

“Harmony with Everyone Forever”

Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 23:6, John 15:9, 11, Hebrews 12:1, 23, Revelation 7:9, Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 12:9

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November 1, 2026

Prayer for Understanding Guiding God, we praise you for your word which is a lamp to our feet and light to our path. Please help us to listen and understand. Amen

Quality filters are essential for exceptional milk purity. On the dairy farm, we strived to produce pure milk at every point. Each cow's udder was disinfected, washed, and dried before milking. The first few squirts of milk were examined for purity and discarded. All the milking equipment was meticulously cleaned and sanitized twice a day and washed 252 times a day between each cow. All milk flowed through a 3-foot filter that was replaced twice a day. The milk was filtered again when transferred to the truck and again when transferred to the milk plant. All these filters were used to ensure that every glass of milk is pure.

Death is a threshold, portal, and doorway to glorious everlasting life. God graciously filters out every regret, mistake, and imperfection so every goodness, delight, and hope will flourish forever. God graciously filters out all that diminishes life, so all that enhances life will abound. God graciously filters out every sadness, pain, and grief, so everyone will live abundantly with bliss, vigor, and completeness. God graciously filters out the trauma of every loss and will give us back all we have lost. God graciously filters out every failure to give and to receive love, so all everyone will enjoy loving community forever. God graciously filters out every goodbye, so everyone will be united forever.

Scripture proclaims: **Ephesians 2:4-5: "Because of God's great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved." 2 Corinthians 12:9: "God said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Isaiah 40:31: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."** Jesus said. **John 15:9, 11 "As God loves Me, I also love you. Remain in My love. I have spoken these things to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."**

I am grateful for God's amazing grace filter. Towards the end of my mom's earthly life, her earthly body was devastated by disease and pain. It was the pain that distorted her personality. The pain buried her joy. The pain caused her to be angry, grumpy, and mean. Praise God that the amazing grace filter has filtered away the pain, she is whole soaring in heaven. I look forward to soaring with her. I am grateful for God's amazing grace filter that filtered away the arthritis of my grandpa. Years of milking cows left grandpa's hands unable to hold almost anything. Once he tried to serve me a glass of milk, but his grip failed him and the glass shattered and tears of frustration flowed. As many of you know, many Yorks are not huggers, so I imagine a firm handshake from my grandfather. I am grateful for God's amazing grace filter that filtered away the Alzheimer's from my grandma giving her back clear memory of every goodness she enjoys on earth.

God's amazing grace filter filters out hell. Hell is any relationship that is not completely loving. Hell is fear, hate, oppression, and division. Hell is controlling and using people, animals, or creation. An aspect of heaven is that everyone enjoys ever expanding loving relationships with everyone else and the cosmos. I am grateful that God's amazing grace filter is doing away with my hell. I regret the ways I fail to love. God is filtering away, tossing and turning over missed opportunities, remorse, and struggling with what to do. Sometimes, I do not know how to love someone. Sometimes, I speak without thinking, saying something that hurts another. Sometimes, I must choose who to love. Often, on earth saying yes to someone means saying no to someone else. After the amazing grace filter, I will be able to love everyone completely and I will be able to receive everyone's love wholeheartedly. I am looking forward to the joyful freedom of God's amazing grace filter cleansing me of every sin, fault, and distortion, so I can soar.

God's amazing grace filter will filter away guilt, shame, and negative thoughts. Filtered away will be every hurt and missed connection. Filtered away anxiety and over thinking. Filtered away will be every memory of being wronged, revenge, and malice. What are you eager for the God's amazing grace filter to filter away?

Each person and the entire cosmos will flourish, for we will rediscover how God created us to give and receive love, expanding the love of the cosmos forever. We will rediscover our unique creativeness to bring new

glory into the realm. We will rediscover soothing peace and thriving joy. Imagine the resounding glory of every thought, feeling, and action being good from every person. Imagine the spectacular majesty of every element of the cosmos yielding goodness. Imagine the grand adventures of every pure vision becoming reality and savored by every dreamer. What coming glories excite you?

God's amazing grace filter makes everyone a saint. Today, we celebrate the goodness we have felt from the saints. Bruno was a schoolteacher and Sunday School teacher. I do not remember anything he taught me. I vividly remember how Bruno made me feel. Sometimes that feeling sustained me throughout the week. Bruno ended class by looking at each person and then saying, "I am grateful for you" and then he shared some specific way he was grateful for each person. Sometimes it was something from Sunday school. Many times, it was something from school. Even when he was not my school teacher, he had positive things to share about something that happened at school. Bruno must have taken the time to ask other teachers and coaches about each of his Sunday School students, so he could share something positive about them that he was grateful for each week. When I was a Dairy Nutrition Consultant, I had numerous interactions with, Bruce, the Vice President of the company. Bruce often asked, "Tell me about how you enhanced someone's life during work this past week?" Bruce wanted to know the specifics. It could be a coworker, dealer, supplier, or customer. Since Bruce strived to interact and ask this question of everyone, we were all prepared with an answer. That question improved our work and often shifted my stewing on negative interactions to the way we were making a positive impact on the world. *We are going to take two minutes of silence so you can celebrate with your soul's perception the goodness of saints who are precious to you.*

Hebrews proclaims: **Hebrews 12:1, 23 select phrases MEV "Therefore, since we are encompassed with such a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. You will come to the living God and to those in heaven who have now been made perfect in a joyful gathering."** John described his vision of heaven as, **Revelation 7:9 "a great multitude, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language."** The Psalmist sings: **Psalm 23:6 "Surely God's goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."**

John Calvin shared that during celebrations of the Lord's Supper he sensed the saints in heaven celebrating with him. I will imagine Grandma York sharing her famous fig cookies with me as she asks questions about my joys and listens compassionately. Grandpa York sharing a Kraft caramel with his booming laugh. Grandpa Chaney sharing an orange from his backyard tree with a gleam in his eye as he tells in great detail a wild adventure. Grandma Chaney encouraging me to be a curious explorer and urging me to always say yes to grand adventures. My great nephew Ross sharing pictures from one of his adventures in nature. Eating lunch with my mom; roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, carrots, bread with raspberry jelly, fresh longhorn cheese, whole milk and lemon meringue pie. Absorbing the peace that radiates from my dad. Who will you imagine celebrating the Lord's Supper with you? We will enjoy harmony with everyone forever. Amen