



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



April 2015

Volume 9, Number 9



Church growth is not for the impatient. I used to love watching my grandfather plant his annual crop. Seeing my excitement, he

allowed me to plant a garden on his farm. I took great pride in this project, building kid-sized replicas of the larger tools Grandfather used in his fields. After much sweat and toil, my garden was ready to grow.

Early the next day, I checked for progress. To my disappointment, the ground looked exactly as I had left it the day before. That's when I learned real growth takes time.

Many years later, God led me to found Bibleway Ministries with my wife and son in the Northwest Suburbs of Illinois. As we canvassed the surrounding areas, hundreds of people promised to visit us "next Sunday." But "next Sunday" never came. Weeks turned into months, and we only saw plowed rows of barren soil — a lot of promises, but no real harvest — certainly no bumper crop. Were we disappointed? Yes, we were!

Then one Sunday, Sandy showed up for service, two years after receiving one of our church invitations. Drugs had been a major part of her life. She was frail from neglecting her physical health and living a rough lifestyle in the streets. But God was working in Sandy's life.

This story has a good ending: Sandy accepted

Christ as her Savior and became one of the most faithful members in our church. Harvest finally came.

It's easy to grow impatient when we can't see the fruit of our labors. But God's timing is just right. He used Sandy to teach us the importance of waiting on Him. Proverbs 28:20b says, *A faithful man shall abound with blessings . . .* The Lord honors faithfulness. If you struggle with impatience, be faithful, and harvest will surely come.

Dr. L.W. Edwards



The Amazing Thing about Grace



As the young boy nervously stood before the cashier at the fast-food restaurant, he had ice cream on his mind and money in his hand — but was it enough? He wasn't sure. After checking his bills and change, he gave it all to the attendant.

The young child was nearly two dollars short. Can you imagine his disappointment? No mini mint Oreo custard for him. At least, that's the way it should have been. But at that moment something wonderful happened. The cashier pulled out his credit card and said, "It's on me," paying the difference. The startled boy's eyes widened like saucers and a smile creased his lips. He couldn't wait to tell his mom, sitting at a booth nearby, what had happened. He had received grace, and it made his day.

This story doesn't end here. After the child finished his ice cream, he and his mother left the booth and walked towards the exit. On their way out, the child slipped a note to the cashier. It read, "Thank you for being so nice and paying for my custard. We need more people like you!" Folded inside the note was a \$100 bill. The cashier was able to add the money to his funds for nursing school.

What's so amazing about grace? Like the cashier's gift to the young child at the fast-food counter, grace is spontaneous, unexpected, unmerited, unwarranted, and unprecedented. And it works both ways. Not only does grace benefit the giver; it inspires love and devotion in its recipient.

Everything we have in life is a byproduct of God's grace. From having just enough battery in your smartphone to make an emergency phone call to avoiding an accident to discovering someone else paid for your coffee at Starbucks to experiencing answered prayer to gaining wisdom to make the right decision — all of these benefits ultimately come from God and we are completely undeserving. That's what grace does.

We may not have the resources of the young ice cream lover's mother to return the favor for someone who does us a kind turn, but we can become conduits of grace that share with others the abundance we have received. Grace travels through kind words, generous deeds, a smile, a need met, and a burden shared amongst friends. Let grace carry out its amazing work through you today.



Pray for Cameron as he has a piano concert on Saturday, April 25, at 2 p.m. The concert will be held at Silverado Lake Zurich Memory Care Community: 555 America Court, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Dr. Edwards is available to speak at churches and special events. Contact him if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011
847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net

UNDYING LOVE

Sermon Audio

Listen to Dr. Edwards online!



Sermon of the Month

Read Dr. Edwards' Sermon of the Month



Free Downloads

Download our free tracts, and help us reach the world!



Stay in Touch!

Share your questions and comments through email.



Are you sure you will spend eternity in Heaven? [Click here](#) to learn how.