

The Grace Life part 3

Grace is an amazing subject in the Bible.
There is no life like the Grace Life

We have been looking at What Grace Is, and What Grace is not.

Grace is NOT:

- 1. A license to sin.*
- 2. Does NOT mean we don't need to keep the commandments...*

Grace is: **Multifaceted**, like a diamond...
Different meanings of Grace in different contexts...

Definition #1: Grace (Greek = charis) is God's free gift of undeserved love and favor

Eph 2:4-5

4 **But because of his great love for us, God**, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace you have been saved.**

Why did Paul have such a deep and powerful understanding of Grace?

- He was a terrorist of that time—HE HATED CHRISTIANS AND PERSECUTED THEM BEYOND MEASURE*
- Until God visited him on the road to Damascus—appeared to him and called him become one of the greatest of all His apostles.*
- Paul ended up teaching on Grace more than any other of the apostles, and wrote more than HALF THE NT*

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

(I want to elaborate on this more today and then show how we can tap into more grace power for our everyday lives so that we can more fully understand and live the GRACE LIFE)

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV2011)

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.**

- The apostle Paul had a revelation that there was the power available to him accomplish all that God gave him to do—IT WAS THE POWER OF GRACE
- GOD'S Grace gave Paul an ability and strength to do what God called him to do even though he felt like he didn't have what it took in his own self

God will do the same for you!

1. In that grace is miracles! SUPERNATURAL POWER

Acts 4:33

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace was upon them all.**

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- In the grace of God is the ability to do the supernatural in your life as a demonstration that God is real!

Acts 6:8 (NIV2011)

8 Now Stephen, a man **full of God's grace and power,** performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Stephen wasn't an apostle
He was in the helps ministry setting up tables, working
in the parking lot...
God will choose the unlikely to do the unusual

Example,

Kenneth Hagin—

Born premature—health problems—broken family—
single mom—died at the age of 15, but God raised him
up

he graced him with a special ability to bring healing to
many people just as the Lord supernaturally healed
him of a deformed heart, and a terminal blood disease.

I was healed from his ministry when he was an older
man—from damage from drugs...

Application: We all have been given a grace—

**2. It's not only miracle working power, IT'S POWER FOR
EVERYDAY LIFE AS WELL...**

In 2 Cor 12:1 Paul shares how he had a vision of the Lord,
possibly an out of body experience where was caught up to
Paradise, He saw Jesus, heard words that he can't repeat
because they are so sacred.

After that vision, the harder he tried to do what God called him
to do, THE MORE HE STRUGGLED.

He knew there was a spirit that was harassing him.
Sent to buffet him—so that he might not be exalted because of
the abundance of revelations (he wrote over half the NT)

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 [enough] for you, for My strength [dunamis] 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 [weaknesses], in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
NKJV

The apostle Paul found the secret of tapping into the power of Grace

When you get to the end of yourself, when you feel like you can't go on—there is a power available to you that will be all you need to overcome in any situation!

Example,

An American Missionary Andrew Brunson in Turkey on trial for crimes against the state, of all things—what they are calling Christian TERRORISM! That is, reaching out to people with the Gospel and sharing the message of Jesus with them. He has been a pastor there for 23 years, and now they have put him in prison and are trying him treason. The American lawyers and diplomats trying to get him released believe this is a ploy of the president to gain credibility with his muslim people of his nation and to use Brunson as a pawn to for the US to get some Turkish terrorist clerics that are in prison. He could get 35 years or more. He has really been struggling with anxiety, malnutrition in the prison...

(pray for him)

I know the grace of Jesus is going to carry him through his.

HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH! HIS POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.

APPLICATION: Have you ever felt weak? Have you ever felt like you're in a losing battle? You feel almost like there is a spirit that is working to hinder you and your family?

- *That's what Paul was feeling...*
- *BUT I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU—HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH TO BRING YOU THROUGH.*

Sometimes the weakness isn't necessarily physical

SOMETIMES FEELING LACK OF ABILITY, INADEQUACY—

- for the job?
- For marriage
- For parenting
- Single mothers
- Single dads
- College students...
- Relationship pressures

You need to tap into the POWER OF GRACE.

