

BUT GOD: FROM DEATH TO LIFE

A Devotional Journey Through Ephesians 2:4–10

KNOW — Ephesians Growth Journey

Read: Ephesians 2:4–10

BUT GOD

Ephesians 2 begins with a difficult description of our condition apart from Christ. Paul says we were spiritually dead, walking according to the ways of the world and following desires that pulled us away from God.

Then everything changes with two words:

BUT GOD.

God entered a situation we could not change ourselves.

Why?

Paul tells us something about God's character before he tells us what God did.

God is **rich in mercy** because of His **great love** for us.

Our salvation begins not with how good we are, but with how good God is.

RICH IN MERCY

Mercy is God's compassion toward us in our helpless condition.

Paul doesn't simply say God has mercy.

He says God is **rich** in mercy.

There is an abundance of mercy in God.

That means when we come before God aware of our failures, weaknesses, and need, we are not approaching a God who must be convinced to become merciful.

Mercy is already part of His character.

Think About It

When you fail, what do you instinctively imagine God is like toward you?

Do you imagine Him as distant?

Disappointed?

Reluctant to forgive?

Or have you learned to see Him as Scripture describes Him:

Rich in mercy?

BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE

God's mercy flows from His great love.

Notice when God loved us.

Paul says:

“even when we were dead in our trespasses...”

God did not wait for us to become worthy of His love.

He loved first.

His love moved toward us before we could do anything to rescue ourselves.

Remember

God's love isn't the reward for your transformation. God's love is part of what makes transformation possible.

MADE ALIVE WITH CHRIST

What did God's mercy and love produce?

Paul says God:

made us alive with Christ.

The Christian life is more than becoming a better version of ourselves.

God gives us **new life in Christ**.

Our past may explain parts of our story, but it no longer has authority to determine our identity or our future.

Because of Christ, something new has begun.

Ask Yourself

Where am I still thinking and living according to who I used to be rather than who I am becoming in Christ?

SAVED BY GRACE

Paul says:

“By grace you have been saved through faith.”

Grace means salvation is something God provides that we could never earn.

Faith is how we trust and receive what God has provided in Christ.

Think about receiving a gift.

Your hands don't create the gift.

They don't purchase the gift.

They simply receive what someone else has provided.

That's faith.

Remember

Grace provides.

Faith receives.

And because salvation is God's gift, none of us has reason to boast.

We stand before God because of His grace.

CREATED FOR SOMETHING

But Paul doesn't stop with salvation.

Ephesians 2:10 says:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”

God didn't simply save you **from** something.

He also saved you **for** something.

You are God's workmanship.

Your life has purpose.

There are ways God intends for His love, character, and goodness to become visible through you.

Not so you can earn His love.

But because you have already received it.

TWO WALKS

There is a beautiful contrast in Ephesians 2.

Verse 2 describes:

THE WALK WE CAME FROM

A life shaped by sin, the world, and desires contrary to God.

Then verse 10 describes:

THE WALK WE WERE CREATED FOR

A life shaped by God's purposes and expressed through good works.

Grace doesn't merely change our destination.

Grace begins changing our walk.

KNOW WHAT GOD HAS DONE

As you reflect on Ephesians 2:4–10, remember:

You were helpless — BUT GOD was rich in mercy.

You needed love — God loved you greatly.

You were dead — God made you alive with Christ.

You could not earn salvation — God gave grace.

You trusted Him — faith received what grace provided.

You needed purpose — God created you in Christ for good works.

This is what God has done.

Now our growth journey asks us to learn how to live from it.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments with these questions.

- 1. What does Ephesians 2:4–10 teach me about God's character?**
- 2. Is there an area where I struggle to believe God is truly “rich in mercy” toward me?**
- 3. What part of my old life or identity am I still allowing to define me?**
- 4. Where do I see evidence that God is making me different?**
- 5. What good work might God be placing in front of me right now?**

THIS WEEK

Don't try to change everything.

Choose one area.

Ask:

What would it look like for me to WALK differently this week because of what God has done in Christ?

Then take that step.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for being rich in mercy and great in love. Thank You that when I could not rescue myself, You acted on my behalf. Thank You for making me alive with Christ and saving me by grace.

Help me receive what You have done without trying to earn what You have already given. Teach me to see myself through the truth of Your Word and not through the limitations of my past.

Show me the good works You have prepared for me. Let the life You have given me become visible in the way I think, speak, serve, love, and live.

I don't simply want to know what You have done.

Help me live like I know it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLD ON TO THIS

Grace doesn't merely change where I'm going. Grace begins changing how I walk.

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ..."