

YOUR GIFT  
*of*  
GRACE



TOM JANICIK

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Your Gift of Grace  
by Tom Janicik

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## **Inspiration**

Dear God,

These poems reflect my relationship with You, my Creator. Most of my life I have viewed religion as a social activity or routine with very little meaning or purpose. Not until my darkest hour of need, did You graciously connect directly to me (without even my request), letting me know that You truly do exist. I can still remember Your presence entering my body and soul during that flight from Houston to St. Louis back in June of 1998. You instantaneously brought an overwhelming sense of joy during the saddest part of my life, when I began to realize my marriage of almost 10 years was headed for inevitable divorce.

Since that time, You, Lord, and I have continued to grow closer each and every day. Thank you for helping me to uncover the buried gift with which you have blessed me. May it serve Your higher purpose rather than my own self-interests. May You use these words to touch the hearts of those who know You and especially those who don't know You yet, drawing them ever closer to Your Almighty presence.

My deepest desire is that after I leave this world, You will let me know that this book is something that brings You great joy. Until that time, I remain faithfully Yours.

Love,

Tom

## Sample Poems from “Your Gift of Grace”

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## **Relationships**

More valuable than gold  
More fragile than glass  
A treasure which runs so deep

Invest in them wisely  
Plant your seeds and watch them grow  
Nurture them with the utmost of care

Do not let them die of thirst  
Rejuvenate them  
When there seems to be no hope

Share with an open heart  
Be truthful, honest and sincere  
And brave enough to face yourself

Admit your mistakes  
Ask for forgiveness  
Freely forgive others

When the glimmer of life  
Comes to its inevitable end  
Life's measure of success is your relationships

John 12:23-26 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

## **Brighter Day**

In the wake of dawn  
The sun shines bright  
Upon my sleepy eyes  
Wondering what trials this day will bring

Shall I choose the seemingly attractive  
Yet darker abyss  
Or steer towards the challenging  
Yet brighter path to glory

Struggling between  
My own self-interests  
Versus submitting  
To pure obedience

Today's choice  
Is made from an eternal perspective  
And the Holy Spirit fills  
My heart and soul

I ask my Heavenly Father  
To bless this day  
So that I will honor and serve Him  
Like His faithful son, Jesus Christ

As the sun sets  
And its after glow fades away  
The moon rises and shines  
Softly on my face

I lie in a restful peace  
Feeling His warm presence  
Knowing His overwhelming love  
Will never end

John 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

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## **The Healer**

From the inner being  
One cannot see  
Blind without the Light  
Lost in darkness  
Trapped within self

The healing begins  
As the Holy Spirit enters  
A transfusion of power  
Connects heart, body, and soul  
And life is anew

Purpose,  
Contentment,  
And clarity abound  
Inner peace is present  
In the midst of life's storms

Destined to serve  
Not self  
Not things  
Only the Master  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew 9:10-13 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

## **Sinking in Sorrow**

Sadness floods my soul  
Tears pour down  
Like a river  
Mourning and sorrow  
Hold me down  
Like a heavy weight  
Around my neck  
My head just above  
The surface of restless waters

Water keeps rising  
The load keeps pulling me down  
My mouth will soon  
Pass the water line  
With my last breath  
Just before going under  
I beg you, Lord,  
Please release this anchor  
Before I drowned

Psalm 69:1-3 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me. I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.



## **Through Your Eyes**

Through Your eyes  
Truth is transparent  
Goodness shines  
Bright in Your Light  
And the darkness of evil  
Is readily exposed

Through Your eyes  
Love for others  
Naturally exudes  
From my compassionate heart  
And an inner joy and peace  
Soothes my soul

Through Your eyes  
The mystery of life  
Is unveiled  
My reason for being  
And life's purpose  
Is quite clear

Through Your eyes  
My will  
Is to serve Yours  
So that we are  
Together as one  
Now and forevermore

Matthew 6:22-23 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

## **Always by My Side**

Always by my side  
No matter what  
You are there

Like a loving father  
Who knows what I need  
Not what I want

Like a nurturing mother  
Who consoles me  
Whenever I am hurt

Like a big brother  
Who would gladly  
Lay down his life for mine

Like a little sister  
Whose loyalty and kindness  
Lasts forever

Like a faithful spouse  
Whose unconditional love  
Never ends

Like a best friend  
In whom I can completely  
Place my faith and trust

Thank you, Lord  
For shining Your Light  
And destroying the darkness

2 Timothy 4:16-18 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

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## **Strength in Weakness**

It's amazing how  
My greatest strength arises  
During my weakest moments  
How can this be

