

Grace

A brief look at “grace” from the Scriptures

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Grace – such a beautiful sounding word. It has often been described as God's Riches at Christ's Expense. That is such a good definition of grace. It truly is the riches of God available to us through Christ Jesus. This study has been a help to me, and I pray it will help others to discover and understand more about the grace of God and the riches that abound to us through Christ Jesus.

Introduction:

The Riches of God's Grace:

II Peter 1:2-9 describes the wonderful riches of God's grace. *"²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."*

The above passage is a brief review of God's grace and all that is available to the believer because of that grace, and how it helps us to be fruitful and know Jesus Christ better. How encouraging it is to take a few moments to meditate on these verses.

Some other verses that describe God's grace are Galatians 5:15-18 and 22-25. Let us take a look at these verses, *"¹⁵But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. ¹⁶This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law... ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

We are not under the law, but under grace. II Peter 1:8 teaches that all the things God gives us by His grace help us to be fruitful. Our lives should be manifesting the fruits of the Spirit if we are filled with God's grace. In the above passage, we see what fruits should be manifest in us if we are living our lives in the Spirit and also walking in the Spirit.

Origin and Manifestation of Grace:

God's grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

"⁸Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; ⁹Who 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." (II Timothy 1:8,9)

God shows grace by not destroying us when we sin.

"And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage." (Ezra 9:8)

The words of Jesus Christ were full of grace.

"Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever." (Psalm 45:2) Just think of this imagery – "grace is poured into thy lips. This is fulfilled and manifested in Luke 4:22 when Jesus had gotten up to read the Scripture and speak in the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth, *"And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth."*

The words of a Christian should be filled with grace also.

"⁵Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Colossians 4:5,6)

Christ demonstrated grace in His life, and the life of a Christian should demonstrate it as well.

"⁷Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also... ⁹For 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." (II Corinthians 8:7,9)

Grace:

Scriptures on "Grace"

**Psalm 84:11, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."*

Grace and glory – received by spending time worshiping God. These are for those who walk uprightly. They are for those who trust in the Lord. *"O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."* (verse 12)

**Proverbs 1:7-9, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ⁹For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."*

Wisdom and instruction when taken heed to, adorn a person with grace.

**Proverbs 3:19-22, "¹⁹The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. ²⁰By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. ²¹My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: ²²So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck."*

Sound wisdom and discretion adorn a person with grace.

**Proverbs 3:34,35, "³⁴Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. ³⁵The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools."*

Again, it is seen that grace and glory go together. Grace is given to the humble and glory is given to the wise. James 4:6 says, *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."* When we humble ourselves, God gives more grace.

**Proverbs 4:7-9, "⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. ⁸Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. ⁹She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee."*

Wisdom exalted in a life gives an ornament of grace to the head of the wise person and a crown of glory.

*Proverbs 22:11, *"He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend."* Graceful lips indicate a pure heart. Graceful lips and a pure heart make someone a friend of the king (of those that are in authority).

*John 1:14, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*
Jesus was full of grace. Therefore, glory was manifested by Him, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.

We have received the fullness of Jesus, grace for grace, *"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."* (verse 16) Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. In Him, the law of Moses was fulfilled. Verse seventeen says, *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* Because of this, there is no more condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, but rather grace through Jesus. There is also the removal of the punishment that came from the handwriting of ordinances that was against us.

Consider the following verses:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4) God's goodness leads us to repentance, and we are blessed by his riches of goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering.

"¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁵And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:14,15)

*Acts 4:29-34, *"²⁹And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. ³¹And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. ³²And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. ³³And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of*

the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold."

