

# The Grace Life part 1

## Intro—

We are going to do a series in the next several weeks on the Grace of God entitled the Grace Life.

Title from:

1 Peter 3:7 Message Bible

7 The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in ***the new life of God's grace***, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.

That is what we are going to talk about—the new life of God's grace—or ***the grace life***

Grace is one of the most important themes in the New Testament concerning the Gospel of Christ.

- It's spiritual, not a mental or physical thing...
- You can't separate it from your relationship with God

The word occurs 156 times in the NT

A few examples:

- God is the giver of grace and the God of all grace.
- His throne is the throne of grace.
- The prophets prophesied of the grace that was to come.
- Jesus was full of grace and truth.
- By grace, Jesus tasted death for every man.
- The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace.
- The gospel is called the gospel of grace.
- The Bible is called the word of His grace
- Through grace, we believe.
- By grace, we are saved.
- It's by grace we stand.
- We are partakers of grace.
- We are justified freely by his grace.
- We are called by grace unto grace.
- God gives more grace to the humble.

Grace:

- establishes our hearts.
- builds us up and gives us an inheritance.
- helps us in time of need.
- is sufficient to put us over all of life's difficulties.
- causes us to reign as kings in life.
- causes us to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

We are to:

- minister grace to the hearer
- sing, with grace, in our hearts to the Lord
- Our words are to be seasoned with grace.

We are told to

- grow in grace
- Be strong in grace
- Stand in grace
- Continue in grace
- Abound in grace

The Bible speaks of:

- Great grace
- The abundance of grace
- The grace of life
- His exceeding grace
- The glory of his grace
- The dispensation of grace
- The riches of his grace
- The gift of grace
- The manifold or multifaceted grace of God

I believe this series of messages will be a great blessing to you—

***We are going to put Grace under a MICROSCOPE***

IF YOU'RE Not a believer—

- It will bring you to a face to face revelation of who God is and what He is like.

IF YOU'RE a believer, you will find that,

- It will help you to **overcome the problems of life**
- Empower you to have a **more fulfilling walk with God,**
- ***And to serve God with greater joy an power, not by your own ability,*** but by the ability that comes through His Grace!

I want to start in 1 Peter 4:10

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace** of God.  
NKJV

Manifold Grace = ***MULTIFACETED*** = like a ***Diamond***

**Example,**

A diamond with its many sides. It sparkles in the light in shooting off fiery light in all directions.  
(story of how I was given a diamond for my wedding...)

In the same way the grace of God has many different sides or facets. It shines shooting off various applications into our lives

Many facets = many distinct meanings

First lets talk about what grace is not...

- 1) Grace is not an open door to do whatever we want, live in whatever way we want to and think it's okay with God.

***—that's a perversion of Grace***

**Example,**

A young lady once approached me about a sin she was struggling with. She was a very oppressed person, who

was looking for help. She was bound up with lesbianism, and knew it was wrong on the inside. She said that she went to her pastor of a particular denomination and asked him if she continued to practice this lifestyle would she go to heaven. He assured her, YES, you can live that way, ***because it's all covered under grace.***

***PROBLEM!***

His words don't align with the word of God. What he told her was actually a perversion of grace. Grace isn't an open door to just live any way we want to, and think it's okay with God...

Jude 4

4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

NIV

***—Don't use grace as an excuse to violate the word of God in your life, and the leading of the Holy Spirit....***

2) Also, Grace doesn't mean we don't need to keep any commandments anymore. I've heard some believers say over the years, "well, we are in the new testament now. We don't need to keep the commandments."

But did you know there are NT commandments?

—the No. 1 is Love one another even as He has loved us.

- There are lots of NT commandments!
- I call them Commandments of Grace. [We'll talk about this later]

What then is grace?

## **I. First and Most fundamental meaning of Grace (charis) is God's free gift of undeserved or unmerited love and favor**

- favor with God that you didn't earn, but simply was given by the kindness and goodness of our loving heavenly Father

### **Example,**

Parents —you love your kids when they are born...

We love them just because they are ours.

***They don't need to do anything for us to love them.***

***That's what God's love is like for you!***

## **Distinguishing Grace and Mercy**

- **Grace** is receiving a gift from God that you don't deserve
- **Mercy** is not receiving a something (punishment) you do deserve.

### **Example,**

**Grace** = God giving me my wife I don't deserve. So sweet, never did anything wrong...

**Mercy** = my dad saying he was going to spank me for popping the balloon when I was 5 years old, but then after spend 1/2 in the bathroom, ended up not doing it. Just taking to me! Not giving me a spanking I did deserve...

