

The Gift of Grace

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Scripture: Ephesians 4:7
 1 Corinthians 15:10
 2 Corinthians 12:9
 Hebrews 4:16
 Acts 20:32

Ephesians 4:7 (NKJV) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward 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.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) 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.

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.

Acts 20:32 (NKJV) "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Introduction

Grace is the focal point of man's relationship with God. It is the expression of God's great mercy and love toward humanity. Grace allows God's justice to be satisfied while providing pardon to the sinner.

I. The meaning or explanation of grace

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NKJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of***

yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

A. Grace defined

Greek: charis (χαρις) - State of being favored or in favor; Divine mercy or forgiveness; Divine assistance given to man for his regeneration or sanctification; State of being pleasing to God because of responsiveness to grace.

B. Unmerited favor

Example: Being stopped by the policeman returning from Placerville

C. Special ability to perform the will of God

1. Divine ability vs. natural ability
2. "Dunamis" (δυναμις) power

II. The power or potential of grace

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) 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.

- A. to satisfy the legal claims providing death as a penalty for sin
- B. To expose guilty men to God's forgiveness
- C. To bring forgiven men into a relational knowledge of God

III. The works or actions of grace

2 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV) You therefore, my son, ***be strong in the grace*** that is in Christ Jesus.

A. Grace that saves

1. Pardon

Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV) Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, ***For He will abundantly pardon.***

2. Justification

Romans 3:24 (NKJV) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 3:5 (NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the

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Holy Spirit,

3. Regeneration

Titus 3:5 (NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

B. Grace that preserves (to keep us from sin)

Jude 1:24 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Acts 20:32 (NKJV) "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

C. Grace that sustains

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) 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.

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.