
Grace Like a Diamond

Lessons

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1.0 Introduction

1 Peter 4:10

(KJV) “. . . minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold **grace** of God.”

(AMP) “. . . employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided **grace** [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].

In this verse, what is given, for what purpose, and to whose benefit was it given?

In Christianity, grace is one of the most used words and one of the most misunderstood words. We are urged to “get understanding (Prov 4:5, 7)

“What is grace? I know until you ask me; when you ask me I do not know.” St.

Augustine

The adjective manifold brings to us the image of grace as many sided or many faceted as a cut and polished diamond. Grace is like a diamond in many aspects.

- beautiful – to see and to enjoy
- reflective - of the light from the sun and Son
- hard and enduring - indestructible
- valuable – rare, one of a kind, costly to obtain
- faceted – many sided in views and applications
- represent love in action

The Greek word translated manifold in the verse above is most often (8 out of 10 times) translated divers (Hebrews 2:4, James 1:2), meaning different types. This Greek word was used to describe the spots of a leopard, the mineral veins in marble, or a piece of granite. (i.e. a sample of Pikes Peak granite)

The abundant grace of God comes to us from all sides to overcome all our sin and all our problems.

How can one thing be many? A man is one man but a son, a husband, and a father.

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Fruit of the Spirit is Love as seen as joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance. (Galatians 5:22-23) The Godhead is one but also Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:11)

Grace is given to us at all phases of our lives from before our salvation to our physical death and beyond: Convicting Grace, Saving Grace, Quickening (living) Grace, Dying Grace, and Exceeding Grace.

God has given to us His manifold (many-faceted) grace for our help forever. Grace is not earned but given based on God's love for us. We receive all, everything because of Christ. (Philippians 4:19)

Grace in the King James Bible is always the Greek word charis (G5485). Charis is used 156 times in King James Bible, translated as grace (130 x), favor (6 x), thank-*** (12 x), and 8 other various.

Charis is used most by Paul (88 times plus 7 times in Hebrews ?).

It is a description of Jesus (Luke 1:30, 2:40, 2:52).

Jesus never taught about grace but taught what grace was not (Luke 6:32-34).

As Jesus was full of grace and truth (John 1:14, 17), he demonstrated grace, the very character of God.

Jesus' parables of grace were: the gracious vineyard owner in Matthew 20 and the gracious father in Luke 15.

In the old testament, grace is not fully given but most often found in God's or another man's sight (Noah in Genesis 6:8, Moses in Exodus 33:12, Ruth in Ruth 2:2, and Samuel's mother in 1 Samuel 1:18). People had to search and look for the elusive grace. We live in the era of grace upon grace (John 1:16).

In Paul's greatest benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14), we see grace as a one word description of Jesus. (grace=charis, love=agape, communion=koinonia)

If we are to be good stewards of this grace, teaching and distributing it to each other as God directs and empowers, we need to survey that of which we are stewards. We will commit to learn about grace's many facets or sides and how they affect us in our relationship toward God, ourselves, and others.

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2.0 Amazing Grace

Romans 11:6 And if by **grace**, then is it no more of works: otherwise **grace** is no more **grace**. But if it be of works, then is it no more **grace**: otherwise work is no more work.

Grace cannot be earned or deserved, it must be thankfully received without any thought or ability to repay or return. It is given freely.

We use amazing (almost too good to be true) to describe grace as the people talked of Jesus healing (Mark 2:12), or teaching (Luke 4:36) and believers talked of Saul turned Paul (Acts 9:21).

Our personal connection and personal fellowship with God is not based on our works, good or bad. Grace from God through Jesus is the only basis or path into God and receiving God into us. ("That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us " John 17:21)

What do most Christians know about grace?

It is not a prayer at meals, it's God's character and His nature.

He is amazing and His grace is amazing.

Grace is His relationship of choice toward us.

Grace has always been His nature not something created in the crisis after the fall of Adam. God was not surprised or caught unaware.

During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world were discussing whether any one belief was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities:

- Great teacher? Other religions have teachers who bring out the best in man.
- Incarnation? Other religions had different versions of gods appearing in human form.
- Resurrection? Again, other religions had accounts of return from death.

The debate went on for some time, until C. S. Lewis wandered into the room. "What's the rumpus about?" he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions.

In his forthright manner, Lewis responded, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace."

Grace is only in seen in the relationship between a powerful, good God and weak, fallen men.

