

Introduction

God's Nature is Lover and because of His perfect integrity He cannot do anything against His Love. His Grace is an expression of this perfect Love.

Grace is God giving you what you need without your needing to ask for it or even know you need it and without having earned it or having to pay or work for it. It is a free gift from God as a result of His Love for you.

He does so many things for you without you realising it or needing to ask Him for it.

He does this in every area of your life: emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual and you do not realise He is doing or has done things for you.

Without His Grace we would not have life or be able to live it. After all, His first act of Grace is giving us life to live and the second act of Grace is sustaining us so we can live it.

He is a King and needs to do nothing for us but because of His Love He does all these things for us.

This booklet is about God's Grace and how He expresses it toward us.

Definition

Grace is God giving you what you need without your needing to ask for it or even know you need it and without having earned it or having to earn it or pay for it.

People divide God's Grace into different categories or types. But there is only one type of God's Grace as it is always perfectly expressed toward us. It is just it appears to us expressed in different ways so we categorise it according to how it appears to us.

Obtaining Grace

How does one obtain Grace?

You do not earn it or it is not Grace.

Grace is given by God to those who believe in The Father, Jesus, The Holy Spirit and all The Bible says about them and obey them in all things. They are citizens of The Kingdom of God, who seek always to do the Will of Jesus. Grace is also given to those who do not know Jesus so they can know Him and become a citizen of His Kingdom and to those who sin or fall away from God so they can repent and turn back to God and enter His Kingdom again.

Grace is also given by God to everyone so that they can make a decision to accept or reject Jesus. This is apart from the Grace He gives everyone so they exist.

Grace

God is love.

Because He is love all He does is a result of His Love for us

He only ever does what is good for us

Evil occurs because we reject God's will and place ourselves out of God's love and protection

Trials occur because He loves us and is doing all He can do either to mature us or bring us back to him

Grace is the expression of this Love

And it is because His mercies are new every morning, that we are not destroyed but lovingly brought back to God.

God is complete in Himself and does not need us. He brought us into existence not for His sake but for ours so that we could enjoy an intimate, personal, relationship with him, as well as all the delights He has prepared for us in eternity.

But His Grace began even before this when He prepared a path for us to walk in before creation had even occurred.

In essence, Grace is God doing something for us that He does not need too as it is not a reward of service or faith. It is an act resulting solely out of His Love for us and benefits us in some way.

Grace is God expressing his Love to us even though we do not know we need it and/or do not deserve it. All God does is an expression of His grace towards us.

God's Grace, mercy and compassion are inseparable from His Love as they are its natural expression towards us.

His Love graces us with what we need without our knowing we need it or without having done anything to deserve it. His Mercy allows us to fail and not be destroyed. His Compassion means He treats us as His children.

His whole attitude is toward what is best for us.

Salvation is God's Grace in action. He did not need to do it but His Love drove Him to die for us even though He was not really required to do it.

Calvary and all it entails is His Grace. All His Mercy is epitomised in Calvary and through all that Jesus did there for us.

Grace is the free and unmerited favour or beneficence of God. In other words, God does something good for us without requiring us to do something for Him and often without our knowing we needed the thing done for us or even knowing the thing has been done for us. It is God giving us the things we do not deserve like Jesus, eternal life, salvation, a place in heaven, The Holy Spirit, keeping us alive, providing all we need to live and serve Him etc.

God, in His Love for us, looks down and sees we have a need we do not know about. He does

not have to meet this need but does so out of love for us. This action is His Grace, a result of His favour towards us. He requires nothing on our part except thankfulness.

This is grace in its simplicity. Most who talk about Grace talk about its outworking and not what it is.

It is because of grace we can know God exists, His requirements of us and what He has done for us and because of this knowledge we are able to love and worship Him.

Without God's revelation of Himself to us we could only assume that He existed and what He was like, but God loves us more than we can imagine and as a result of this Love reveals to us all we need to know about Himself and His requirements (Duet 29:29).

What God's Grace has done!

God brought us into existence before we knew what that was, giving us life and purpose. He has sustained us until now and will do so through eternity and infinity. It was out of His Love for us that He did this and continues to do so.

