

“God’s Unmerited Favor”

Grace is one of the key attributes of God and is defined as unmerited favor. Moreover, grace is kindness shown without regard to the worth of the one who receives it, and to further astound our senses, it’s extended to us in spite of what we deserve. Exodus 34:6 says, “Our God is merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.” Grace, is therefore, almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion and patience (longsuffering). From the book of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, our Heavenly Father has proven His extreme love and care for us by showing you and I, how He loved those who, lived before us. It’s a wonderful thing to see how our predecessors walked in grace, when in many cases they, from a natural perspective, deserved just the opposite. God, through Jesus Christ, knows our inadequacies and still lovingly forgives our sins, remembering them no more. He causes all things, even our failures, to work together for His good and more importantly ours.

A few Biblical examples of God’s Grace are:

- Even though David planned and orchestrated the death of Bathsheba’s Husband, he still experienced a long life, immense prosperity and an incredible relationship with the Lord. Thus, King David was remembered as, “A man after God’s own heart (II Samuel 12:9-10).”
- Even though Rahab was a prostitute, she received praise for her faith and good deeds and was included in the royal lineage of Jesus himself (Joshua 2:1, 6:17, 22, and 25).
- Moses murdered a man and fled to the desert. However, he was still chosen by the Lord to be the deliverer who led the children of Israel out of their bondage from Egypt (Exodus 2:11-15).
- Peter denied the Lord three times and abandoned Him because he was afraid yet he was still appointed as a powerful leader in the early church (Matt. 26:69-75).
- John the Baptist, even though he knew Jesus personally, expressed doubt at the end of his life about Jesus being the Messiah. Jesus still praised him, saying, “Among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist” (Luke 7:18-23).
- In John 4:7-26, Jesus was referred to as the friend of sinners. When He met the Samaritan woman at the well. He knew about her multiple marriages but did not use the information to insult shame or prove her inadequacy.

Aren't you glad that our failures don't stop the Lord from fulfilling His plan for our lives? Also, aren't you thankful that the Lord hears our pleas for forgiveness opening the way for His grace to operate? As performance oriented as we are, don't we try to assign formulas to grace though, and then try to cover our antics using grace as our trump card (i.e. God will forgive me)? To try to use a formula for God's grace would be like trying to receive salvation another way other than by believing in Jesus Christ! Misusing grace to manipulate something to satisfy our sinful desires is another distortion of the Gospel we need to stay away from! The truth is grace is what God extends to us, because He loves and cares for us.

In reality, grace is fulfilled in the person, Jesus Christ. All of God's grace rests in Him, His shed Blood and resurrected life. In truth, grace is present so you and I can have fellowship with Father God through His Son.

This is confirmed in Ephesians 1:5-8;

"In love he (God) predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One (Jesus) he loves. In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

I think we seem to forget that grace is an incredible characteristic of God and this extraordinary attribute is extended to us to express how much the Omnipotent One cares! The Lord cherishes (Protects and cares lovingly) for each of us with a love that is difficult to grasp, a love that seeks the good in us rather than accentuating the bad. Our Heavenly Father isn't in heaven ready to pass judgment upon every mistake that we make. He isn't thinking up ways to substantiate our inadequacies, quite the contrary, and He's actually planning ways to bless our obedience! Now the way our blessings happen may not be the way we think, nevertheless, you can rest assured your blessings are either coming or they are on their way!

Likewise, the kingdom of God doesn't fit into any of our world system mindsets. It's not a democracy; it is however, a theocracy (God Rules). God hasn't set up His kingdom as a system that is not graded by fairness and equality. We don't get what we deserve in God's kingdom, if we did, we would reap the whirlwind. We get the opposite of what we deserve – we get what we don't deserve, Grace (Unmerited favor)!

For example, Jesus operated with kingdom values when he interacted with men and women using spiritual sensitivity

In John 8:1-11 the adulterous woman was about to be stoned by the Pharisee's. Their accusation was: *"This woman has sinned; let's stone her."* Jesus responded out of a different set of values He said; *"Yes, this woman has sinned and I know what she deserves, but I'm giving her what she doesn't deserve; I'm giving her grace!"*

In the parable of the prodigal son in [Luke 15:11-32](#) the father gave to the son what he didn't deserve. The father extended love, grace and mercy. Even though the eldest brother wanted vindication, and by doing so exemplified the world system, the father had other plans.

In [Revelation 12:19](#) Satan is described as "The accuser of the brethren... who accuses the saints before our God day and night." You might say that Satan has the "ministry of condemnation" and he has no problem accomplishing his task. It's the ministry of condemnation that Jesus dismantled at Calvary!

For instance, Paul said in [Romans 8:1-2](#):

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation (guilty) for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

The key to long-term perseverance is to understand how God's grace is applied. By doing so we actively fend off Satan's messages of shame and condemnation. Grace happens when we least expect it, because it's a gift to us from our Heavenly Father. Hopefully, it's as we receive this revelation and walk in a spirit of humility that grace will expand in our hearts. For the Apostle Paul, grace propelled him to love the Lord more than his prestige as a Pharisee. For Moses, grace thrust him to receive the mantle to be the deliverer of Israel, for David, grace launched him into having a heart that hungered after the Lord. It's, as we become aware of God's Grace that we fall deeper in love with Him. If we are to make a mistake in judgment and miss the mark, let it be as we are passionately pursuing the Lord and walking in His grace.

The truth is Grace is freely given [Psalm 84:11](#), it empowers men [I Corinthians 3:10](#), it is not given for selfish use [I Peter 4:10](#) and it is promised to the humble [I Peter 5:5](#). Grace is manifested in self-sacrifice [II Corinthians 8:9](#), and it's the source for spiritual strength [II Timothy 2:1](#). Finally, we are justified (proof to be right) freely by God's grace through the redemption that comes from Christ Jesus [Romans 3:24](#). The Grace of God signifies riches in the heavenly realm. If we ever come to the place where we are self-examining our forward progression in the Lord, we must begin with the riches that have been extended to us through Grace, because it is absolutely riches that are incalculable and signifies, "God's Unmerited Favor."

Conclusion

[Ephesians 1:7](#) says:

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

[Ephesians 2:7](#) says:

"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."

Our Heavenly Father, being full of grace, accepts us as children who are justified (Proved right). The natural way to think is to say, "God is just, and, therefore, condemns us to judgment." Instead we have the great paradox – God is just, and somehow, in that incredible miraculous grace that Jesus came to bring man, he accepts us, not as judged, but as children whom he loves. Furthermore, Paul insists the way to have a right relationship with God lies, not in frenzied, desperate attempts to win acquittal through our performance; it lies in the humble, penitent acceptance of the love and the grace, which God offers us through grace through Jesus Christ.

Pray:

Father God; thank you for the grace you have given me. Thank you that you not only sent your Son to redeem me, but to also bring me the grace that I desperately need today. I accept this word and passionately desire that my relationship with you be fully restored knowing now that grace paves the way for that restoration. Lord, forgive me for misusing your grace and for being too familiar with it. I declare from this day forth I will simply receive your grace knowing it is a sign of your love and care for me. I decree that I will be patient through my transformation from being natural minded to becoming a person led by the Holy Spirit, in Jesus name, amen!

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