

## Grace of God

*Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father; in truth and love. 2 John 1:3*

It could probably be said that very few people give thought to God's grace, and if we did, would we truly understand the magnificence of such an undeserving gift? Should someone ask you to define grace, how would you answer? Simply stated, grace is unmerited favor, leniency, or special courtesy towards a person. We do not earn grace, for grace is a gift. *But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.* Romans 5:15 Grace was in the Garden of Eden, but with the offense of Adam grace was lost to man until Christ restored it. Grace is upon man through Christ.

God's mercy is always present as we see in how He cared for the Israelites, but grace was not given to a disrespectful and disobedient people. Where sin is present, grace is not. Even during His short time on earth, Jesus followed the laws changing nothing of the Father, for it wasn't His mission to change anything, but to carry out God's will that all things set at the foundation of creation may occur. It took the death of Jesus to release the promises within the new covenant, whereby grace exists.

It was a matter of timing when Christ would journey to earth and be born of the flesh. *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* John 1:14-17 Upon Jesus' death and resurrection, God's new covenant is present to those reborn into the Kingdom. As a child of God, we are no longer subject to the carnal laws as the generations living under the old covenant, but have the gift of grace when we abandon our sinful nature and live a righteous life in Christ.

In the new covenant, grace is reestablished as it was with Adam and Eve. *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.* Romans 6:14 This is such an immense proclamation for the mere magnitude of what the Father and the Son have done for an unworthy people. God's *everlasting love* in all His magnificence is shown to man through His grace. Gifts, blessings, and power are given because of grace. *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:8 This is not to say that God's wrath will not be witnessed again to all the unbelievers as there will be a finality to this corrupt world, but for the believers, we live in His grace.

Some Christians believe in adhering to the carnal laws, the Commandments, but also think they have the merit of grace not realizing that the law and grace do not go together, for one is of an old covenant and the other a new one. The first covenant reflects the anger of God while the second exemplifies the goodwill; one tells of an offense taken and the other of a pardon given. *A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.* Hebrews 8:13 The second covenant brought to man by Christ replaces the first one; therefore, those wanting to live by the old ordinances are impeding the benefits of grace. Born in Christ, the grace of God is given in the new covenant and does not mix with the old. *For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.* Romans 4:14-15 Holding onto the old covenant while attempting to live in the new one severely hampers a relationship with God. As believers living in the new covenant of grace, it is not a dismissing of the Commandments, but rather accepting that they are the measurement for sin held against the unbeliever. Thus, we are no longer governed in sin by the old covenant laws.

Such individuals will be the first to fault God when things do not go as they expect, viewing Him as having wrath and metering out punishment to teach a lesson. If this were true, no one would receive a miracle, a healing, or blessings in this lifetime for we all would come up short. There is plenty man does that angers God, but instead He gives us grace and not wrath. *For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.* Psalm 84:11 To believe God is angry after His Son has come to satisfy the judgment on the sins of the world, who redeemed and reconciled man to the Father, is to not accept the glorious blessings of His new covenant.

Grace is a gift of pardon and forgiveness. It is because of grace that we may acquire God's many gifts. *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.* Ephesians 4:7 We should want to live within the boundaries of grace which far exceed the old covenant laws of performance. We have grace by our faith and not because of a deed done. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9 God's loving and forgiving nature as shown in His mercy presents grace. We cannot earn it.

It is important to know how to allocate faith to release grace like a combination to a lock. The wrong set of numbers will not open the lock just as misguided information will not release grace. *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* Hebrews 4:16 This is a truth we must understand, so that we may apply our faith to receive the gift of grace. God's grace is omnipresent, but we can obstruct its function in our life.

God's continuous love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace provides blessings, gifts, promises, and power. God has provided, Christ has scarified, and we are the recipients for whom it is given. *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.* 1 Timothy 1:14 Like water flowing over a waterfall, so is God's grace, forever plentiful. Everything of the Father is in perfect harmony in His Kingdom for our benefit; however, we are

required to know how to release grace into our life. Though His grace is always present, we can inadvertently position ourselves to be without God's grace if our faith is lacking.

It has never been God's will that we should live in hardship, sickness, disease, and disarray struggling to survive. These issues are a part of living in a fallen world, but through God's grace, we have a means to be free of the elements that hold us in bondage. God has been protecting and providing for His children since Adam and Eve and remains doing so today.

It is God's will that we all live abundant and prosperous lives with good health and longevity. His mercy and grace have made this possible. *Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.* Ephesians 1:2 Let the measure of your faith be according to His Kingdom, so that you may receive a sufficient supply of grace for all your needs.

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