His Love for us caused Him to create us to be His friends and have an intimate, personal relationship with Him now and in eternity.

His Love caused Him to send Jesus to earth to communicate directly with us to teach us what God required of us then sacrificed Jesus to meet all the spiritual consequences of our sin as well as to remove the barrier between God and us so that this relationship could be restored.

His next act of Grace was to have The Holy Spirit strive with our spirit so that we would appreciate what God had done for us, offered us as well as what He has rescued us from and so we would then leave the kingdom of darkness, follow Jesus, and join The Kingdom of the Father as an appreciative citizen of His Love for us. Until we appreciate what the kingdom of darkness is and its effects on a person are, we will not really appreciate His Kingdom of Light and life, and the freedom He has given us from our former bondages. It is only after the darkness can you see the light more clearly.

This is why it is hard for people raised in Christian families to really appreciate God's Love and deliverance until they see the effects of the kingdom of Satan on people.

Out of His Love for us He gave us gifts to help us in our battles with the kingdom of darkness and so we could also do His work as a servant of His. He gives us only the gifts we needed along with His delegated Authority (through His Son), as these are all that is needed for us to serve Him spiritually in the work, He has chosen for us. He also provides our physical needs to sustain us in our serving Him (Matt 6:32-34).

He matures us through His plan for our life. Suffering is a part of His Grace and is designed too either:

Mature us for greater service and rewards, or

Guide us back to a correct relationship with Jesus.

He nurtures us and develops us (as well as protecting us from His enemy) so we understand our

relationship with Him and what it means and thus desire this intimate, personal, relationship with Him and His son. He does allow the enemy limited and controlled access to us for the purpose of maturity and growth as a follower of His.

Every breath we take, we take because He allows us and supports us.

Everything we do is done because he prepares us for it and helps us to do it.

Finally, He will accept us, after our death, and take us to the Place He has prepared for us where we will dwell with Him and know Him for ever in a relationship of Love, in a place that will see no more pain and suffering, forever in His presence.

All these He has done out of His Loving Grace as we did not know we needed these things.

How can we doubt His Love and Grace after all that He has done for us? We should be thankful for what He has done, as ungratefulness, thanklessness or complaining about our circumstances dishonours Him, His Love and His Grace.

Grace is the act of God taking a personal interest in our lives, providing all we need for every aspect of our existence and being - even though we do nothing to deserve it or know we need it. Our obedience is a response to God's Love. To merit Grace would bring in legalism - that God's provision was a result of something He was bound to give us. There are rewards for obedience, but God does not have to give these as He is our maker, owner and ruler and so does not need to reward us for obedience or our love toward Him, but He is love and chooses to reward us.

In a sense reward are a sign of His grace but are not an act of Grace as they are for service.

The Grace of our God is shown by His providing for the wicked as well as the righteous. God gives both classes of people (and there are only two as there is no such thing as a fence sitter) all they need to know Him and to meet His requirements. But the wicked reject the control of God and reap the results of abusing and rejecting His Grace, as do the righteous when they also do this (it is called disobedience or rebellion and is a form of idolatry by placing our will before that of God's).

The Grace of God is also shown in that He risks our rejecting Him as He removes the things of the world from our life and deals with things in our life that need correcting, replacing them with those things He wants us to have and use while maturing and discipling us through suffering, either physical, emotional, or mentally. Punishment is also His Grace as He uses it to try and turn us from our incorrect ways towards His Perfect Plan for our life!

Grace is a natural outcome of God's Love, as is His Graciousness. Grace and graciousness should be a natural part of our life's expression of God in us and will be if His Love is in us.

Grace

Grace is God doing something for you when you do not know you need it and do not deserve it being done for you. You may realise His Grace afterwards but usually while it is happening you have no idea that it is occurring.

People need to understand Grace. God has done everything for us that needs to be done

because of His Love for us. Even though we do not deserve it He loves us so much that He provides for us even though we do not know we need it.

He has done everything we need for us to serve Him as He desires us too as well as to be able to relate to Him as we should. If He had not done so He would not be a God of Love.

He owns everything and it is out of His Love for us that He gives us what we need to serve Him and live!

