

## Tuesday - April 16

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

When I was younger, I always thought that the concept of God's grace was a difficult one to understand. Why would God accept us and forgive us our sins without expecting us to do anything in return to "make up" for our transgressions? As I began to understand and accept this incredible gift of grace, I found that it was so much easier, on a personal level, to forgive those who hurt me or hurt the ones I love with their words or actions. And although I find it to be much harder to look back at times that I was selfish, petty or mean and forgive myself, just knowing that God has forgiven me and is always with me guiding me and encouraging me to move forward with love and compassion, has made me a more loving, patient and encouraging person.

Nancy

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for Your amazing gift of grace that we receive every day. Please help us to treat those in our lives with the same compassion, love and forgiveness that You show us, so that we may share the joy of knowing that Your grace is unending. Amen.