Maybe because You  
Like to test me  
To see if I will truly  
Place my complete faith and trust in You

Tremendous power occurs  
When I rely on You  
An unshakable strength  
That can be found no where else

Even during my most hopeless moments  
Your warm and radiant light  
Shines through to my heart and soul  
As we walk together hand in hand

Psalm 18:16-19 He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

## **Can You Feel the Rhythm**

Can you feel the rhythm  
When the morning bird  
Sings songs of praise

Can you feel the rhythm  
When the ocean's waves  
Swell gently back and forth

Can you feel the rhythm  
When the circling wind  
Caresses the dancing leaves

Can you feel the rhythm  
When the peaceful sun's beauty  
Settles down for the evening

Can you feel the rhythm  
When the full moon's bright shine  
Inspires the cricket's melody

Can you feel the rhythm  
When His presence  
Dwells down deep in your soul

Psalm 149:1-5 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

## **You Make Me Whole**

You bring me strength  
When I am weak

You calm my fears  
When I lose control

You fill me with Your presence  
When I am lonely

You erase my doubts  
When I question my faith

You give me patience  
When I am anxious

You cleanse my heart  
When I am tempted by sin

You refresh my mind  
When I'm drawn to self's desires

You feed my soul  
When I am tired and hungry

You always forgive me  
When I truly repent of my sins

You carefully guide me  
When I am lost

You love me unconditionally  
Even when I am not deserving

You make me whole  
In heart, mind, body and soul

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

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## **The Love That Endures**

The love that endures  
Bears an eternal flame  
Impossible to extinguish

The love that endures  
Sacrifices oneself  
For the sake of the other

The love that endures  
Forgives  
The gravest of mistakes

The love that endures  
Shares with an open heart  
Even when overwhelmed by fear

The love that endures  
Reflects deep burning passion  
Caring more for the other than one's self

The love that endures  
Places complete trust in God  
Accepting whatever He provides

Psalm 136:26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

## Praise for YOUR GIFT OF GRACE

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“Tom Janicik’s poetry brings you deep into your soul in ways that make sense to the Christian sojourner. He illuminates the ordinary and the common with God’s light and everyday wisdom. Read one poem every day and your world will be brighter.”

*Richard P. Johnson, Ph.D.*

Author, Body, Mind, Spirit: Tapping into the Healing Power Within

“The depth of feeling in Tom Janicik’s work is apparent, as is his dedication to Spirit. This lovingly crafted book is a collection of prayers as much as it is a collection of poems—and a personal testament by its author.”

*Tom Kimmel*

Major Label Recording Artist, Singer-Songwriter and Author, Sweetest & The Meanest

“What a journey! Tom’s book of poetry took me through the entire life cycle of a Christian, chronicling the ups and downs, the struggles and triumphs, the valleys and mountains. I felt the hopelessness and helplessness as I read about him crying out to God, asking for His guidance and help. But, just as powerfully, I could see him gaining strength as he exercised his faith in Him. Thank you for baring your soul and putting into words what we all feel from time to time and reminding us that, in our times of weakness, He is our strength.”

*Scooter Simmons*

Singer-Songwriter

# Book Buzz

## “Your Gift of Grace”

by Tom Janicik

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Your Gift of Grace, A New Book of Poetry, and so much more ... **Author Tom Janicik invites us into his world of spiritual wonder**; a world he always knew was there but only discovered in his darkest hour when he came to the conclusion that his marriage was headed for failure. This event inspired Tom to condense his transcendent thoughts into profound, yet tenderly human ideas of worth. The book is not simply one poem after another, but much more. The author ties each poem into a Scripture citation, and gives room in the book for personal musings, intentions, prayers, meditations, and ultimately consolations. The unique work allows the reader to penetrate into their interior and find a wholeness that while it may not find resolution to life issues, gives them purpose as never before. **I recommend the book for those dealing with any life issue but particularly those dealing with chronic sickness, especially cancer.** Tom Janicik didn't write his work with cancer in mind, but as I read through his work, this is where I find a unique application. Congratulations for a fine work that has the potential to give so much. You can purchase through [www.xulonpress.com](http://www.xulonpress.com) or through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) \$17.99. A great gift work.