His Grace has done everything. He has prepared everything we need. He has planned these things for us from before the creation of the world and all He asks is for you to walk in the path He has created for you and to do your side of the arrangement.

There is no need to ask for what we need to do His Will. Mat 6:33 states He will give us all we need to do His Will (because He is Gracious to us).

His Grace is sufficient for you and it is matured in your weakness and in your trials and suffering your faith is strengthened so He can give you more Grace!

It is sad that people believe in the necessity of Grace but have trouble understanding the sufficiency of Grace because the legalistic nature of their faith blocks their full understanding of Grace.

The Greatest Grace

The Greatest Grace He has given us is the ability to form a personal relationship with Him. Salvation is a relationship (Jn17:3) with Jesus and The Father, guided by The Holy Spirit.

The ruler of all, the most powerful being in the universe which He contains within Him desires us insignificant people to relate to Him and even came to earth to teach us what we needed to know then died to make it possible to live as He desires us to live!

Each member of the Godhead expresses His Grace differently.

The Father, in sending Jesus, in drawing us to Jesus, in providing our physical and spiritual needs, in ordering the circumstances of our life for us and transferring us from the kingdom of Satan to His Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit guiding and teaching us into the maturity required of our relationship with Jesus, marking us as belonging to Jesus and keeping His presence in or spirit so demons cannot enter it, marking us as undefiled in the eyes of God so we can relate to all three members of the Trinity in a personal way, showing us how and when we have disobeyed God and showing us how to get back to God and anointing us (authorising us for ministry) so we can do the work of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus, in giving up all He had in heaven and coming to earth as one of us to teach us about The Father, The Father's requirements of us, about His Kingdom and The Holy Spirit, then dying to make possible what He had taught us about our roles, responsibilities, relationships and rewards in The Kingdom, as well as sending The Holy Spirit to help us to keep these properly. He controls all our circumstances and protects us from Satan so that we are not destroyed by Satan. It is with awe that we mention the Grace of Jesus to call us friend as well as step brother or stepsister!

These are only some of the things each member of the Godhead does for us, but they are sufficient to show how much Grace, they give us.

As the song says

It is Grace that has brought us thus far and it is Grace that will carry us home.

Thankfulness

Our response to God's Grace should be thankfulness in all things as His Love and Grace are behind what happens to us as God is in complete control of all that happens in us: creation, Satan, our circumstances, and uses them for our benefit now and in the eternity to come.

We must always remember that the Grace of God is a gift and always result in us receiving a gift from God in some area of our life.

So not to accept what God allows and complain about it is to call his Love and Grace into question as well as to imply He made a mistake in what is happening to us and that He is not perfect.

If we could see things as God sees them then we would always rejoice and never complain.

Remember! Anything we get from God we do not earn is a sign of His Grace. Circumstances and events we experience which we do not control are also a sign of His Grace.

According to your degree of trust in God's Love, Control, Purposes and Plans for you will be your thankfulness for and acceptance of what He allows to happen to you!

Rewards

Rewards might be the only thing we earn but even then, these are a result of His Grace. A King does not have to reward a person for doing properly what they are supposed to do.

Believing God is a rewarder is also a requirement of faith. If we did not believe there was a reward that made the Christian life worth living, then we would not try as hard to live it as we should. But then everything else God gives us is a result of His Grace.

Blessings

A blessing is a benefit. It is a sign of His Grace towards you. It may be prophesied as coming or having occurred. As God is the giver of every good gift or thing, mankind can only ask God to bless or declare it is coming or has occurred.

If a man is to provide the blessings, then God will provide it to him to give as part of the stewardship that man has of the things of God.

If it is for services rendered then it is payment for service and not a Blessing. Blessings are part of God's Grace and when we bless another as God instructs us to bless them, we are showing the Grace of God.

An example is where God says: "I will bless them that bless you "

A person has been blessed by another person and God says He will bless the person blessing even though He does not need too.

All true blessings come from God and a man can only ask God to release blessings.

Remember it says every good and perfect gift comes from The Father and true blessings are perfect gifts from God.

