



We live in a world where everything seems to have conditions applied. You turn on the TV and every advertisement for a great offer finishes with, "Terms and conditions apply," and we have become so conditioned to this that we have started to view our world in the same way. Our lives even carry a long tally of terms and conditions. "If you're good, we'll go to the park this afternoon." "I washed the dishes yesterday. It's your turn today." Many people try to keep a tally of brownie points with their spouse. In the corporate world and job market we fight for the terms of our employment contract. We even negotiate the good behavior and help with jobs around the house from the kids. I used to try to even make deals with God. If you... then I will... You know how that goes. "God, if you get me out of this I will go to church every Sunday." But I soon discovered that God doesn't work that way. Thankfully God's love is unconditional. I still sometimes can't wrap my head around the fact that the way He feels about me doesn't change depending on the way I behave. That word "Unconditional" is in short supply in our world. Can you grasp the fact that there are no conditions on God's love? We all understand and know we can't earn it. We for sure don't deserve it. We can't change it. It's unconditional. It's really unbelievable

to our human minds! All of this really means that you and I can't make God love us more. It doesn't matter how good we are. No matter how much we work for Him, sacrifice for Him, give to the church or serve the poor, you can't get any more of His love. Once I got my head around all of that, I suddenly had that light bulb moment when I realized, "I can't make God love me less either."

The God I love and serve won't stop loving me even when I make a mistake. Taking all this to heart took such a load off my heart. When I least deserve it, God loves me. When we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Wow, what a wonderful gift. It's really liberating. When we understand fully how amazing God's grace is, it changes everything. When we get it, that God's love is not conditional on our behavior, or that He isn't keeping brownie points, we find freedom.

Once we understand that we don't have to earn God's love, we don't have to worry and we are able to just be ourselves. We all know that working for approval from God, from ourselves and others is completely exhausting! First of all, it is so time consuming and takes so much effort, it literally sucks the life out of us. So, it's time to stop always comparing ourselves to others who we think are better or worse than us and then deciding if we are good enough. We know that God loves us no matter what, we find peace. With Jesus terms and conditions don't apply. Today I want to encourage you to take a moment to search your heart and ask Him to help you love unconditionally and to accept His love unconditionally so that you live in the freedom of "His Amazing Grace."