This first definition is so wonderfully shown—

Ephesians 2:1-9 (NIV2011)

- 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
- 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
- 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.
- 4 **But because of his great love for us, God**, who is rich in mercy,
- 5 made us alive with Christ (us who believe) even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace you have been saved.**

That is:

By His — **free gift of undeserved or unmerited love and favor...**

#### HE MADE US ALIVE

- He raised us up from a spiritually dead state—to be alive with Him forever.
  - ***You did nothing to earn it***
  - **You can't do anything good enough to be worthy it**

Like, the **Thief on the cross**

#### **Example,**

Guy in Spain at bowling alley. I've done too many bad things. And when he told me, I was like, wow you have done some bad things! But God, because of His great love for us... GREAT LOVE...**even when we were dead in trespasses and sins...**

That young man was dead in trespasses and sins—  
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO STAY DEAD!

*—He needed to hear the message of the Grace of God  
so He could step OUT OF THE CONDEMNATION  
LIFE—AND INTO THE GRACE LIFE!*

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him  
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that **in the coming ages he might show the  
incomparable riches of his grace**, expressed in his  
kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**  
—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

SALVATION is a **GIFT** FROM God to anyone who  
believes the Gospel.

### **Grace and faith work together (always)**

**Grace** = God reaching out to us and saying “I will  
save you—because I love you”

*He throws you a life line.*

**Faith** = *your hand reaching out to grab the line—* God  
pulls you in!

**Grace is God to you**  
**Faith is you to God**

Once we have received that grace, it doesn't stop there.

Many believers still struggle with feelings of failure and condemnation long after they are saved because of past mistakes, or even current ones.

**Example,**

When I was on staff at Family Worship Center in FL, I talked and ministered to a woman there who had been saved and even filled with the Holy Spirit many years, BUT STRUGGLED FEELING LIKE SHE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH BEFORE GOD.

She needed a REVELATION OF GRACE!

I was able to help her to see that she was done having to perform for God.

She was already good enough! She needed to understand that that was ALL IN HER HEAD.

Not coming from God. LIES

**II. Once you have received grace, you have to learn to STAND in that SAME GRACE. You have to Live the Grace life.**

Rom 5:1-2

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access **by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

NKJV

Faith give you access...

Once you have believed the gospel, you have been justified (declared righteous) by faith— YOU HAVE PEACE WITH God—

no greater feeling!

YOU **ALSO** HAVE **ACCESS** TO THE GRACE

**Example,**

My brother Jon works at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth TX. They build the F-22 Raptor fighter jet the F-35s.

We toured. You couldn't cross certain lines. YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS he said. If you did cross those lines, security would run and tackle you!

***BUT WE HAVE ACCESS! into this mysterious GRACE of God. Not everyone has access...***

They can't come to that throne like we can!

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV2011)

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Thank God we can go to His throne of grace and receive mercy! And find grace to help in the time of need.

***1. But now we have to stand in that grace!***

His grace is POWERFUL.

**That same grace that raised up out of that dead life  
—EMPOWERS YOU TO LIVE IN PEACE  
AND FREEDOM EVERY DAY!**

- It will continue to relieve you of GUILT and SHAME of past failures, and even abuses

*(if you're in sin now—the conviction of the spirit will lead you stop!)*

- ***It will give you power*** over the LIES OF SATAN that try to bring you down

Romans 5:17 (NIV2011)

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Did you notice “gift of righteousness”?

- If you have received Jesus—**that gift of righteousness is IN YOU!**
- GRACE and RIGHTEOUSNESS go together!
- They empower you to be an overcomer in life.

You were born again to reign in life.

Did you wear your shouting clothes?

- You were once a **victim**, ***grace empowers you to be a victor***
- You were once a **failure**, ***grace empowers you to be a success in life***
- You were once continually **overcome and drug down by sin** and temptation, ***grace empowers you to REIGN IN LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!***

Grace empowers you to WIN

**Example,**

Pastor Mike Kalstrup—high school football in the early 70s—the small town had a 27 and 0 record over a 3 year period. They won state in their division.

- It feels so good TO WIN.
- ***IT'S IN OUR DNA***

**YOU WERE BOUGHT WITH THE BLOOD OF Christ TO WIN**

- Win in your marriage
- Win in your career
- Win in your spiritual life
- Win in your body
- Win in your mind and thought life
- Win in school with your friends.

If you stick around Jesus, and around a good Holy Ghost, Word church you will BE A WINNER!

***That's the grace life!***

Some of you have had a real struggle with living in that grace.

You can't keep the standard of God's righteousness without a revelation of GRACE!