

It is powerful and inspiring to think about the grace that God has poured out on us in Christ. He has loved us for no good reason, in ways we can't earn and don't deserve, forgiving us and rescuing us from sin. In light of God's grace, it is astonishing just how quickly we water down grace by insisting on a life of religious rule-keeping. But we do. All of us. And we need to own and confess that.

So, let's make this personal. Let's ask ourselves two questions:

First, what are the religious beliefs, behaviours, or rules are you tempted to add to grace to “prove” to God, yourself, or others that your (or their) faith is for real? Think about the things that cause you to judge yourself or someone else as a spiritual failure. In what ways are you tempted to water down grace?

Second, why are you tempted to depend on these things to try to impress God, rather than simply receiving his love and grace in gratitude? What drives you to water down grace?

As you answer these questions, take some time to confess it all to God. Ask God to free you from any impulse to demand that we earn or deserve your love, and to allow you to simply receive the free gift of grace in Jesus.