Great grace was seen when people were filled with the Holy Ghost. This was accompanied by selflessness and power in witnessing and ministry. Also, great power accompanied the proclamation of the word of His grace, which can be seen in Acts 14:1-3, *"¹And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed. ²But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. ³Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."*

**Acts 18:27,28, "²⁷And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: ²⁸For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."*

These verses are speaking of Apollos who was instructed by Aquila and Priscilla. Apollos helped the brethren which had believed through grace. Grace goes along with faith, the gift of God that brings men to salvation, through the kindness of God by Jesus Christ. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus by grace through faith because of the kindness of God. We read about these things in Ephesians 2:4-10, *"⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

**Acts 20:32, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."*

Paul commended the brethren to God and to the word of His grace, which word is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all those which are sanctified. The inheritance is given to us by "the word of His grace," as a promise by God who cannot

lie, which promise was fulfilled in Christ. To read more about this inheritance that God has for us, see the following Scriptures – Galatians 3:16-26; Ephesians 1:11-12; Hebrews 9:15,16; and I Peter 1:3,5.

**Romans 1:7, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Grace and peace were often mentioned as blessings for the saints. Other Scriptural greetings in which they are mentioned include the following – I Corinthians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:2 and Philemon 1:3

**Romans 3:21-26, "²¹But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

The righteousness of God is manifested without the law, having been witnessed (or spoken of) by the law and the prophets. Salvation is by faith because Christ is the propitiation for us through His shed blood. We are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**Romans chapter four, "¹What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? ²For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. ³For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. ⁴Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. ⁶Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, ⁷Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. ⁹Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. ¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them*

that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: ¹²And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. ¹³For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: ¹⁵Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, ¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: ²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. ²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; ²⁴But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; ²⁵Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

This is a long passage, but, oh, how rich! Pretty much the whole chapter is about grace. It gives an example and explanation of being under the law and under grace. The "reward" of righteousness being reckoned to one's account is of faith by grace so that the promise might be sure to all that have the faith of Abraham.

**Romans 5:2, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

Access into grace is by faith. We stand by faith and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Once again we see grace and glory together.

**Romans 5:17-21, "¹⁷For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. ²⁰Moreover the law entered, that*

*the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
²¹That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness
unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:17-21)*

The law reveals sin. The offense of one, Adam, brought death.
The grace of God bestowed the gift of righteousness on those who believe. This gift came by grace, which came by One, Jesus Christ.
The offense brought judgment.
The righteousness of Jesus brought justification.
Sin reigned unto death.
Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.
Because of this, those who believe in Jesus receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, and will reign in life by Jesus Christ.

**Romans 6:1 and 2, 14-23, “¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?...
¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
¹⁵What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
¹⁷But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. ¹⁹I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. ²⁰For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.
²¹What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. ²²But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. ²³For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

The gift of grace is righteousness. When we receive Christ, we receive this gift. (Recall Romans 5:17-21) Now we are no longer servants of sin but servants of righteousness. We can do right because now we have been made free from sin. Now we are servants of God, and the fruit of holiness should be being produced in our lives. We are no longer receiving the wages of sin, but the gift of God, which is eternal life.

*Romans chapter twelve

"¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. ¹⁴Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Verses one and two lay the foundation.

Verse three shows us that God gave to every man the measure of faith.

In verses four and five, we see that we are all members of the same body, Christ's body.

Verses six through nine help us understand that each one of us has a gift according to the grace given unto us. Because of this grace, we manifest our gifts in our lives.

Through gifts, exercised by grace, we minister to both the saved and the lost. Verses nine through twenty-one describe the fruits and actions that result from the work of God's grace in our lives. They are the fruits of grace in believers' lives.

**I Corinthians 15:9,10, “⁹For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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.”*

The grace of God extends even to those who persecuted the church. His offer of salvation and a life of service to Him is open to all who will believe on Him. We can be very thankful for this. It is also a lesson for us. When we see other people, especially those we know have committed horrible crimes or those we think are living evil lives, we can remember that these individuals are souls for whom Christ died. We shouldn't just write them off or wish that something would happen to them. We should pray for them to be saved. That would change their lives, and the lives of many others too. God's grace is extended to them as well, if they will only believe and receive it.

