

G R A C E

But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

(Acts 15:11)

God Is a God of All Grace

1 Peter 5:10

To define God's grace is not easy, for God's grace is awesome! The true meaning of grace has to be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Grace is God, His love for us, His mercy toward us, His perfect plan for salvation, and so much more. We see all these truths in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). We have received grace through Him. We have not deserved it, nor could we in any way earn it. *Grace is a gift of God.* It is by grace we have been saved through faith, and it is grace that sustains us now. We, the Christians, have fixed our hope completely on God's grace, and we continue to thrive and grow in it each and every day.

We are forgiven by God's grace.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

which He lavished upon us.

(Ephesians 1:7, 8)

We are saved by God's grace.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8, 9)

We are justified by God's grace.

. . . that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:7)

We forever stand in God's grace.

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

(Romans 5:1, 2)

Grace is multiplied to us in the knowledge of God.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

(2 Peter 1:2)

God's grace is sufficient for us.

And [the Lord] has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

We grow in God's grace.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(2 Peter 3:18)

The grace of God, flowing into our lives, motivates us towards godly living.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

(Titus 2:11–14)

I believe that most Christians grasp the concept of salvation by grace, but sadly, living by grace is often misunderstood. (Read chapter "Law.") Very often we mix grace with law. This error is nothing new. The apostle Paul deals with this problem in his letters. The letter to the church in Galatia is a good example.

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

(Galatians 3:3)

Beloved, read and meditate upon God's Word in the letter to Galatians. Why is it that we cannot mix law and grace? If we do, we ruin both.

We Are not Under the Law but Under Grace

The New Testament is about God's grace. We have to accept the truth that Jesus accomplished everything for us, and that He wants to live His life through us. God doesn't need our ability, for He is the Able One. God wants our availability. That is why we have to live in total dependency upon Him. Without knowing this important truth, and acting upon it, we cannot experience the abundant life Jesus promised to those who love Him.

Can you say like Paul did in these verses?

For through the Law I died to the Law, that I might live to God.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

(Galatians 2:19-21)

Read the verses one more time, and replace the words "I" and "me" with your name. If you are born again, born of God, all of this applies to you as well.

Once we grasp to the fullest that the New Testament saints are totally forgiven, and that the Law is for the lost world, so people will see themselves as sinners in need of forgiveness, see themselves as dead and in need of life, we are "home free."

"Incredible Journey with Jesus"

Once we start basking in God's love that He has generously lavished upon us, once we realize that God is right and He really does know what He is talking about, we develop grateful and thankful hearts, and a loving relationship with God. We focus on the eternal, and look forward eternity in the presence of God.

Beloved, think big! Think eternity. It will affect your life right here and right now!

. . . the surpassing grace of God in you.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

(2 Corinthians 9:14, 15)

The following verse is often misunderstood:

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

(Galatians 5:4)

Let us understand this verse in its complete context. In the letter to the Galatians, Paul is addressing a problem in that church. The Galatians were mixing law and grace. “You foolish Galatians (Galatians 3:1)!” The phrase “fallen from grace” means to fall out of the freedom of grace and back into the slavery of the law. It is not those Christians who have committed certain sins who have “fallen away” from grace, as is being often understood. Legalists are the ones who have “fallen away” from grace. Brothers and sisters, rejoice that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rejoice!

For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

(John 1:16, 17)

Concerning His Son . . .

who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

through whom we have received grace.

(Romans 1:3–5)

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

(Romans 6:14)

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

(Romans 11:6)

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

for He says,

“At the acceptable time I listened to you,

And on the day of salvation I helped you”;

behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation.”

(2 Corinthians 6:1, 2)

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

(Ephesians 1:5, 6)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

(Ephesians 4:7)

God,

who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

(2 Timothy 1:8–11)

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:16)

Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 1:13)

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

(1 Peter 5:5)