God's Blessings

Luk 11:11-13 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he asks a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

My mentor, and myself would quote the first two verses and say to God “where is the blessings you promised?” Until Jesus rebuked Him and said this verse refers to the Holy Spirit you have already. By keeping on quoting it you are saying you have not received the Holy Spirit yet.

Why was the Holy Spirit referred to here and not blessings?

Because God had already promised these all throughout the Old Testament and did not need to restate these promises. They were known to the Jews. Here was given the promise of something better. The Holy Spirit (God's presence) in them.

So, when you ask God where the blessings are, quote His promises but not that verse.

Why does God withhold His blessings?

He has the right to as King, but does not do so carelessly or frivolously. Normally there are four reasons:

You are out of His perfect will for you so He cannot bless you as He wants (usually because of unrepented sin, unforgiveness or bitterness).

He is doing it to mature you or so you will appreciate it more later

The person who was supposed to bless you is not listening to God so they are not doing what God wants them to do for you.

You will not use the blessing at the moment in the way He wants you to use it.

Another reason you do not see God's blessing is that you are not spiritually aware enough to recognize it. Remember, God blesses you in so many ways before you even look for them:

You have life

A relationship with Him

Heaven is your Home

The Holy Spirit is in you

God meets all the needs that you do not realize you require to exist.

God also said to me we do not understand what it means to have The king's favour. When kings had absolute power, the king's favour meant you prospered in the kingdom. So, if we are in a proper relationship with God, He will prosper us in line with prosperity as it is given in His Kingdom and not as the world sees it. The world is the kingdom of His enemy so He will not prosper us in a way to benefit His enemy.

This means we need to look for God's prosperity in accordance with the principles of His Kingdom which have to do with eternal rewards and meeting your needs to live and serve Him there and not to have a party, wealth, or a good time. He does promise to meet our needs to do His work. But all rewards of value are in His Kingdom and not on earth.

Blessings and their financing

When you Bless a person, you are only giving out of the abundance God has given you above what you need to survive and do His work, not the abundance over luxuries you do not need. You are only a steward of what you have and blessing another is giving them the stewardship of something you were once steward over. This has to be after providing for the needs of your family. I repeat needs and not luxuries.

1 Chron 29:14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

This giving is not sacrificial as you use what is given for your family to survive as God wants them too. It is given out of the abundance of what God has given you above what you need to live.

This means that sacrificial giving is out of the things your family needs to live. This is unscriptural.

1 Tom 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

God looks at the heart and not the sacrifice. He looks at the reason for giving not the gift. His sacrifice is not from the deprivation of worldly goods but of the selfish desires and pleasure as give yourself to Him for His purposes. He does not need things as He owns them all. He desires us. That is how we bless God by being a living sacrifice.

Ps 51: 16-17 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Rom 12:1 I 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.

When we give to another, we should be only doing what God tells us because if it is not the Will of God it may do harm to them and remove a chance for God to bless them and you.

Many give out of guilt and thus actually harm the receiver who relies on their giving and not God to provide. Hence the Western world has done great disservice to the poorer countries making them rely on their giving rather than the countries own supply of good or helping them to become self-sufficient and thus making these countries vulnerable when the west can no longer aid them. They have, by this, made these countries rely on the west and not on their country and thus these people are not preparing to survive in the disasters and famines that are to come. Instead of learning to rely on God, they rely on the West and thus God cannot do His

work of miraculous provision in their country. I am not talking about disasters but normal events that cause hardship or problems in a country.

Emergency or disaster relief are different but even then, it should not come out of what you need to keep and feed your family and should also be guided by The Holy Spirit.

By this wrongful giving to these poor countries Satan has robbed many of blessings both in the West and in these poorer countries and along with needs for the structure to maintain denominationalism has tied up much money that could have helped the poor, the needy and brought many to Jesus.

When you bless, make certain it is what God wants in the manner God wants.

Conclusion

Grace is something God does. The moment we have any part in the earning of it in any way it is no longer Grace but a reward for services.

We will never see how much God has Graced us with because there is so much that we cannot begin to comprehend what He has done for us.

God Loves us and His Grace is an expression of His Love so that everything that happens to us really is a sign of His Grace or Love and should be treated that way so that whatever happens we can give thanks that what is happening is under God's control and is best for us.