Grace as it was understood when the Bible was written in the first century in the

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Greco-Roman culture. It brought to mind: beauty (graceful dancer), pleasure, joy, and supernatural power.

Spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit are grace gifts (charismata, this word is only used by Paul).

Man can give mercy to another for a particular time and situation but God's grace abounds over every shortcoming for all time for all mankind (2Corinthians 4:15, Romans 5:15, 17).

A critical part of the early church was great grace and great power (Acts 2:47, 4:33)

Grace has been defined as:

1. Justice is getting what I deserve; Mercy is not getting what I deserve; but Grace is getting what I don't deserve. (Romans 11:6, 4:4)
2. 2 Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."
(also known as the "great exchange")
3. G-R-A-C-E, God's Riches At Christ's Expense
4. God's unmerited, unlimited, unending favor and love toward man
5. Grace is the active love toward man of our the ever-living God.
6. Grace is God's love in action.
7. "Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected." –Jonathan Edwards
8. God's attitude and approval toward mankind.
9. "Grace is God flowing His love to and through man regardless of man's past performance or his future promises." Andrew Wommack

God describes Himself as grace (Exodus 33:19, 34:6).

As Christians, we are accountable as stewards of the amazing, many-faceted, great grace which we have been given. We all can receive, stand, and grow in the grace of God as we minister it to the world.

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3.0 Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Grace is the route to salvation and faith is the vehicle (i.e. car and road diagram).

Grace = the bank account, faith = the check or withdrawal

God furnishes both to man who will receive these gifts to begin our journey of maturity and reach our destination of continual salvation and relationship. (Romans 5:2)

Grace has appeared and is extended to all people. (Titus 2:11)

It is God's will for all to come to repentance and be saved. (2 Peter 3:9).

How does faith come?

- Faith and love in grace – 1 Timothy 1:14, 2 Timothy 1:13
- Faith is a fruit of spirit – Galatians 5:22-23
- Faith comes by the word – Romans 10:17

Sin is a strong, harsh master but grace is “much more” (Romans 5:17, 20).

From what and how are we saved?

- The wages of inherited sin and the wrath of God (Romans 6:23).
- Justified by grace in Romans 3:24 caused us to examine “justified.” Some teachers equate it to “just-as-if-I'd” as a memory tip. It actually means to regard as innocent, balanced (as in accounting), or even. It is also currently is used in publishing concerning making straight margins, (diagram – right justified).
- Justified by faith of Christ, not works or worth. (Galatians 2:16)

How do we receive this salvation by grace?

- By faith in His promised provision and the worth of His Word (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Offered grace is dormant in our life until we receive it by using the faith “key” (i.e. a new car in a garage).

Just as goal of salvation is to restore a personal relationship between man and God, the offer of grace must be personally accepted and received.

Grace is not something which we achieve, but something which we receive. (Ephesians 3:7, 4:7)

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Grace in Jesus' ministry.

The fullness of grace and truth came by Jesus. (John 1:14, 17). Jesus taught us to see, understand the truth of our fallen condition and the overcoming grace power to bring righteousness to us.

Examples of Jesus' grace include:

- the man with withered hand (Luke 6:6-11),
- man at the pool (John 5:1-9),
- woman at the well (John 4:5-19),
- woman caught in the act (John 8:2-11),
- disciples arguing about who is the greater (Matthew 20:24-28),
- stilling the storm (John 6:16-21),
- saving Peter during his water walk (Matthew 14:26-31).

He lived in the flesh the grace nature of God. Jesus is the Word which is also full of grace and truth.

Jesus ministered in grace and drew grace from the Father because he was in the form of man.

- all night prayer to choose disciples (Luke 6:12-13)
- In the wilderness for 40 days (Luke 4:1-2)
- in the garden in prayer (Mark 14:26—41, Matthew 26:36-45)

Where do we get grace?

- at the cross of Jesus – Colossians 1:19-20, 2:14-15, Jesus and Him crucified - 1 Corinthians 2:2
- from the revelation of Jesus – 1 Peter 1:13, grace multiplied by knowledge of Jesus - 2 Peter 1:2, strong grace in Jesus - 2 Timothy 2:1, riches of grace - Ephesians 3:18,
- at the throne – Hebrews 4:14, 2:9

God did not “grace” us because we are holy; he “graced” us to make us holy and do good works.

“No-one can be good and do good unless God's grace first makes him good.” Martin Luther

“The law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.” D. L. Moody

If we had to deserve the love of God, our situation would be helpless and hopeless.

