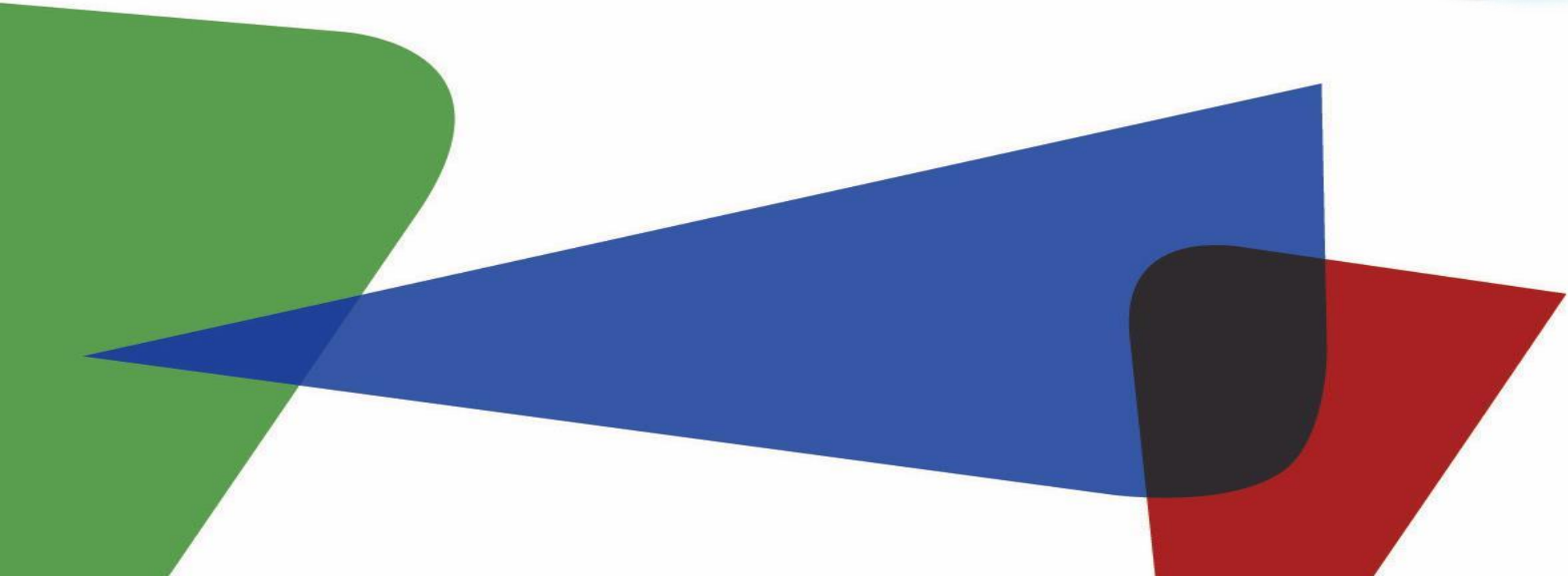


*pretty amazing grace!*



**G.R.A.C.E. What does it mean to you?**



***BUT ITS ALSO A WORD  
WE USE ABOUT GOD (A LOT)***



# Can we even define it?

- A God who gets down close to his creation, Jesus ...
- A God who works for the good of his people ...

Mercy? Forgiveness? Grace?  
Grace is actually unique to the  
Christian Faith



- A loose definition:  
***God's overwhelming kindness to people,  
who can do nothing to earn it***

# The “lost stories of Luke”

- Not just about people becoming Christians, but anyone who feels separated from God
  - The lost stories tell us of:
    - God’s initiative – HE bring US back
    - God’s care - just one person alone is a burden on the heart of God
    - God’s generosity - there’s always a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance ...
- (And notice how each story ends)

