

The Grace of God – Lesson 1

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

- By Grace through Faith
- His Grace in Jesus and our Faith in His Word = Appropriation of the Promises of God
- This is a central key passage of Scripture that unlocks the dynamics of God’s Kingdom

Observation: We all came to faith in Jesus Christ and were born again based on this principle of, ‘by grace through faith’ in Ephesians 2:8-9. Unfortunately, for many believers that principle has rarely been implemented since, concerning the rest of the promises of God in the Bible.

My goal in this series is that we have a firm grasp of this fundamental Biblical principle and vigorously apply it to all of the promises and provision of God that is laid out in His Word.

What is Grace

Question: What is God’s Grace?

- The common mainstream definition is “God’s unmerited favor towards sinners”

Certainly God’s grace through the redemptive work of Jesus is available to all for salvation from sin, but God’s grace does not stop there, it’s involved in our entire Christian life forever.

- There are less than 10 references to the word “Grace” in the Old Testament
- Just over 100 references in the New Testament- this is significant
- Grace- charis – where we get the word charity- a gift
 - o “It’s divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life”

Ephesians 2:6-7, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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.”

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- Grace comes from God as a gift, and is released in our lives through faith in His Word

Acts 20:32, “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Luke 2:40, “And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.”

- **Question:** What affect did this grace have upon Jesus? What affect does it have on us?
- **Please Read: John 1:1-18**

This passage of Scripture we just read states that Jesus is the Word and Grace comes from Jesus; therefore, the Grace of God comes through the faith in the Word of God.

- Jesus is the Word of God – God’s Word is truth according to John 17:17
- Jesus is full of Grace and Truth – the Grace of God is found in the Word of God
- From the fullness of His Grace we have received one blessing after another
- The Law came by Moses but Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ
- **Please Read: Hebrews 1:1-3**

Hebrews 1:3 AMP, “...upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power.”

- The universe and everything in it was created by the spoken Word of God- Jesus
- Words are containers – Life and Death Proverbs 18:21
- **Question:** What does Jesus’ words contain?

John 6:63, “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

God’s Grace: His power and provision contained in His promises- **2Cor. 1:18-20; 2 Peter 1:3-4**

Ephesians 3:7, “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.”

Definition: The Grace of God is the power of God at work in us who believe

Grace is so much more than just “Unmerited Favor” which I would attribute more to the mercy of God towards people. Grace speaks of God’s power and ability operating on our behalf.

Romans 1:16, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

- God’s grace, His power has a profound effect upon our lives
- It saves us from sin, make a new creation, delivers us from darkness to light
- First began in our lives when we were born again and continues on for all eternity!

1 Corinthians 15:10

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.

Colossians 1:29 (AMP), “For this I labor, striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.”

- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**
- Notice what Jesus said about His own Amazing Grace
 - o "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- The Grace of God is the power of God
- **Question:** When was the last time God’s Grace worked in your life?

- Apart from His grace we can do nothing, but without our faith grace is remains dormant
- When we step out in faith, God backs us up with the power of His grace

Acts 14:3

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.