He does not love us because we deserve his love; he loves us out of the sheer grace (love in action) of his heart (desire). Grace is a gift from God to us. (Ephesians 2:8, 3:7, 4:7)

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“Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues” John Stott (English Christian writer, 1921-2011)

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4.0 Standing in Grace

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this **grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2 (Amp) Therefore since we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [*grasp the fact that we*] have [*the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy*] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Through Him also we have [*our*] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [*firmly and safely*] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.

Like the grace we received to be saved, grace keeps us and enables us to stand forever without condemnation, obligation, or merit. We are made righteous by grace through faith. There is peace between us and God. We can come to Him face to face with our successes and failures, because of our grace-standing. This peace which results from righteousness brings joy (For the kingdom of God is . . . but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Romans 14:17).

4.1 God's grace (favor) is for now and forever.

It is not to be put aside after salvation. We live in grace daily. God doesn't change grace and take it back at a later time or it would not be grace.

Grace is given and is always available. Like Jesus, it is the same yesterday, today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8). Grace continues to change us as we continue to receive more and more. We cannot outgrow grace and mature into the “deeper things of God.” Grace allows us to have a deeper relationship with and in God.

Christians are urged to: stand in grace (Romans 5:2, 1Peter 5:12), continue in grace by Paul in Acts 13:43, and grow in grace by Peter (2 Peter 3:18).

4.2 How do we stand in grace?

Our faith in God's work of grace gives us the ticket into the throne room of grace (Hebrews 4:16). We stand in a position of strength and authority as we receive the truth that God loves us, likes us, and graces us. “He has our picture on His mantle.” He sees us covered with Jesus' righteousness. We are in Jesus and He is in us (righteousness Philippians 3:9, walk in Him Colossians 2:6-9).

“Human ability can no more maintain a right standing before GOD than it can attain

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such a standing” (Lewis Chafer).

4.3 How can we get away from a standing in grace?

By standing on our own performance, merit or worth, “comparing ourselves among ourselves” (Romans 11:6). This brings us into the law relationship with God the Judge which demands perfection (no lies, no stealing, no lust, no gossip. . .). We must make a choice how we will obtain righteousness, by grace or law. (Galatians 5:4). Any dilution is pollution (Romans 11:6).

4.4 The conflicting principles of law and grace.

Law	Grace	References
old creation	new creation	Romans 6:6, 2 Corinthians 5:17
stained	clean	Isaiah 1:18, Colossians 1:14
bound	freed	2 Timothy 2:26, Romans 8:21
shows the sin in man	shows the love in God	Romans 3:23, Romans 5:5
demands righteousness	brings righteousness	1 Kings 8:61, Romans 10:4,
death to living man	life to dying man	Genesis 2:17, John 10:10
we must do	Jesus has done	Deuteronomy 17:19, 1 Corinthians 6:20
knowledge of sin	puts away sin	Deuteronomy 30:10, John 1:29
God out to us	us in to God	Exodus 33:9, Colossians 2:6

Lewis Chafer, first president of Dallas Theological Institute, compares law and grace:

“The Law of Moses presents a covenant of works to be wrought in the energy of the flesh.”

“The Grace of God presents a covenant of faith to be wrought in the energy of the Spirit.”

4.5 The danger of rejecting grace

Rejecting or refusing to relate to God based on grace is proclaiming our self-righteousness. Our minds will rarely be at ease. We will always battle and have: an inconsistent victory over sin, a strain for the approval of people, and lack boldness in our Christian life. Our authority in the earth will have limited effects because it has no foundation.

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4.6 We have the choice to receive and stand in the grace of God.

Grace is offered freely, but we must receive it, stand in it, grow in it, and continue in it. “Take the gift package, open it, and enjoy it.” We have been given the way into a relationship of grace, a secure standing in grace, and an expectation of blessings flowing through us.

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5.0 Accepted in the Beloved

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his **grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

By personally receiving the glory (worth or value) of God's grace, we realize that we have always been His beloved (object of love). God made man in His image. (Genesis 1:26)

5.1 All people need acceptance.

People are made to need acceptance and they will seek anywhere, even the short-lived acceptance of others which is usually gained by performance and immediately lost by the slightest mistake. Christians don't have to bow to the world's standards to be accepted, God totally accepts us as we are. He knows us even better than we know ourselves.