III. HOW DO YOU TAP INTO THAT POWER OF GRACE?

1. One Key—is asking for it in prayer...

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.

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- I knew this Scripture was in there—but I had never actually practiced it.

- I didn't know you could pray for grace!

The first time I ever heard any one pray for grace was my pastors Mike and Val Linde at Grace Fellowship—

Example,

I was in Tulsa. Long story short—in a relationship with a girl, I knew it wasn't right. She wasn't the one. I had kind of gotten involved with her, and now HOW DO YOU GO BACKWARDS!

They were in Tulsa for a Bible Seminar and I went out after one of the evening services. I told them the situation, that I needed to break up with this girl—I didn't know how. I was so torn. HE PRAYED—"Lord give Bill grace. I ask you to pour your grace out on this situation so that when Bill talks to Denise, she will understand. You will work it out. Let your grace be all over it...

Many is the time since then that I've 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.

It is scriptural to PRAY FOR GRACE

Rom 1:7

7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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- I use to think this was just a salutation or intro to the letter— *BUT I KNOW THIS IS A BONAFIDE PRAYER FOR GRACE AND PEACE!*

1 Cor 1:3

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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2 Cor 1:2

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Gal 1:3

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

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Also in Eph, Phil, Col, 1 and 2 Thess, 1 and 2 Tim Tit, Philemon—

Grace and peace be unto you!—

(Tim, Tit —Grace **Mercy** and Peace! Pastors need lots of mercy too!),

In every epistle Paul wrote to the churches or individuals—He prayed for Grace and Peace to be upon them.

When you need grace, go to the throne of grace and ask that God pour His abundant grace on the situation you are in...

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 PRAY AND TAP INTO THAT GRACE—
that is where the ability is, that's where the strength
is...

***Jesus said "My Grace is all you need. My
power is made perfect in your weakness..."***

2. Another key to GRACE—developing the character of humility

James 4:5-6

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The
Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

NKJV

- To your degree of humility—that will be the
degree of grace that you will have in your
life.

What is humility really?

—means to “lower yourself”

—realizing you can't make it without God.

You are absolutely dependent upon Him

- Sometimes it's not until we hit that
weak place in life that SEE OUR
NEED FOR GRACE
we pray and cry out to God for
grace—

= it's being submitted to the Word of God

- Having the attitude that whatever God says in His Word—I will submit to that

= it's saying, “not my will, but let your will be done in my life

- It's submitting to the will of God for your life

= it's having a teachable, correctable heart

- It's submitting to the leadership of other people in your life, and not having a bad attitude when you are corrected or need to make an adjustment.

GOD GIVES MORE GRACE
HUMBLE

Pride, on the other hand, IS ALL YOU
—feeling like you can do it without Him... You don't really need God...

Pride is:

- = not submitting to the word
- = it's pushing your own will instead of what you know God wants you to do
- = it's being unteachable, not willing to be corrected, always having an excuse, always having an alibi, always defending yourself...

Prov 11:2

2 When pride comes, then comes shame;
But with the humble is wisdom.

NKJV

Prov 16:18

18 Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.

NKJV

Example,

Saul's pride when David began to rise up in popularity when serving under Saul, and they sang "Saul has killed his thousands, but David his ten thousands." Saul burned with envy. Wanted to kill David.

- Pride can come when someone else gets lifted up in front of us, or when we don't get recognized...HOW WILL WE REACT TO THAT?
- Pride can come at us when we are living in sin and God begins to confront us about it through His word. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
- Or pride comes at times when things are going well and we feel like MAN, I'M IT —IVE GOT THIS!

Example,

Fin in Star Wars 7—tells Hans Solo "I'm a big deal in the Empire—I'm a stormtrooper!"

—Solo called him "big deal"

SOMETIMES YOU SEE THAT WITH
ATHLETES...

He gives more grace to the humble.