

July 20, 2021

We have often heard it said that **“Everything is Grace.”** This expression comes from **St Therese of Lisieux**. She loved flowers and saw herself as the **"little flower of Jesus,"** who gave glory to God by just being her beautiful little self among all the other flowers in God's garden. Because of this beautiful analogy, the title **"Little Flower"** remained with St. Therese.



“Everything is Grace!” doesn’t mean everything is perfect or easy. It means:

- ❖ We can have **confidence** in God—even when and especially if we don’t **feel** like it. God’s love and concern for us is not **determined** by how much we feel it or **don’t** feel it.
- ❖ Everything is the direct effect of our Father's love—difficulties, contradictions, burdens, everything, because through them, we learn humility and realize our weaknesses. **Everything is a grace because everything is God's gift.**

All good things come from God! Our peace, our courage, our strength, our patience. It all comes from Him and so, every day, we must ask for grace because we cannot acquire anything on our own.

Yes, EVERYTHING is grace! It’s a gift freely given to us, underserved as we are. All we have to do is ask, in faith, and it will be given to us. God often permits sorrow and trials only to draw out of them some greater good. Virtue and goodness are often strengthened in time of difficulty.

The love of God through Jesus Christ crucified and risen for us is **not** a love we can merit. We do **not** earn the beauty and goodness of God already residing in each of us, but we must **cooperate** with the work of grace if we are to grow into the **fullness** of our heart’s desire.