**II Corinthians 4:13-16, “¹³We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; ¹⁴Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. ¹⁵For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. ¹⁶For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”*

We have faith, knowing that the God who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will raise us up also and present us together with other saints. For this we give thanks, and, by our thanks, grace abounds to the glory of God. This knowledge and thanksgiving renews our minds so that we have the motivation to continue on without fainting by the way.

**II Corinthians 8:1-7, “¹Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; ²How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ³For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; ⁴Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. ⁶Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. ⁷Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”*

Because of the grace of God bestowed upon us, there are certain graces that should be evident in our lives. First, we must give ourselves unto the Lord by the will of God. Then we will give ourselves to the people and the ministry God has for us, by the will of God.

Some of the graces that should be evident in our lives include the following:

- Joy, even in adverse circumstances
- Liberality toward the needs of others, especially the saints
- Faith
- Utterance (with boldness)
- Diligence
- Love

**II Corinthians 8:16-19, "¹⁶But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. ¹⁷For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. ¹⁸And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; ¹⁹And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind."*

Grace is administered to the Lord's workers by the glory of God.

**II Corinthians 9:7-12, "⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: ⁹(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. ¹⁰Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) ¹¹Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."*

When we give to God, God gives more grace so that we have sufficiency in all things and we can do more good works. He will multiply the fruit of righteousness which is produced by giving to Him and His more abundant return to us. Through this we can be enriched in everything, and that will cause thanksgiving to God by other saints. Consider these things that all go together – grace, good works, righteousness, fruit, blessings, thanksgiving.

**II Corinthians 9:13-15, "¹³Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection into the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; ¹⁴And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."*

While the gifts given by saints through the grace of God are wonderful, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." None can compare to God's gift of His only begotten Son and eternal life through Him, which is so great that it cannot be expressed in words. Thank You, God, for this so great a gift.

**II Corinthians 12:7-10, "⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

God's grace gives needed strength in illness, in infirmity, in persecutions, in distresses, in weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong because God imparts to us His strength by His grace.

**Galatians 1:6,7, "⁶I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."*

God calls us into the grace of Christ. Through the gospel He calls us into this grace for both salvation and service.

**Galatians 2:9, "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."*

The grace of God equips each individual for the service of God, that is, their particular field of service.

**Galatians 5:4-9, “⁴Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. ⁵For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. ⁷Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? ⁸This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. ⁹A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”*

If we try to attain righteousness by the law, we are fallen from grace. Righteousness is by grace through faith. The law works by bondage and does not avail anything toward making us righteous. Faith works by love.

**Ephesians 1:1-12, “¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; ⁹Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹²That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”*

Grace and peace – these are blessings to the faithful in Christ Jesus from God the father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. We were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world and predestined to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Redemption – we have this through His blood, the forgiveness of His sins, according to the riches of His grace.

An Inheritance – we have obtained an inheritance in Christ and will all be gathered together in one to receive that inheritance. This is for those who have trusted Christ and is to the praise of His glory.

**Ephesians 2:4-22 ⁴“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ¹⁶And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²²In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Ephesians chapter two is another chapter that is so rich in teachings on God’s grace. Salvation is by grace and offered to us because of God’s great mercy and His love wherewith He loved us (See Romans 5:8). Resurrection and fellowship with Jesus result from this salvation by grace (See I John 1:2-4). We have all these blessings now, and in the years to come, God will show us the exceeding riches of His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus (See verse 7).

Salvation

By grace

Through faith

The gift of God

Not of works (See verses 8 and 9)

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works (He that worketh in us to will and to do of His good pleasure – See Philippians 2:1-3).

We are made night by the blood of the cross (See verses 10-13).

We are all made one and placed in one body together by the cross. We have peace in Jesus Christ, and we all have access to the Father by the same Spirit. (See rest of chapter)

**Ephesians 3:6-10, "6That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."*

Being a minister of the gospel is a gift of grace, imparted to one by the power of God. It allows the minister to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Now people can know the mystery of the fellowship of saints with one another and with God. With such things evident in the lives of believers, the principalities and powers in heavenly places will see the manifold wisdom of God in the church.