**Richard P. Johnson, Ph.D., PCSG**

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Suffering will either make us bitter or better. Tom Janicik, a very successful man by the world's standards, authentically understands suffering. His Psalm like poetry covers the entire range of human emotions. He personally participates in the suffering of Jesus Christ. However, the beauty of Tom's words is the God of the Bible is glorified in Tom's pain. It is redemptive. Tom doesn't remain in Bunyan's "slough of despond." **Like King David, Tom has been in the depths of despair but he prays and praises his way back to an all loving, merciful and gracious God.**

**Mike McHardy - St. Louis General Manager of Bott Radio Network**

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Having worked as a **Divorce and Grief Recovery for KIDS & TEENS** volunteer since 1991, I have seen first-hand the need of expressing our feelings of loss, whether it be through conversation, prayer, journaling, etc. **"Your Gift of Grace" is an excellent tool to assist any teen or parent that needs to express their feelings in a safe and tangible manner.** As a gift, this book has been well received by many moms struggling through the maze of divorce. Good job Tom.

**Jack Kesler, St. Louis, MO**

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In a time when most of us seem to be moving too fast to slow down enough to be quiet and reflective, "Your Gift of Grace" truly is a gift! Tom Janicik's poetic expressions seem to identify in simple yet profound words what one might find if the window shade of the soul was lifted but for a moment to view both the joys and struggles inside. The scriptural references serve as an anchor to the poetic expressions and his challenge to reflect "upward, inward and outward" is both creative and practical. **With Journaling almost a lost discipline, "Your Gift of Grace" is a wonderful instrument to reflect and record those moments and encourage others as well as it makes such a great gift.** **Patricia Mock, Musician, Songwriter**

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Tom Janicik's "Your Gift of Grace" is not just a collection of heartwarming poems, but a powerful resource for healing. From trials to triumph, Tom grounds each poem in scripture and personal testament, leaving an indelible mark of his journey. **Tom's beautifully crafted work mends the broken spirit, nurtures the soul, and soothes the mind.**  
**Susan James, Actor, Writer**

**"A Gift You Won't Return"** -We've all received gifts at one time or another that we really didn't know what to do with. A bright spotted tie for Father's Day, a strangely scented candle for a birthday or a bizarre looking pair of socks at Christmas. There are some gifts that you'd really just like to return, but Tom Janicik's book, "Your Gift of Grace," offers us a unique gift that you won't want to return. A gift that points us to God's grace and how His grace is played out in our everyday lives. In times of darkness, when love is lost, when we're feeling weak or lonely...God's grace is there. This contemplative book of poetry and scripture points us to His grace as we walk through the ups and downs of our lives in a way that calms your soul and offers you moments to reflect and even to write down your thoughts and emotions. I would hope that each of you reading this testimonial today would receive, "Your Gift of Grace" from your heavenly Father today. **Randy Mayfield - Husband/Father/Pastor/Musician**

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Each day a challenging verse from our Lord's word – Each day an inspirational message from the heart of Tom Janicik. **My wife and I have enjoyed and benefited using "Grace" as a daily devotion.** It became our thought provoking conversation event before getting out of bed to begin our day. As we finished the last reading I sent it on to the widow of my close friend. I look forward to hearing of her enjoyment as she daily shares in the "Grace" you have expressed so well. We look forward to Volume 2. Yours in Christ, **Mike and Rae Williamsen**

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For far too long, the bulk of Christian literature ignored the art of wrestling with God. But life proves to be a pushing and pulling, doubting and wrestling, joyful and somber affair that deserves some real attention. Tom Janicik's, **Your Gift of Grace does a nice job of embracing the valley of our daily walk – giving resource, hope, and permission to wrestle in these tough times.** The use and practice of journaling that Janicik creates is also paramount to the journey – a real bonus! Your Gift of Grace is an authentic walk that will affect true life change.

**Ross Christopher Donaldson – Singer/Songwriter/Worship Arts Director**

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Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your lovely book. **It is filled with wonderful thoughts to guide us in times of sickness and suffering.** I especially like the way you dedicate and address it to God. This is how the great Augustine wrote his CONFESIONS. By His Grace, **David Calhoun - Professor Emeritus of Church History, Covenant Theological Seminary**

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**"A beautiful guide for spiritual reflection."** I respect Janicik's thoughts and effort to articulate the thoughts and emotions he has. His book is designed to be used in "Reflections" as he states. So he wants people to read a poem and the scripture passage below it and then reflect on the following page about:

1. What you are thankful for to God
2. What God is strengthening in you from reading the poem and scripture
3. What love or kindness do you feel inspired to share with other people as a result of reading the pieces

Essentially he's designed the book as a little mini religious devotional time--for someone to reflect and center their mind and emotions and actions in Christian orientations.

**Eric Ferguson from NYC**

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**I love your poetry, your will to share and inspire, assist, help through verses of hope and faith, thank you Tom!  
Laura Mercurio, Published Author**

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**NOTE: If you would like to contribute your book review comments on “Your Gift of Grace” please email them to [tomjanicik@earthlink.net](mailto:tomjanicik@earthlink.net).**

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