

Awaken to God's Presence | Grace and Generosity

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

generosity, grace, gratitude, gift, God

SPEAKERS

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Joelle Wight 00:00

A gift of peace in the midst of troubling times. Project Zion Podcast offers this series of guided practices to help you connect with the divine. No matter where you are and what's going on around you. Take a deep breath and allow your Spirit to find calm in the storm of life.

Wendy Brian 00:28

Greetings sojourners. My name is Wendy Brian. I'm a minister, spiritual director and spiritual formation specialist in community Christ. It's good to be with you today. In Community of Christ, we have nine enduring principles that guide our lives, our ministry, and our stories. These principles are all called Worth of all Persons, Responsible Choices, Pursuit of Peace (Shalom), Unity in Diversity, Blessings of Community, Grace and Generosity, Continuing Revelation, and Sacredness of Creation.

Today, I offer you a meditation on Grace and Generosity. As we begin, please know that silence in meditation is a gift, it is a chance to listen. From time to time in this process today, there will be silent moments. Let them speak to your heart. You may want some paper and something to write with as you move through this time with the divine today. Please feel free to press pause for those silent moments.

The concepts of grace and generosity are tightly woven together and intertwined with a little gratitude. It is hard to think of one without also blanketing yourself in the others. So what is grace? You might think of grace in many ways, whether it be a prayer before a meal, which is also gratitude, a period of time when you are obligated to repay something but are given a few more days to pay it. Also generosity. Or, an undeserved protection such as, by the grace of God go I. How would you define grace as it is played out in your life? What are some examples of how you have given and received grace? Pause now, ponder that for a few moments.

God's grace, especially as revealed in Jesus Christ is generous and unconditional. You don't earn it. It is free for everyone. Take a moment here and give thanks for the giving and receiving of this gift. Write out your prayer of gratitude and sit with it for a minute or two.

Generosity can come in many forms. We recognize that these forms can include the sharing of our time, our talents, and our treasures. Think of some examples when you have been the giver and receiver of these three forms of generosity. Write those down then say a prayer of gratitude. From

Community of Christ website, "generosity always releases what is most precious to us. Generosity never holds what it loves. It gives what it loves." What is precious to the giver now becomes precious to others. God's astonishing generosity in the releasing and sending of God's Son is the pinnacle of what generosity always does, and how it acts. Things are never the same. A new relationship is created in response to unexpected generosity. A different relationship is formed between the receiver and the giver. It attaches the receiver to the giver and a bond of love and mercy that is life giving and life fulfilling. Acts of abundant and freely given generosity create and enrich relationships with enduring love and life. What is the most precious thing that you have been given? And what is the most precious thing you have gifted to someone else? Spend a few moments in gratitude for this Grace and generosity interwoven with gratitude.

At the end of our time today, bundle all of those things you have pondered and think of ways you can move from this space. And let grace and generosity as well as gratitude flow from you. Find new and more abundant ways to express this in your daily life.

I'd like to close today with a prayer by Richard J. Foster, a contemporary spiritual writer from his book, *Prayers from the Heart*.

Spirit of the Living God, you have been with me today and I thank you. There was sunrise and sunset. And I'm grateful for both. Family and friends are a gift of your grace. The creativity to envision new possibilities and the strength to bring them into reality are signs of your action and generosity in my life. Thank you, Lord God, for being with me today. Amen.