**Ephesians 4:1-7, "1I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."*

God gives grace to each of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Therefore, we should be lowly, meek, longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. We should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is

- one body
- one Spirit
- one hope of our calling
- one Lord
- one faith
- one baptism
- one God and Father of all.

This God, our Father, is above all and through all and in us all.

**Ephesians 4:29-32, ²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³²And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Edifying words minister grace to others. There should be no bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, or malice. These things grieve the holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Edifying words that please the Holy Spirit cause us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted toward each other, forgiving of one another, remembering that God forgave us for Christ's sake.

**Ephesians 6:23,24, ²³Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."*

Peace, love and faith are companions to grace. They are freely available to all those that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

**Philippians 1:2-8, ²Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: ⁷Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my*

bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ⁸For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ."

God gave grace to Paul for his trials and afflictions and allowed the Philippians to be partakers of that grace. Therefore, Paul thanked God for them and made request to God for them with joy. He was thankful for their faithful fellowship in the gospel and was confident that God would finish the work He had begun in them.

**Colossians 3:16,17, "¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*

Grace puts right words in our lips and fills our hearts with song. It helps us properly minister to others. It helps us to do things in the name of Jesus and with thanksgiving. We grow in grace by having God's word dwell in us richly.

**Colossians 4:5,6, "⁵Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."*

Grace gives wisdom for witnessing, helps us redeem the time, puts right words in our mouth at the right time.

**I Thessalonians 2:13-17, "¹³But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: ¹⁴Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. ¹⁶Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, ¹⁷Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."*

Our hearts should give thanks for the salvation of our brethren.

Because of grace, we and our brethren in Christ have the following blessings:

- The calling by the gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The ability to stand and hold fast to what has been taught.

- Receiving the love of our Father, everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.
- Being comforted and established in every good word and work.

These all come from the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, and God our Father. They all help the saints to stand fast, live right, minister well, and dwell together in a godly way with a good testimony. How we should give thanks for the grace of God!

**I Timothy 1:12-17, “¹²And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. ¹⁷Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

This grace of God is enough to save even the chief of sinners. This grace, by the mercy of God, will be shown to all who believe on the Lord Jesus unto life everlasting.

With this grace comes faith and love, and the ability to be faithful in ministry.

Because of these things – all glory be to God. *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* (verse 17)

**“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.”* (II Timothy 1:9)

According to God’s own purpose and grace, given to us in Christ before the world began, we have been

Saved and

Called with a holy calling.

**II Timothy 2:1-3, “¹Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*

Strength and endurance come through the grace that is in Christ Jesus – that is, strength and endurance for the Lord's work. Through this grace we can be strong and do our work for the Lord and endure hardness.

**Titus 3:4-7, ⁴"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ⁶Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; ⁷That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

Grace is bestowed upon us by the kindness and love of God our Savior –

- Salvation according to His mercy
- Washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior
- Justification by His grace
- Heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Hebrews 4:14-16, ¹⁴"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

We may come boldly to the throne of grace. There we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We have the privilege to do this because of Jesus Christ who was tempted in all points like as we are but never sinned. He is passed into the heavens now, but He can still be touched with the **feelings** of our infirmities because He knows what it is like to be tempted and to suffer infirmity Himself.

**Hebrews 10:26-31, ²⁶"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. ²⁸He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ²⁹Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

Purposely rejecting Christ, counting the blood of His sacrifice unimportant, and despising the Spirit of grace results in punishment. Rejecting God results in vengeance and punishment. It forfeits the blessings of grace. *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* (verse 31)

Hebrews 12:28,29, *"²⁸Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹For our God is a consuming fire."*

We know that we receive a kingdom which cannot be moved. Therefore, we can have grace to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. If we do so, we experience the benefits of grace. If not, we should fear, *"For our God is a consuming fire."*

*Hebrews 13:9, *"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."*

Grace establishes our hearts so that we are able to discern truth and error and are not carried about with various and strange doctrines.

