

“And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.” Romans 11:6 NLT

lectio // Romans 11:1-6

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

The gospel of works is a wretched journey, never knowing where you stand with a holy God. And yet, as humans, I believe we are compelled to compare, focused on our accomplishments and feel that we should be rewarded for being good - or at least better than the next guy. How could we miss it by so much? Because God has created in us an “creator’s” desire. We were made to think and do and create. Sin has warped this gift into a striving instead of a joy. Now, drive is a friction in our relationships, with God and even more so, with each other. This works “gospel” creates an ungodly independence from our creator and each other. We don’t display a need for God or each other - we will do it on our own. Grace beckons us not only to live freely and experience joy in our relationship with God and others, it forces us to be humble and cooperative, worshipping our creator and serving one another.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
I never want to be independant of you or the gospel of grace. I never want to feel like I have to earn your love, forgiveness and acceptance as your son. I also do not want to compete with, compare to or control others to either make myself look better or get ahead by pushing people down. Help me give grace as freely as I have received it.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root