

The Grace Life part 2

Intro—

What an awesome series this is! The Grace Life. Last week we started by sharing how the subject of the Grace of God is one of the most important themes in the Bible.

The word occurs 156 times in the NT

We are going to put Grace under a MICROSCOPE

There have been in recent years a big focus on grace
Good teaching, but also, errors that we have to watch out for.

- a. One error = you don't need to be concerned about living a sinful lifestyle anymore, because everything is covered under the grace of God.

But this isn't true. The grace of God is not a license to sin...

*Grace empowers us to live a holy life,
it's not a license to live a sinful lifestyle and*

- b. Another error = you don't have to keep the commandments, because there's no more commandments under grace...

Not true—there are NT commandments.

GRACE COMMANDMENTS.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

NIV

This *is* a commandment!
Not just a suggestion or a option if you feel like it!
Jesus gave us more...

Mark 11:25

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

NIV

These are commandments that we are to keep as NT believers.

So there are commandments of Grace...

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

The Grace of God is manifold = I.E. ***MULTIFACETED*** = like a ***Diamond***

Example,

A diamond with its many sides. It sparkles in the light in shooting off fiery light in all directions.

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

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

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 an amazing wife that I didn't deserve. So sweet, never did anything wrong...I did alot wrong, BUT FOR HIS GRACE!

- **Grace** is receiving a gift from God that you don't deserve

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 PUT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE OF THE WORD

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 love and favor...**

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.

Fundamental Christian Doctrine of SALVATION is that
IT'S BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

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

Example,

Grace is God reaching out to you, throwing you a LIFE LINE and saying “I will save you—because I love you”

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

Grace is God holding the gift of eternal life out to you

Faith is you receiving that gift from God

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

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

ALL LIES

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

1. Your Faith *GIVES YOU ACCESS*...into the grace of God—and it's in Grace where the JOY is

2. We have to learn to *continually* stand in that grace.

There must be a continual revelation that God is good and He is *for you, NOT AGAINST YOU*

Romans 8:31-32 (NIV2011)

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously (freely) give us all things?

- ***THE DEVIL WILL COME WITH LIES—God is angry at you. You did such and such, He's going to get you! He's just waiting for you to mess up. He's watching!!! He's always watching...***

That's some people's idea of what God is like!

- **BUT the Bible says** God IS GOOD!
- He's for you and not against you!
- He wants you to make it.
- He wants you to win.

James 1:16-17 (NIV2011)

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**3. GOD'S THRONE (AS MAGNIFICENT AS IT IS) —
*IS A THRONE OF GRACE!!!***

Heb 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

NKJV

Example,

Esther couldn't approach the throne uninvited without the possibility of being executed

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

(maybe you don't have to go to the throne of Ahasuerus.

Maybe it's

a boss. Maybe you messed up. Maybe it's a tough conversation you have to have...)

I first learned this lesson,

Application: We can continually stand in and draw on that grace whenever we need help, or are in a time of need,
HIS GRACE IS THERE

II. Definition #2: Grace is God's DIVINE ability working in you, empowering you to do what you otherwise could not do.

Example,

Lonnie story of setting up tents for revivals

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NIV2011)

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, **but the grace of God that was with me.**

- It was the grace of God **is a working power** that gives you ability that otherwise you don't have access to...

When you are in His grace, ***even though the path is rough,***

- There's a divine energy helping you

- There's joy.
- There is peace
- There's an ease about it, BECAUSE IT'S NOT YOU, BUT HIS POWER WORKING IN YOU.

a. You have to learn to **tap into the grace of God** that we have access to.

Tap into—

Like...a fountain drink. You want Coke, you have to pull the tap... (prayer)

2 Cor 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities (WEAKNESSES), that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

NKJV

I have been in situations where I told the Lord, Lord, I know something needs to be done, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I know something needs to be said, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I trust in your grace. Let your grace be unto me, let that power do its work...pour your grace on that situation in my life Lord.

Over the years I have seen the Lord miraculously work out situations, at church, at home, in relationships, make it all work out—I WOULD HAVE MESSED IT ALL UP!

Application—maybe at your job, maybe as a parent, you find yourself in places where you don't know what to do, where you think it's beyond you...

YOU CAN TAP INTO THAT GRACE—that is where the ability is, that's where the strength is...

When you feel like you can't go on—

Jesus says “tap into my grace. It's all you need.”

- It's enough for you.
- MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN YOUR WEAKNESS...

Example,

Story WW II they were doing tests and had a dirigible in the sky [like the Goodyear Blimp]. Over 200 navy men were holding it, and somehow it got loose. Many men held on to the ropes and went up into the air. Some fell right away and broke bones, others continued holding until they finally fell to their death. But one man held on for 45 minutes. No one understood how he could do it. They finally brought it down and rescued him. They found out he had tied the rope around himself and then he just could swing free. The rope held him!

Application: That's what the grace of God is like.

We have to ***learn to tie that grace around you*** and swing free in Jesus.

a. You can tell when someone is operating and working in their own strength.

- There is a *straining*
- *A look of pressure in their eyes*
- *They've lost their joy*

b. But when you access that Grace, and get it tied around you good and tight—

- There is a freedom
- A joy and peaceful easy feeling
- ***YOU CAN WORK HARD AND FAST, AND YET BE TRUSTING IN THE GRACE!***

Application: When you are at your worst, when you feel the weakest, just know that the grace of God is shining upon you!

Say: When I am weak, then I am strong

We have to learn to tap into the Grace.

DON'T LET IT JUST BE YOU—LET IT BE THE GRACE OF God WORKING IN YOU