*James 4:5-8, *"⁵Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

God gives grace to –

- Endure spiritual battles
- Be victorious
- Resist temptation to sin
- Resist the devil

Therefore we ought to –

- Be humble (God gives more grace to the humble)
- Submit to God
- Resist the devil (he will flee from us)
- Draw nigh to God (He will draw nigh to us)
- Be pure (clean hands and pure hearts)

**I Peter 1:3-10, “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you.”*

The grace that should come unto us – what kind of grace is this?

- Begotten again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- To an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.
- Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation
- Trials of our faith will be much more precious than gold and will be found unto praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.
- We will receive the end of our faith – the salvation of our souls, the salvation the prophets diligently enquired and sought after when they prophesied the grace that would come unto us.

Therefore, we love Jesus, and we have great rejoicing with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

**I Peter 3:5-7, “⁵For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: ⁶Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. ⁷Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

Husband and wife can dwell together in a Biblical manner and in harmony as they remember that they are heirs together of the grace of life that they have received from God. This will help to keep their prayers from being hindered.

**I Peter 5:5-11, “⁵Likewise, 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. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. ¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. ¹¹To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Grace is accompanied by submission and humility. When we are humble, God gives us grace. We ought therefore to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He will exalt us in due time.

We will find ourselves cared for and able to cast all our cares on the Lord because He cares for us.

Also,

- Be sober
- Be vigilant
- Resist the devil steadfast in faith. Remember, you are not alone in spiritual battles and afflictions. All the brethren in Christ are together in this.
- Remember that we are called unto God’s eternal glory by Christ Jesus

God will

- Make us perfect
- Stablish us
- Strengthen us
- Settle us

“To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.” (verse 11)

**II Peter 3:14-18, “¹⁴Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. ¹⁵And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. ¹⁷Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these*

things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

Growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, helps us to understand difficult passages of Scripture and not to be led away by error, misinterpretations, and false doctrine. To our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be glory both now and forever. Amen.

**Jude 1:4, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."*

False teachers turn the grace of God into lasciviousness (or "license to sin"). There are various versions of this lasciviousness, but it basically tells a person that they are at liberty to do as they please because they are no longer under the law but under grace. They deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. They forget that grace is not the liberty for us to do as we please; rather, it is the imparting of the gift of righteousness. It is the liberty to grow by letting the word of God dwell in us richly and increasing in the knowledge of God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Grace, and thus growing in grace, is the liberty to be holy, have clean hands and pure heart, and to become more and more Christ-like.

Grace is that by which we are granted salvation and forgiveness. But it is also that which gives power and ability to minister and that which allows us to enrich the inheritance laid up for us in Christ Jesus.

Oh, that God would give us a true understanding of grace – His grace!

Grace of God

Scriptures on “the grace of God”

**Luke 2:40, “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”*

The grace of God was upon Jesus as He grew as a child. He waxed strong in spirit and was filled with wisdom.

**Acts 11:22-24, “²²Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. ²³Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. ²⁴For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”*

Barnabas saw that the grace of God was upon the church in Antioch. This made him glad, and he exhorted them to cleave unto the Lord with purpose of heart.

**Acts 13:43, “Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”*

Paul and Barnabas had preached in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia. Some of the Jews and religious proselytes believed. Paul and Barnabas persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

**Acts 14:26-28, “²⁶And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. ²⁷And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. ²⁸And there they abode long time with the disciples.”*

Paul and Barnabas were commended to the grace of God to go out from a church and do the work God gave them, which work they fulfilled. Then they returned to that church to give report of all God had done with them. It is by God’s grace that ministry is done and His work is fulfilled.

**Acts 15:40,41, “⁴⁰And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.”*

Paul and Silas were commended by the church unto the grace of God to do the work of God. He and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches.

