

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” –Acts 11:17

I will never forget the testimony of a godly man at a church board meeting. For many years, he had been actively opposing a particular proposal, and on this day he spoke at the board as a witness, being convicted that the Holy Spirit was working through the very thing he opposed. He proceeded to announce that he was surrendering his previously held views, ready to follow God’s confirmation.

God gently guides us on profound journeys of understanding. When we stay open to His revelations, we are sure to grow and even change our minds as we become more deeply acquainted with the scope of God’s salvific grace. Even after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples did not understand that everyone who called on the name the Lord would be saved and could be used by God for the proclamation of the good news. In Acts 10, Peter was gently pushed by God through a vision to enter a Gentile’s home and to preach Jesus to them. But even then, the newly-formed church was not ready to baptize Gentiles. So, the Holy Spirit got ahead of them, falling upon those who were not yet baptized but were gladly receiving the good news of Jesus. This is when Peter ordered them to be baptized (Acts 10:44-48), but then he had to explain his *out-of-the-box* actions! In Jerusalem, the Jewish-Christians took issue with him (Acts 11:2, 3). Peter proceeded to explain what had happened and added: “Who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” (verse 17). As a result, they accepted it and changed their minds because of the validation shown by the Holy Spirit. “When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, ‘Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.’ ” (verse 18). The work of the Lord then erupted throughout the known world (verses 20-24). What would have happened if Peter stood in the way of God? We are also given the same opportunity. May our minds remain open to God’s leading, so that the gospel may be proclaimed in our homes, places of employment, schools, and churches. Then the end will come!