

# *Grace Amazing*

STEVE McVEY



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible\*, ©-1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Verses marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Verses marked THE MESSAGE are taken from The Message. Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Verses marked NIV are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION\*. NIV\*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Verses marked ASV are taken from the American Standard Version of the Bible.

Verses marked YOUNG's are taken from the Young's literal translation of the Bible.

Cover by Left Coast Design, Portland, Oregon

Cover photo © Getty Images/-Photodisc Blue/-Photodisc Collection

## GRACE AMAZING

Previously released as *Grace Land*

Copyright © 2001 by Steve McVey

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

McVey, Steve, 1954—

[Living with the King of Kings in— Grace Land]

Grace amazing / Steve McVey.

p. cm.

Originally published: Living with the King of Kings in— Grace land.

©2001.

Includes bibliographical references (p. ).

ISBN-13: 978-0-7369-1177-1

ISBN-10: 0-7369-1177-4

1. Christian life. 2. Grace (Theology) I. Title.

BV4501.3.M394 2004

248.4—dc22

2003021697

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

07 08 09 10 11 / BP-CF / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

*To my children,  
whose love I have never doubted  
and for whom my own love will never waver.*

## Acknowledgments

This book is the product of what God has been doing in my life for the past ten years. After I began to understand my identity in Christ, my pilgrimage from the wilderness of legalism into God's grace-land wasn't an instant event, but a gradual journey. I soon discovered that I had much unlearning to do so that I could progress in grace. Many faithful friends have acted as guides to point me further along the path. I am grateful to my friends in the Association of Exchanged Life Ministries, whose faithfulness in sharing this message helped define my own perspective. Some of what I have written has been the result of what I have learned from these colleagues, who have helped shape my ministry.

I owe a debt of gratitude to a small group of men who I asked to be the first ones to read the manuscript. My desire has been to communicate plain truth in a loving way. These four friends were honest in their critique and will find that numerous suggestions they offered have been incorporated into this book. Special thanks to Bill Gillham, my friend and mentor since my first day on this exciting journey in grace. Much appreciation to my dear friend, Tom Grady, the first one I had ever heard teach the wonderful message of our identity in Christ. Great thanks for the input of Mike Quarles, whose transparent testimony that I first heard in 1990 still impacts my life even today. John Rivenbark, a kindred spirit, spurs me onward deeper into grace every time we are together. These men aren't just friends, but have been pacesetters for my grace walk.

What a joy it is for me to have my friend Gary Smalley write the foreword. God greatly used Gary's books to teach me how to be a husband when I was a newlywed 19-year-old boy who didn't have a clue. For him

to write the foreword to this book all these years later is an unexpected blessing that I deeply appreciate. I also appreciate my dear friend Bob Lykens, for being the first one to read the book to edit its grammar so that I would have the courage to allow others to read it. In addition, Bob Hawkins Jr. and the team at Harvest House always work together to produce the highest-quality product possible. I particularly am grateful to my editor for this book. Harvest House has a jewel with Steve Miller, who scrutinized it to make sure the message is presented as clearly and powerfully as possible.

For more than three decades, my greatest encourager has been my precious wife. Melanie knew me when I didn't even know myself and, above any other person, has been the human being through whom Christ has most often spoken to me. In every way, she is the greatest gift from God a man could ever receive for this world.

While deep gratitude is in order for all those mentioned, the praise and glory for it all goes to One alone. This book exists to honor Jesus Christ, whose love and grace is my source and reason for living. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for inviting me to live with You in Your amazing grace. I love it here! Use this book to draw sincere people out of empty religious routine and into the wonderful land of grace where You are everything to us.

# Contents

Open Your Heart to God's Grace <i>by Gary Smalley</i> . . . . .	9
---	---

## *Because of His Amazing Grace...*

1. Religion Is Now Poison for Us . . . . .	11
2. God Will Put More on You Than You Can Bear . . . . .	25
3. Much of What We Thought We Knew Is Wrong . . . . .	41
4. Our Old Sin Nature Is Dead . . . . .	57
5. We Don't Work for God Anymore . . . . .	73
6. Our Personal Best Will Ruin Us . . . . .	89
7. God Has Finished Giving . . . . .	105
8. We Are Free from Religious Rules. . . . .	121
9. We Can Do As We Please. . . . .	137
10. God Never Becomes Angry with Christians . . . . .	153
11. Jesus Is Our Only King. . . . .	169
Notes . . . . .	183
Bibliography . . . . .	187

## FOREWORD

### *Open Your Heart to God's Grace*

*Grace Amazing* is a book that may change the way you understand the Bible. In fact, it may transform your Christian life!

After reading what Steve McVey says about God's grace, I have come to see Scripture so differently. Now, when I read what appears to be a commandment or direct instructions from God's Word, I no longer feel the pangs of guilt or the sick feeling that comes from trying to live out what I think God wants me to do for Him...and failing. I now read these verses with the freedom and joy of knowing that they can come true in my life by God's grace as His Spirit lives through me.

*Grace Amazing* reminds us that God's grace applies to every area of our lives, even stubborn habits. We may feel there are certain problems that can't be overcome, but such thinking comes from an incomplete understanding of grace. From the beginning of my Christian life I've understood how God's grace gives us eternal life and forgiveness from sin, but I had either forgotten or become cold in my application of how it works on a personal, everyday basis. I had tried to discipline myself to live the Christian life the right way and do it on my own. *Grace Amazing* reminded me that we're not called to live this life in our own strength, but in Christ's.

How exciting it is to rest in Christ and wait for Him to live within me through His Spirit! How different life is when we leave the path of self-sufficiency and yield to God's grace! His grace

works where our strengths and abilities are not sufficient. When we live in His strength, we know true rest—the kind of rest God yearns for every Christian to know.

I thank Steve for writing about God's priceless grace in such a way that hopefully many others will avail themselves of it. As you read, I encourage you to open your heart to the message of *Grace Amazing*; you may find it will transform your Christian walk!

—Gary Smalley

Bestselling author and speaker