**Acts 20:24, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”*

The work of Paul was the ministry he had received of the Lord Jesus. That ministry was to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**I Corinthians 1:3-9, “³Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; ⁵That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; ⁶Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: ⁷So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Grace and peace go together.

Grace was given to the believers at Corinth by Jesus Christ. By this grace, believers are enriched in everything they need spiritually, including utterance and knowledge. By this believers are able to recognize and practice (use) their gifts.

Jesus Christ shall confirm us unto the end so that we are blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful. By this God we are called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**I Corinthians 3:9-11, “⁹For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

We are laborers together with God. We are God's building. God is the wise master builder who helps His ministers lay a solid foundation and gives wisdom to people to build rightly on this foundation. The foundation is Jesus Christ.

**II Corinthians 1:12, "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."*

It is the grace of God that allows us to have a clear conscience and a good testimony to both lost and saved.

**Galatians 2:19-21, "¹⁹For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. ²⁰I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."*

By grace we are dead to the law but alive to Christ. I now live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Righteousness does not come by the law but by Jesus Christ. Being dead to the law does not mean I am "free" to do whatever I want. It means I am free to become more like Christ because now I have the righteousness of God.

**Ephesians 3:1-7, "¹For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ²If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward: ³How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ⁵Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: ⁷Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power."*

The grace of God allowed Gentiles to be partakers of salvation along with the Jews. They can be fellow-heirs and members of the same body and partakers of God's promise in Christ by the gospel.

God, by the gift of His grace, made Paul the minister of this gospel so that he could share the dispensation of the grace of God with the Gentiles.

**Ephesians 3:8-10, ⁸“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; ⁹And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: ¹⁰To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”*

This grace was given specifically to Paul so that he might bring the good news to the Gentiles and they can be partakers of the unsearchable riches of Christ. They can fellowship all together with the Jews and all the saints. This mystery had been hid in God since the creation of the world but is now ready to be revealed in this dispensation of grace. This grace should be evident in the church so that the principalities and powers in heavenly places might know the manifold wisdom of God.

**Colossians 1:3-10, ³“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, ⁵For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; ⁶Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: ⁷As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; ⁸Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

The Colossians received the hope of salvation when they heard the gospel and knew the grace of God in truth.

Paul gave thanks for the Colossians upon hearing of their faith in Christ Jesus, their love to all the saints, the fruit they were bringing forth or which was brought forth in them because of the gospel, and their love in the Spirit.

Verse twelve tells about the inheritance of which they and all saints are partakers.

Verses eleven and following tell how we can grow.

What blessings we have because of the grace of God! Paul, knowing this, prayed for and rejoiced over the Colossians for what God had done in them.

**II Thessalonians 1:11,12, “¹¹Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: ¹²That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Verse 11 – What to pray for saints – that God would count them worthy of their calling and that God would fulfill in them all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.

Verse 12 – Why to pray it

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ might be glorified in them, and
That they might be glorified in Jesus Christ
According to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The grace of God allows Him to fulfill His work through his servants with power that His name might be glorified in His servants and they might be glorified in Him.

**Titus 2:11, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”*

The grace of God brings salvation and this salvation is available to all.

**Titus 2:12-14, “¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

The grace of God teaches us how not to live – it teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.

The grace of God teaches us how to live – to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

The grace of God holds out a wonderful hope for us – the blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us unto Himself a peculiar people, a people set apart just for Him, and to make us zealous of good works.

Grace does not give us license to do what we want because we are no longer under the law. Grace gives us freedom and understanding how to live the way God wants us to live and how to be righteous and godly and have a sound mind. Jesus Christ, through whom this grace is granted to us, redeemed us unto Himself to remove all our iniquity, to purify us, to set us apart for Himself, and to give us a zeal for good works. Grace should cause us to be more Christ-like and give us a desire for purity and good works.

**Hebrews 12:11-17, “¹¹Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. ¹²Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; ¹³And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. ¹⁴Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”*

Peace, grace and holiness go together. So also does walking in the right way and faithfulness. If there be any lameness, it can be healed and kept on the right way. Chastening helps us with this healing and with making straight paths for the feet.

