

## INTRODUCTION TO GRACE GRACE SERIES

Scripture:

Acts 20:32  
2 Corinthians 12:9

### Introduction

After being raised in a very legalistic environment, the doctrine of grace has been very liberating to me. Share account of feeling that I needed to be re-baptized, and God's answer about when I was saved as a child.

- I. What is grace?
  - A. Defined
    1. Unmerited or undeserved favor
    2. Supernatural ability we receive from God to enable us to live the Christian life in all circumstances
  - B. Grace is an act of God's sovereign will  
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us....

Titus 3:5a
  - C. First scriptural example of grace  
But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:8
- II. What grace does
  - A. Grace exposes us to the true nature of God
    1. Unconditional love
    2. Unconditional grace
  - B. Begins the cycle of knowing God  
If I have found favor in your eyes, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.

Exodus 33:13a NIV

    1. God gives grace
    2. We learn God's ways
    3. He gives more grace
  - C. Allows God to walk with us  
For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? [is it] not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that [are] upon the face of the earth.  
And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.  
And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it [is] a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

Exodus 33:16-17, 34:9
  - D. Allows us to come into God's presence  
Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

III. How grace acts

A. It saves

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

Ephesians 2:8

B. It justifies

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 3:24

C. It changes us

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 laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

I Corinthians 15:10

Life Application

For Paul, it was the memory that he persecuted the church and sent believers to their deaths that kept him coming back to God for more grace. In all our lives there is a part of our nature that constantly rears its ugly head, sometimes daily, to remind us that we need God's grace.

Commit your greatest failure or temptation to God. Let Him give you "grace to help in time of need."

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11