5.2 How does God meet this need by His grace?

God's grace makes us acceptable and this grace is glorious. When we accept that we are accepted, we begin to have worth and value as we are changed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 4:18).

5.3 What does accepted in the beloved mean?

The word (G5487 charitoo) translated "accepted" in Ephesians 1:6 is only used one other place in New Testament, Luke 1:28 (translated as "highly favored") when the angel spoke to Mary before she bore Jesus.

We also are accepted (highly favored) in the beloved (G25 agapao) by the grace of God.

We are freed from the deception of the devil bringing guilt, freed from the need for other people to accept us, and are given a correct view of ourselves (as God sees us). Jesus tells us of grace in action by the parable of the Prodigal in Luke 15.

5.4 What does our acceptance by grace tell us about God?

The glory of His grace toward us reveals:

1. the beauty of God's love - (pure)
2. the majesty of His character - (unchanging)
3. the splendor of His forgiveness - (high above)
4. the greatness of His sacrifice - (priceless)

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5. the might of His righteousness - (replaces sin)

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6.0 Grace, Law and Sin

Romans 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might **grace** reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The law from God is mighty strong but His grace is much more mighty. Sin rules like a dictator where grace rules by the righteousness like a perfect Father.

How God's grace is stronger than man's sin.

Grace is from God and much more stronger than sin from the devil. Grace is never depleted or exhausted. Grace prevents any sin that is thrown at us from sticking to us. Grace covers us like "non-stick Teflon."

What is it like when grace reigns.

Grace totally extinguishes sin like water to fire or light to darkness. The fight is not over until all the sin is defeated and eliminated. Grace reigns through righteousness to all eternity.

How God makes us safe for grace.

We have died with Christ and risen with Christ. We as dead men are not tempted to bring more sin so grace could more abound. (Romans 6:1-4)

Freed from sin's grip by God's favor.

We are no longer in the grip of the kingdom of sin and death but are subjects in the Kings' kingdom of grace and truth (life). (Romans 6:14, 8:13)

Romans 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under **grace**? God forbid.

Grace received from God does not make us free to sin more because we have unlimited forgiveness. Grace is the motivation of love which makes us love God more and sin less. We are moved to good deeds (works) by the great gift of grace which we have received. ("... created in Christ Jesus unto good works ..." Ephesians 2:10)

How God's grace can keep us free from sin's power.

In the service of sin, we have defeat, discouragement, and imprisonment. If we live in unbelief, self-reliance, and ignorance, we can never live in the freedom of grace.

We must continue to choose to serve God even though Jesus has set us free from sin.

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What does reigning in God's Grace mean?

We can never out-sin God's grace. The reign of grace is characterized by righteousness. We are changed in two ways: we die with Him and we are raised with Christ. Romans 5:17

The grace of God teaches us, gives us life, and keeps us looking toward the blessed hope. Titus 2:11-13

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7.0 Sufficient Grace

2 Corinthians 12:9 *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Paul had a continuing problem which he asked three times for God to remove. God's answer was "my grace is sufficient for you." Strength is perfected (completed) in our (acknowledged) weakness. We must admit we are weak and He is strong.

7.1 My Grace is Sufficient for You

Each word is important and can be emphasized.

My (only God can be trusted to give) grace (unconditional, unending, and all powerful love)

is (available now, in the present)

sufficient (more than enough, able to save and empower)

for you (individual, one to one, personal).

Only then can we rest (be at peace) in the power of Christ (the completed work of the cross) (1 Corinthians 15:42-44) (Matthew 11:28-30).

Strength of God is only revealed and accessed in our weakness (1 Corinthians 1:25, 27).

Crucified in weakness and lives in strength (2 Corinthians 13:4).

7.2 Our common weakness.

He is God and we are not. When we rely and trust in our own strength, skills and intellect, we are at our lowest point of weakness. This self-confidence or pride often contradicts the truth of our insufficiency and weakness. We are deceived by the enemy to trust in ourselves and think God doesn't care or cannot help.

7.3 God's answer to weakness.

Look unto God for His grace to meet all our needs. In His grace we have the status of favor and approval and are His beloved. This is because God loves us and likes us. He knows us and cares for us and can help us. He is not surprised at our failure, circumstance, or distress. He is love and patient.

7.4 Why God want us to keep leaning on His grace.

With a constant reliance on grace, we are aware that without Him we can do nothing. (John 15:5) We are only strong when we accept that that we are weak and in need of

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and receive God's strength. His desire is for us to victorious and overcome the world. We can only succeed in His sufficient grace.