On the other hand, one that pushes against chastening and becomes bitter may fail of the grace of God. They may not have been truly saved. Instead of peace and holiness, they have bitterness, uncleanness (fornication), and profanity (seeking the worldly or mixing the worldly with the holy). These wrong things all go along with bitterness, and bitterness defiles many.

**I Peter 4:8-11, “⁸And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. ⁹Use hospitality one to another without grudging. ¹⁰As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Ministry and spiritual gifts are ours in Christ Jesus. They are the result of the manifold grace of God, and we ought to be good stewards of that grace.

**I Peter 5:12, "By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand."*

Peter wrote to the "strangers scattered" in various places so that they could understand the true grace of God, wherein they were standing. The true grace of God is what we should stand on as Christians. It is solid footing for our Christian life.

Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Scriptures on “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”

**Acts 15:5-12, “⁵But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. ⁶And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. ⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. ⁸And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; ⁹And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. ¹²Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.”*

Salvation comes through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, not by the keeping of the law of Moses.

**Used as a blessing for closings of books of the Bible*

Romans 16:20,24; I Corinthians 16:23; Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Thessalonians 3:18; Philemon 1:25; Revelation 22:21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with His people

**II Corinthians 13:14, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go together.

Graciousness

Scriptures on “graciousness”

**Exodus 22:26,27, “²⁶If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: ²⁷For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.”*

God will hear when we cry unto Him when we are in trouble or when we are oppressed. He will hear because He is gracious.

**Exodus 33:17-23, “¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. ¹⁹And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. ²⁰And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. ²¹And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: ²²And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: ²³And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”*

If we have found grace in God's sight and He knows our name; and, if we desire to be close to Him and commune with Him, God will be gracious to us.

**Exodus 34:6,7, “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.”*

With God's grace there is also mercy, longsuffering, abundant goodness and truth, and forgiveness of sins.

**II Chronicles 30:9, “For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.”*

God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away His face from those who return to Him.

**Psalm 103:3-12, “³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; ⁵Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. ⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. ⁹He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. ¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”*

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, ready to forgive sin and to cast it away from us – so far away it can never be found.

Psalm 116:4-9, “⁴Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. ⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. ⁶The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. ⁷Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. ⁸For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. ⁹I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.”

Again, there is deliverance from trouble for those who cry out to God because He is gracious, righteous, and merciful.

**Psalm 145:6-12, “⁶And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. ⁷They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. ⁸The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. ⁹The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. ¹⁰All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.”*

God does terrible acts, that is, acts that cause people to fear Him. He is great, good, righteous, gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger, of great mercy, praised and blessed of men (His saints), has glory and power, does mighty acts, and has a glorious and majestic kingdom.

**Joel 2:12-15, “¹²Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: ¹³And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. ¹⁴Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.”*

God is merciful and gracious to those who repent.

**Numbers 6:23-26, “²³Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, ²⁴The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”*

Part of God’s blessing on the children of Israel, “...and be gracious unto thee.”

**II Samuel 12:22, ²³, “²² And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? ²³But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”*

Commented [CY1]:

David pleaded with God to be gracious to him and allow his child to live. Who can tell what God might answer? When God’s answer was “No,” David accepted the answer.

**Nehemiah 9:17 & 31, “¹⁷And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not... ³¹Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.”*

The Lord is gracious and of great mercy. He did not forsake His people even though they had sinned against Him.

God provides salvation and restoration for sinners, even for the rebellious. (See Psalm 68:18)

**Psalm 77:1-13, "I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. ²In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted. ³I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah. ⁴Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. ⁶I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search. ⁷Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? ⁸Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? ⁹Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. ¹⁰And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. ¹¹I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. ¹²I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. ¹³Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"*

God has not forgotten to be gracious, even if our trouble is going on a long time and we cannot see His hand at work. God has never failed us in the past, and He will not fail us now.