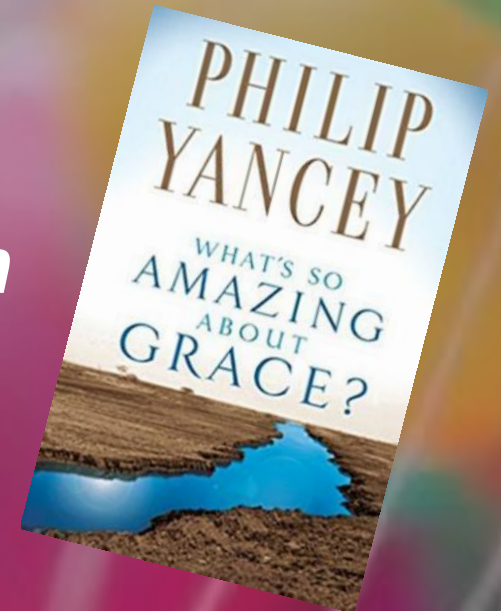


***“God rejoices not because the problems of the world have been solved,  
... not because human pain and suffering have come to an end,  
... not because thousands of people have been converted and are now praising him for his goodness.***

***No (are you ready for this?)***

***God rejoices because one of his children who was lost has been found”***

Philip Yancey



# GRACE

1. What's this 'grace' all about?
- 2. Glimpses of grace**
3. Finish up



*pretty amazing!*

# Grace is shockingly personal

## **“DADDY!”**

- No other faith has God as our “DADDY!” .... Abba!
- Shocking to early Christians - we should still be shocked
- God is not our “big pal”. He is Lord of all Creation ...

**Adonai** – Ruler

**El Shaddai** – Almighty and All Sufficient one

**Elohim** – Mighty and Strong

**Yahweh** – I AM who I AM

**Jehovah Jireh** – the Lord Provider

**Jehovah Nissi** – the Lord our Banner, our Fortress

**Almighty** .... **Alpha and Omega** .... **Ancient of Days**

- Orthodox Jews would not even say the name “**G - D**”





*Outrageously personal!*

# Grace is outrageously personal

- In the Old Testament to see God was to die
- Something really changed when that curtain tore in two on Good Friday
- Grace ... is about God “getting on the same level as us”



# GRACE

1. What's this 'grace' all about?
- 2. Glimpses of grace**
3. Finish up



*pretty amazing!*

# Grace is fundamentally unfair

- 2<sup>nd</sup> chance? ... “Wrong Way Riegels” – New Year’s Day 1929
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> chance ..... hundredth chance
  - We fumble the ball but God just keeps cheering us on!
- God’s unfairness is always weighted in our favour  
Can be hard to accept!



# Grace is fundamentally unfair

- It's not fair - it's unreasonable:
  - Think of the parable of the labourers...
  - Think of the elder brother...
  - Think of Jonah
- Think of yourself .....
  - ... what if grace WAS "fair"?
- God values every one of us more than we could ever deserve –the heart of the Christian message
- But Grace is not ours to measure out



# GRACE

1. What's this 'grace' all about?
- 2. Glimpses of grace**
3. Finish up



*pretty amazing!*

## Grace is not afraid of “losing” to win

- Here’s a question to make you think ...
- Grace will always lose ... to win
- Jesus took on human weakness
- Surrendered his majesty – gave up everything to become - almost nothing ...

