

## Revealing The Multifaceted Grace Of God

'Each believer has received a gift. Employ it in serving one another as good managers of the multifaceted grace of God' (1 Peter 4:10).

The grace of God is unmerited or undeserved favour but His grace comes with several characteristics, for different reasons and for various needs. It is multifaceted and as believers we are to be good stewards of this wonderful gift. The grace of God, also called the Spirit of Grace is one aspect of the Holy Spirit. People who insult the Spirit of Grace will be judged for doing so. 'I (the Lord) will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of Grace and of supplication' (Zechariah 12:10). 'How much worse punishment do you think the sinner will be judged worthy of, who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the new covenant with which he was sanctified, as an unholy thing and has insulted the Spirit of Grace?' (Hebrews 10:29).

The Lord uses His divine grace for many reasons. Are people aware that grace is one tool God uses to patiently teach us how to live a Godly life? 'The grace of God has come bringing salvation to all men, teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires so we may live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world' (Titus 2:11 & 12).

Grace can give us a window of opportunity. The grace of God opened a window of opportunity so the Jews in captivity in Persia could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. 'For a brief moment, grace has been shown from our God to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a secure hold in His holy place, so our God may brighten our eyes and give us a little refreshing in our bondage. We are bondservants (to the king of Persia) yet our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has extended loving kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia to give us a refreshing, to set up the house of our God and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem' (Ezra 9:8 & 9).

When we live within the grace of God, our speech should be winsome and gracious. 'You are the most excellent of the Sons of men. Grace has anointed Your lips, therefore God has blessed You forever' (Psalm 45:2). King David wrote this prophetic Psalm about the Messiah King Who had not yet come to earth. There are many verses about speaking graciously. 'Those who love purity of heart and speak gracefully are the King's friends' (Proverbs 22:11). 'Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for building up (encouraging people) as the need may be, so it will give grace to those who hear' (Ephesians 4:29). 'Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so you may know how you ought to answer each one' (Colossians 4:6).

God's grace goes hand in hand with His glory. 'The Lord God is a sun and a shield. He will give grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk righteously' (Psalm 84:11). 'To the praise of the glory of His grace by which He freely bestowed favour on us in the Beloved, in Whom we have our redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of our sin according to the riches of His grace' (Ephesians 1:6 & 7).

Grace goes hand in hand with the perfect Truth of God's Word and reveals the character of Jesus. 'The Word (of God) became flesh and lived among us. We saw His glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth ... From His fullness we all received grace upon grace. The law came through Moses. Grace and Truth came through Jesus our Messiah' (John 1:14,16 & 17). 'They (Paul & Barnabas) stayed there (in Iconium) a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord Who testified to the Word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands' (Acts 14:3). 'Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the Word of the Truth of the Gospel, it has come to you even as it is in all the world and is bearing fruit and growing, as it is in you also since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in Truth' (Colossians 1:5 & 6).

Grace is a sign of humility. 'The Lord gives grace to the humble' (Proverbs 3:34). 'God gives more grace, therefore the scripture says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"' (James 4:6). 'You younger people, be subject to the elder. Yes, all of you gird yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another, for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble' (1 Peter 5:5).

Children can receive the grace of God. 'The child (Jesus) grew up and became strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him' (Luke 2:40).

Grace can show commitment to the Lord. 'With great power the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Great grace was on them all' (Acts 4:33). 'Let the Word of Jesus dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord' (Colossians 3:16).

We are saved and justified by the grace of God (Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24), and we can only lead others to Jesus when He shows His grace to the unsaved. We are to use grace as a witness to non-believers. 'When Barnabas had come and had seen the grace of God (on the Gentiles), he was glad. He exhorted them all, with purpose of heart they should remain near to the Lord' (Acts 11:23). 'When the synagogue broke up, many of the Jews and the devout new converts followed Paul and Barnabas, who urged them to continue in the grace of God' (Acts 13:43). 'They (Paul & Barnabas) sailed to Antioch from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had completed' (Acts 14:26). 'Paul chose Silas and went out (to preach the Gospel), being committed by the brothers to the grace of God' (Acts 15:40).

Grace helps us to believe in Jesus and in the Gospel message. 'When he (Apollos) had determined to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he had come, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews publicly, showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah' (Acts 18:27 & 28).

Grace goes hand in hand with the Gospel message. 'I (Paul) do not hold my life dear to myself, so I may finish my race with joy and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify to the Gospel of the grace of God' (Acts 20:24).