**Psalm 86:15-17, "¹⁵But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. ¹⁶O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. ¹⁷Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me."*

God is gracious, full of compassion, plenteous in mercy, longsuffering, and plenteous in truth.

God can show us a token for good even when others trouble us or want to hurt us. God will turn to us, have mercy upon us, give us strength, and save us.

**Psalm 111, "¹Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. ²The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. ³His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. ⁴He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. ⁵He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. ⁶He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. ⁷The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. ⁸They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. ⁹He sent redemption unto his*

people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments : his praise endureth for ever."

The works of the LORD are great, honorable, and glorious. His righteousness endures forever. He makes His wonderful works to be remembered.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. He provides food for those who fear Him. He shows His power to His people.

The works of the LORD's hands are verity (truth) and judgment. All of God's commandments are sure.

God's commandments stand fast forever and ever and are done in truth and uprightness.

Holy and reverend is His name.

Therefore, we should praise the LORD with our whole heart, fear the LORD, and do His commandments.

**Psalm 112, "¹Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. ²His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. ³Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. ⁴Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. ⁵A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. ⁶Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. ⁷He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. ⁸His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. ⁹He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. ¹⁰The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish."*

The desire of the wicked shall perish, but God will protect and take care of the righteous. God will cause light to arise in their darkness and protect them in the time of evil tidings because He is gracious, full of compassion, and righteous. The righteous are blessed because they delight greatly in God's commandments.

**Proverbs 11:16, "A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches."*

Grace and honor go together.

**Ecclesiastes 10:12, "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself."*

Gracious words indicate a wise heart.

**Isaiah 30:18, "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him."*

God will bless those who wait on Him.

God will also wait, wait for us to repent and turn to Him. (See verse 15) He is just waiting to be gracious to us.

**Isaiah 30:19, "For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee."*

When Israel turns back to God, God will be very gracious at the voice of their cry. When He hears and answers their cry, they shall weep no more.

**Isaiah 33:2, "O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble."*

Because of God's grace, He will be our salvation in time of trouble.

**Amos 5:8 & 11-15, "Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name... ¹¹Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them. ¹²For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. ¹³Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. ¹⁵Hate the evil, and*

love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph."

Although a land may be in deep sins, there is hope. If the people of the land seek the LORD, seek good and not evil, hate the evil and love the good, and establish judgment that is just and fair, it may be that God will be gracious unto them. God will be gracious to those who seek Him and do right.

**Malachi 1:7-9, "7Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. 8And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. 9And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts."*

If we have false worship and offer polluted offering to God or give Him that which is polluted or contemptible, the Lord will not hear when we cry to Him. If we beseech God to be gracious unto us when our ways are not pleasing to Him, He will not hear.

**Luke 4:17-22, "17And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21And he began to say unto them, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. " 22And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"*

When Jesus went back to Nazareth where He had been brought up, and entered into the synagogue and read the Scriptures, the people fastened their eyes on Him and wondered at the gracious words which came out of His mouth.

**I Peter 2:1-5, "1Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."*

If we have tasted that the Lord is gracious, any evil speaking should be put out of our mouths (and other wicked things out of our lives), and we will be built up together with other believers to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood. Also, we will be able to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 33:5, "And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant."*

Jacob acknowledged that his children were a gracious gift from God.

**Genesis 33:11, "Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it."*

Jacob understood that the bounty he enjoyed was a result of God dealing graciously with Him.

**Psalm 119:29,30, "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. ³⁰I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me."*

God's word is a gracious gift from God. It keeps us from the way of lying and helps us choose the way of truth.

**Hosea 14:1-3, "¹O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. ²Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. ³Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy."*

Restoration to fellowship with God and the taking away of all our iniquity is the gracious gift of God when we repent. God is the only one that can save us. There is no one else or nothing else that can. God is the only Savior.

Oh, how full and wide and deep are God's riches of grace found in the Lord Jesus Christ!