

## GRACE

Many years ago I took a workshop from an internationally respected quilter and teacher. We kept in touch over time through occasional cards, but I think both of us would have defined our relationship as one of acquaintances. Six years had passed when she came to our home for the first time. We spent an hour or so talking before she asked if I recalled the quilt she had made in that first class together. I did remember how gorgeous it had been and told her so.

She then surprised me by reaching in her bag and...voila! But my amazement in seeing the beautiful quilt soared to astonishment with her next words, "Every once in a while I like to give something to someone who doesn't expect it."

She handed her quilt to me.

I was speechless! My mind was spinning, recognizing the growing market demand for her work and the hundreds of hand-quilting hours she had devoted to this piece. But even beyond that, I simply could not fathom the kindness she was extending to someone totally undeserving of it. Never before had I so real an understanding of what *grace* is: an incomprehensible, invaluable gift given, not because of the worthiness of the recipient, but entirely because of the love and character of the giver.

*"But God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*