His ways and thoughts are not our thoughts and our ways. Your ways and thoughts are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8-10).

7.5 What a life depending on sufficient grace is like.

A “grace life” is living being aware of our need for the Lord's grace, living with a full dependence on God, and knowing the danger of pride (which is the enemy of grace).

His sufficient grace is manifold, abundant, and proper in timing and application.

Receiving and relying on sufficient grace builds:

Dependance on God - “I cannot, God can.”

Spiritual fruit - living in His grace not our will or desire

Character - not in our weakness but in His grace and power

Tenderness toward God - reminds of our need for and gratefulness to God

7.6 Grace to demonstrate the Spirit's Gifts

The Spirit is given to us and He comes with gifts perfectly tailored for us. We always have the right gift for whatever circumstance (negative) or opportunity (positive) (1 Corinthians 12). The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for us to edify, encourage and mature us and other saints. (“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” Ephesians 4:12)

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8.0 Working with Grace

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his **grace** which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the **grace** of God which was with me.

Grace shows that God is great but it also makes us great.

8.1 Why was Paul a great apostle?

Paul was learned in the scripture but so were the scribes and Pharisees who killed Jesus. Paul did not walk with Jesus as the twelve did for 3 years. He persecuted the early church believers. Was it because he met Jesus on the road to Damascus? There were more than 500 who saw Jesus after the resurrection. The only thing that changed Paul the persecutor to Paul the apostle was the grace of God.

Martin Luther: "No one can be good and do good unless God's grace first makes him good; and no one becomes good by works, but good works are done only by him who is good. Just so the fruits do not make the tree, but the tree bears the fruit. ... Therefore all works, no matter how good they are and how pretty they look, are in vain if they do not flow from grace."

8.1 Grace changes us.

We are changed by grace like Paul was from terrible persecutor to honored apostle. Grace transfers us from the kingdom of death to the kingdom of life. Grace's power not only works the initial change but continues to change us.

Philippians 3:12 - Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

The grace was given to Paul but he was deceived before he met Jesus. While he was blind for 3 days in Damascus (Acts 9:12) he began to see.

This transformation continues to occur in other's lives like: Nikki Cruz, Sergei Kourdakov, Martin Luther, and us.

We have to cooperate with the grace offered to us to see it working in our lives. Grace can be given to us in vain if we block or harden our hearts.

8.2 Is our amount of grace dependent on our performance?

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Paul said he worked more than others for the kingdom. The level of grace active in Paul's life was not because he worked harder. He did more labor out of gratitude and thanksgiving because he saw, understood the grace he had been given. Grace is received and accessed by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 5:2).

8.3 The work grace helps us do.

Grace motivates, encourages and strengthens us for the works of God:

1. obeying - "for obedience" Romans 1:5
2. doing good works - "all sufficiency to every" 2 Corinthians 9:8
3. serving God- "with reverence and godly fear" Hebrews 12:28
4. serving others - "became a minister" Ephesians 3:7

Grace is never a reward for what we have done, are doing, or will do for God or people.

8.4 Partnership helps us to work with God's grace.

We must accept the partnership with God's grace. We do our part and God does His. Like a farmer who does all he can to make the best conditions for growth then it is God only who works the miracle of the seed and increase.

Without partnership, God's grace in our lives could be in vain. God will have His will accomplished but He may have to use someone else. Obstacles can block our partnership with God's grace in us:

- unbelief (disciples unable to heal - Matthew 17:21),
- other higher priorities ("one thing" Philippians 3:13), or
- holding offense from others (live in peace -2 Corinthians 3:11)

8.5 All is of grace

Great is the danger of promoting our work and skill over the work of grace with us. Our pride in our accomplishments removes us from grace. (i.e. a flea on the back of a lion claiming with great pride that all other animals are all afraid of "us")

God expects only one thing of us apart from grace - total failure! He expects no performance from us until we have received and work with it in our lives and callings.

We are changed by the grace working in us. We are moved to work, given resources, and fulfill God's desire in us. We must not frustrate the grace of God or receive it in vain.

2 Corinthians 6:1 - We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

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9. Falling from Grace

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from **grace**.

The reliance on the law and our adherence to it is the first step on the slippery slope of falling from grace. We make Christ's death of no value to us by ignoring it. (“ . . . how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? . . .” Hebrews 2:3). We have to purpose in our heart that Jesus' death is without value to us to escape the grace of God.

