

The Grace Life part 4

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 2:8

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

Grace is the free gift of God's undeserved love and favor to us

Definition #2: Grace is God's empowerment giving you ability that goes beyond your natural ability.

1. *Some people have erroneously said things like — “Well I know I'm not living like I'm suppose to, “but thank God for his grace!”*
 - a. *Grace isn't a cover up for a sinful life,*
 - b. **IT'S EMPOWERMENT TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE**

2. IT'S AN EMPOWERMENT TO SERVE GOD IN ALL YOU DO WITH DIVINE STRENGTH AND ABILITY THAT YOU DON'T HAVE IN AND OF YOUR OWN SELF.

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.**

Corinthians 12:9 (NIV2011)

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

One translation says, “My grace is all you need, for my power works best in your weakness (human ability).”

Application: When you feel weak, when you feel like you don't have what it takes, when you inadequate, unqualified, THE GRACE OF Jesus IS ALL YOU NEED! IT'S POWER AND IT WORKS BEST IN YOUR WEAKNESS!

We found WE tap into the grace of God by:

a. **asking for it in prayer...**

- 1) Heb 4:16 we can come to the throne of grace, obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.

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.

NKJV

- 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.

NKJV

2 Cor 1:2

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

NKJV

Gal 1:3

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

NKJV

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.**

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

—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...

**b. You can tap more into grace developing the
character of humility**

James 4:6

"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.

GRACE IS AN AMAZING POWER AVAILABLE TO EVERY
BELIEVER.

DON'T WASTE THE GRACE!

Don't waste the grace.
**LEARN WHAT GRACE IS
AND HOW IT WORKS SO WE
CAN LIVE THE GRACE LIFE.**

**Definition #3: Through grace you receive heavenly gift(s)
or talents that God gives you with which to serve Him.**

1. 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV2011)

10 Each of you should use whatever **gift you have received**
to serve others, as faithful stewards of **God's grace** in its
various forms. (Multifaceted Grace)

- o **The word for grace here is "Charis"**

- o **The word for gift in this passage is “Charisma”** and means a talent or ability

Charisma come out of Charis

These gifts come out of the GRACE of God bestowed on every believer.

We are called to be good **stewards** of His grace...

- NT = A steward was one who managed a household or a business. An administrator.

When we are saved we are given gifts that actually come out of the grace of God in our lives.

We need to use these gifts to SERVE OTHERS

= = The PURPOSE of the gifts is to SERVE OTHERS

11 If anyone **speaks**, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, they should do so with ***the strength God provides***, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

In church, in serving God A DISTINCTION IS MADE—

- **There are gifts of speaking.** (Relatively few) They should speak as the oracles of God
- **There are gifts of serving.** (Many) They should do it with the strength of Grace...

(some do both speaking and serving!)

Whatever you do—do it with the grace of God—then you’ll have A JOY, A STRENGTH, A POWER THAT WILL BLESS EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

“so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

When you serve God in your gifts with the POWER OF GRACE

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!

No big “I’s” and little “you’s”

(humility)

True grace always serves other and brings glory to God

- Grace isn't just seen in the act, BUT IN ATTITUDE.
- It's a heart issue—
Are we all about ourselves, OR GOD?

Application: when you get a true revelation of grace—you will realize how absolutely you are dependent on God's abilities and not your own, and then you will give Him all the glory—because you know it's all because of Him...

2. In the kingdom—you can't just be anything we want! We need to discover the grace gifts that God has given us, and esteem them. WHEN YOU'RE IN THAT PLACE OF GRACE—THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND HAPPIEST IN LIFE AND MINISTRY.

Romans 12:3-8 (NIV2011)

3 For **by the grace given me** I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the

faith God has distributed to each of you. [America's Got Talent bloopers]

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body [the Church], and each member belongs to all the others.

6 We have different **gifts**, according to the **grace** given to each of us. [Here again—God gives gifts to each one by His grace —with which to serve Him]

If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; [What is prophecy? 1 Cor. 14:3 simply: speaking to people for edification, exhortation and comfort...]

Sometimes prophecy can come in a church service—that is one way we see in the word—but also, in every day life!

- 7 if it is serving, then serve [example—what Greg said to me recently about mowing and other odd jobs at church] ;
- if it is teaching, then teach;
- 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement [what a great gift that is! Everyone needs encouragement];
- if it is giving, then give generously; [We're all called to give, but some have a gift of grace on them to give. Some are blessed financially because it's the grace on them. They are to help finance the kingdom!]
- if it is to lead, **do it diligently**; [some just have a grace to lead. Not everybody does and THAT'S OKAY —*it doesn't mean your less important just because you're not the leader*—If you do, do it with diligence for God]
- if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. [The mercy gift—you find it in chaplains, pastors, nurses, counselors... we have to remember to be cheerful. Don't get lost in the pain, you have to maintain your joy!]

Not an exhaustive list...

*****It would seem that for every need in the body of Christ which is the church***

There is a gift of grace to cover that need in someone!

ALSO—YOU SEE IT IN ALL LIFE in our world, wherever there is a need —there is a gift of grace from the creator in people to meet that need...whether it be

- *a doctor,*
- *a teacher,*
- *a lawn trimmer,*
- *an architect,*
- *a garbage collector,*
- *a cleaner...*

And nearly any other thing you can think of where there is a job—

God has poured out His grace in someone to meet that need and serve Him in that way.

Steve Farrar

“God bends every person He creates in a unique way so that they can function and play the part in His universe that He has ordained.”

Finally, we need to realize that every gift is equally valuable in the kingdom of God.

We compete sometimes in the body of Christ because we want to be significant, the best.

Don't compare your gift or yourself to another!

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV2011)

12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

- Be the best YOU! God made you because He wanted YOU!
- God gave you GRACE TO BE YOU...