Grace can be an encouragement. It confirms the inheritance we will receive. 'Brothers, I entrust you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to encourage and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified' (Acts 20:32).

When we receive our individual calling, we receive grace to enable us to fulfil our ministry. We receive grace and peace at the same time. 'Through Jesus, from Whom we received grace and apostleship, for obedience of faith among all the nations for His name's sake, among whom you are also called to belong to Jesus the Messiah. To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints (God's chosen ones), grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus' (Romans 1:5 to 7). 'By the grace of God I am what I am. His grace that was bestowed on me was not futile, but I worked more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me' (1 Corinthians 15:10). 'God is able to make all grace abound to you, so you will always have all sufficiency in everything and may abound to every good work' (2 Corinthians 9:8). 'To me (Paul) was this grace given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Jesus' (Ephesians 3:8). 'God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Messiah Jesus before times eternal' (2 Timothy 1:9).

Grace stands on its own as a special gift from the Lord along with our being justified, receiving peace, having hope and being in the glory of God. We will one day sit with God the Father in heaven. 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus, through Whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God' (Romans 5:1 & 2). 'Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus' (1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2). 'Even when we were dead through our sin, God the Father made us alive together with Jesus. By grace we have been saved and raised up with Him (Jesus), and He (God the Father) made us to sit with Him in heavenly places in Messiah Jesus. In the ages to come He will show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Jesus, for by grace we have been saved through faith, and that is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God' (Ephesians 2:5 to 8). 'To each one of us was grace given, according to the measure of the gift of Jesus' (Ephesians 4:7).

Grace is a free gift from God through Jesus. 'The free gift is not like sin. If by the sin of one man (Adam) many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of one Man Jesus the Messiah, come abundantly to many ... If by the sin of one man death reigned, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus the Messiah ... The law came in so sin might abound but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly. As sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus our Lord' (Romans 5:15 to 21).

We do not live under the Law of Moses but under the grace of God. 'Sin should not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace' (Romans 6:14).

Grace can be multiplied. 'All things are for your sakes so the grace, being multiplied through many believers, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God' (2 Corinthians 4:15).

The grace of God is sufficient for every need we have. 'My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9).

It was by the grace of God that Jesus died for us. 'We see Jesus, Who has been made a little lower than the angels. Because of the suffering and death, He is crowned with glory and honour, so by the grace of God He tasted death for everyone' (Hebrews 2:9).

People who fall away from the Lord make the grace of God void in their lives. 'You who were called in the grace of Jesus, I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him to follow a different (false) gospel ... Do not make void the grace of God ... You are alienated from Jesus ... You have fallen away from grace' (Galatians 1:6; 2:21; 5:4). 'Look carefully lest there be any man who falls short of the grace of God' (Hebrews 12:15). 'Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace' (Hebrews 13:9). 'There are certain ungodly men who crept in (to the church) secretly, those who were long ago written about for condemnation, ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness and denying our only Master, God and Lord Jesus' (Jude 1:4).

Grace is a throne where we can go for help. 'Let us draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, so we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in the time of need' (Hebrews 4:16).

Grace is a form of inner beauty that shows outwardly. People grow in grace as they grow in the Lord. 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus' (2 Peter 3:18). If people are not growing and increasing their outward grace, then they are not inwardly growing in God. The grace of God is an outward manifestation of the inner workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The level of maturity in the Lord is revealed by the level of grace a person shows. If there is little grace, then there is a lack of maturity. Living within the grace of God should give us an appealing quality that draws others. People who have grace walk in the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22 & 23). They are filled with the love of God and they have joy in the Lord. People with grace have a serene peacefulness and are infinitely patient, constantly kind, live a Godly life, they live by faith, are gentle, polite, respectful and exercise self-control. Jesus said we would know them by their fruit (Matthew 7:20).

Walking in grace does not mean to walk with 'airs and graces' which is snobbery and pride. Being elegant and graceful is not necessarily walking in the grace of God. A carnal, unsaved person can be very graceful, yet lack God's grace. Walking in grace gives a person such a humble God-like quality, they seem to be a walking witness for Jesus. They bring a peaceful atmosphere wherever they go. Non-believers often comment, "There is 'something' about that person." Where people with grace live, non-believers sometimes say, "There is a really peaceful atmosphere in your house." We all need to study the Bible to find out what the various facets of the grace of God are and walk in them. The reward we will receive in heaven for our efforts are immense. We will receive the Kingdom of God. 'We receive a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. Let us have grace through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe' (Hebrews 12:28).

Amen and God bless you.

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