Being Christian and being moral.

The heart of Christianity is a living relationship with God, the Father (John 17:3) though the Jesus Christ based on the principle of grace. A failure in morality cannot cause a Christian to fall from grace. Falling from grace is a misnomer. People have to “jump” from grace into works to believe that their behavior can cause God's grace to be insufficient for their sin.

Continuing in grace

We continue by being confident in grace not in our actions and behaviors. How can we lose salvation. We can lose salvation and its foundation of grace by purposefully denying that there is any other way of salvation except by trusting in the finished work of the cross of Christ.

Turning away from grace.

The person's immoral behavior is only a fruit of their turning away from the grace of God.

Grace self-check

We cannot determine if another is turning from grace but we can perform a self check of our heart attitude. The power of grace is being denied if we have pride, insecurity, total self-reliance, and coldness toward God.

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10. Grace to Help

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

Grace is powerful and limitless. God never rations or runs out of grace. For this reason we should never be hesitant to draw on grace when ever we are in need. God gives freely and does not rebuke us for asking (James 1:5). Come boldly, we are always in need of more of His grace!

How God's favor (grace) helps every day.

Grace is help for us in every need, every day and time, just the help at the right day and time.

What grace helps us to do.

obey - Romans 1:5

worship - Colossians 3:16

serve - Colossians 4:6

speak rightly - Hebrews 12:28

give - 2 Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8

establish our heart - Hebrews 13:9

Grace and the throne of God.

We are invited to come boldly to our King's throne and kingdom. We are that “good and faithful servant” as we have been faithful in the power and work of grace.

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11. Grace and Pride

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth **grace** to the humble.

In pride we stand against God working for His favor. In humility we are with God and blessed with grace. We submit to the elder, everlasting, wiser, the only wise God (1 Timothy 1:17).

Why grace and pride don't get along.

God resists the proud (1 Peter 5:5, James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34) because grace is accepting His love and pride is our working for His love. The greatest conflict to our pride is accepting undeserved, unmerited grace from God freely. One of the devil's goals is to turn us into proud religionists without any true relationship with God.

Why God's favor offends our pride.

Pride does not want any help and it highly values self accomplishment.

How grace keeps pride in check.

Many of us have eliminated pride from the worldly part of our life, but indulge pride for our spiritual accomplishments: maturity, ministry, Bible knowledge, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How the favor of God gives Him glory.

Grace of favor only comes through Jesus thus we cannot take any pride is what we have been given. Salvation and blessings in our lives should only bring glory to the giver not the receiver. Great wine is judged apart from the vessel in which it is served. We are vessels full of the grace of God serving (ministering) it to others. The attention and worth (glory) must be to God and His grace not to us.

Grace Like a Diamond

12. Grace Eternal

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and **grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

God's grace has existed forever. Grace was always His plan. Our accomplishment and performance has never impressed God, Creator of all. God is pleased when we trust and lean on Him and His plan for us.

Grace in God's plan from eternity past.

God's plan of extending grace to man was not a “fourth down” play, instituted at the last minute. Father God relates to the Son Jesus through grace since the beginning. Jesus was the beloved before His ministry began or His sacrifice was completed (Luke 3:22).

The law beautifully prepared the mind, heart, and soul of man for the embrace of God's unmerited favor (grace).

Grace in the here and now.

Grace is always full and powerful toward us from our Father and His sons, brothers of Jesus. The true grace of God is where stand at this very minute (1 Peter 5:12). We continue to grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18) not that grace grow because grace was, is and will be full and complete. We can accept grace in a moment but we need a lifetime to understand grace.

Grace prepares us for the future.

The work of preparation is done by God with our acceptance and trust in Him. We begin to see our destiny and become more passionate in the pursuit of it. We will not fully understand it until Jesus comes (1 Peter 1:13). The plan of grace goes further than Jesus' return but on into eternity of ages to come (Ephesians 2:7).

Grace and holiness.

God's grace offered to us is free and we are freed to do as we please. “Do as we please” may sound dangerous but our “pleaser” is changed by His love. We desire to those things which please Him.

Living God's grace allows us to live and do that which pleases God. His pleasure is loving us and receiving love from us. (“We love him, because he first loved us” 1 John 4:19).

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End notes:

This study is partially based on these books:

1. *Standing in Grace* by David Guzik
2. *Grace, From Here to Eternity* by Bob Yandian.