Read Titus 3:1-7. Grace is more than a message we preach; it is a gift that transforms the way we live. Paul reminds Titus that those who belong to Christ should be good citizens, obedient to rightful authorities, and eager to do what is good. As neighbors, we should refuse to slander others, pursue peace, show consideration, and treat everyone with genuine courtesy and humility. These qualities are not simply good manners or a respectable way to fit into society. They are evidence that God's grace is at work within us. Our conduct should reflect the character of the Savior we profess to follow. Yet we must remember that we do not demonstrate grace by pretending to be better than others. We demonstrate it by treating others with the same patience, kindness, and mercy that God has shown us.

To cultivate this grace-filled life, Paul invites us to remember who we once were. When we used to harbor resentment, envy others, and to be enslaved to sin. We don't remember this to wallow in shame, though. It is to be overwhelmed in gratitude for the God's grace. We had no righteous deeds to offer God to earn our salvation then, but at our immersion into Christ we were born again, renewed and transformed by the gift of Holy Spirit! Righteous deeds still do nothing to earn us salvation, but they are our new way of life because of God's powerful work of transformation in our lives!

God has not left us to live this new life through sheer determination or human strength. The sanctifying work of Holy Spirit from within is God's gift to us, enabling us to grow in the character of Christ and to become people whose lives reflect the grace we have received. We don't expect to be perfect, but we should expect transformation. The grace that forgives our sins today calls us to turn away from them tomorrow. Paul reminds us that, having been justified by grace, we have become heirs with the hope of eternal life. What a wonderful assurance! We are no longer defined by our past failures but by God's saving work and the inheritance he has promised. So let us live righteously, not to earn God's love, but because we have received it; not by trusting in our own strength, but by depending on Holy Spirit who makes us new. Christ truly makes a difference when we allow his grace to shape every part of our lives.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: When people encounter you in your home, workplace, or community, what evidence might they see that God's grace is transforming the way you live? How might remembering God's mercy toward you change the way you respond to someone who is difficult to love or who has wronged you? Where are you relying too heavily on your own determination to live righteously, and what would it look like to depend more fully on Holy Spirit as you seek to honor the Lord?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,"

2 Timothy 3:5

Weekly Affirmation:

THE MORE I LIVE LIKE JESUS, THE GREATER HIS NAME BECOMES!

OCTOBER 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- ○ Read the Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- ○ Watch the Bible Project video on these books *(available on the website)*.
- ○ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ○ Celebrate God's goodness each week. Publicly give God credit in conversation with others for the ways you see Him working.