worldwide who are experiencing a surge of antisemitism. May this lead them to the Messiah, Jesus as they turn to God for help and comfort.

- For nations in turmoil (e.g., Ukraine, Middle Eastern countries, etc.) to experience true freedom in Christ and become centers for massive spiritual revivals in their regions. For new Iranian leadership to rise up that will be for the people of Iran, will promote freedom of worship that the Iranian believers will be able to reach out to the rest of their countrymen and the people of the Middle East.
- Pray for the people of Venezuela devastated by two strong 7+ magnitude back-to-back earthquakes. Pray for the rescue of those trapped under collapsed buildings; for strength and protection for the rescue workers; for relief goods and medical services for thousands of affected families. For the church to be the powerful hands of hope and healing that will lead people to Jesus.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, deacons, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 1:6

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.