### **John 5:19**

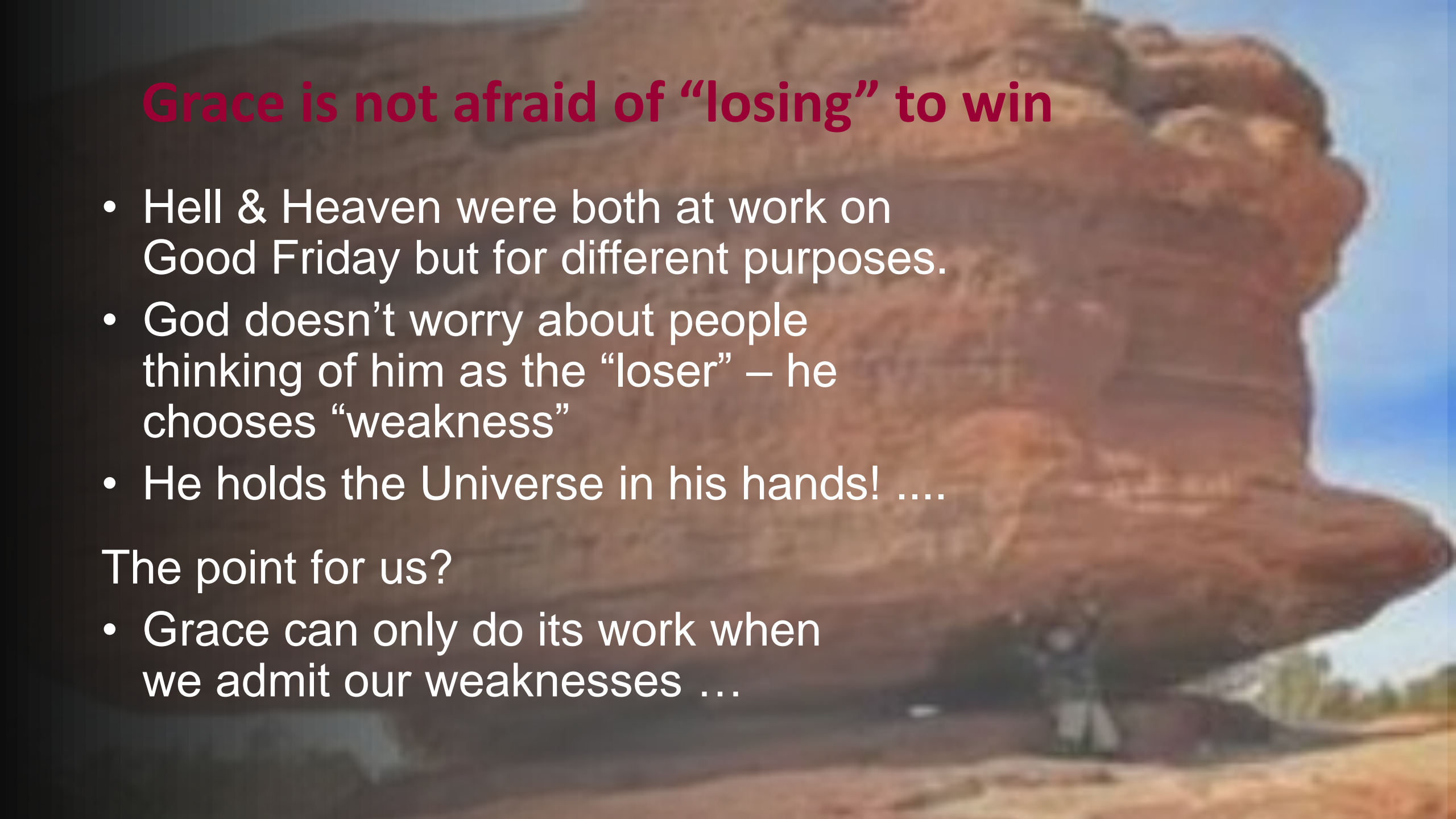
Jesus gave them this answer:  
"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself"

## Grace is not afraid of “losing” to win

- Hell & Heaven were both at work on Good Friday but for different purposes.
- God doesn't worry about people thinking of him as the “loser” – he chooses “weakness”
- He holds the Universe in his hands! ....

The point for us?

- Grace can only do its work when we admit our weaknesses ...



# GRACE

1. What's this 'grace' all about?
2. Glimpses of grace
- 3. Finish up**



*pretty amazing!*

*Tell me the old old story of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and his glory of Jesus and his love  
Tell me the story simply as to a little child  
For I am weak and weary and helpless and defiled  
Tell me the old, old story, tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.*

“For some of us the old old story of the Gospel has become old. We have become bored believes. We have lost the gift of astonishment ... and grace isn't so amazing any more” Jeff Lucas

*pretty amazing grace!*

