

## UNDERSTANDING GRACE (Grace pt2)

Charis (khar'-e-ce); graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): (favor, gift, grace)

### WHAT IS GRACE?

**Death is the final wages for sin** - Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Grace is a Gift of salvation, saving us from eternal death** - Titus 3:3-8 - 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, NOT BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUS THINGS WE HAD DONE, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I **want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

**The power of God's Grace has appeared to all men, and It "TEACHES" us to live Godly** - Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**Those who choose wickedness can't benefit from Grace** - Isa 26:10 Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and regard not the majesty of the Lord.

**Only those that humble themselves receive God's grace** - James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but GIVES GRACE to the humble."

**Like God's Spirit, Grace comes in chosen volumes** - Acts 6:8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

**Full or Filled** - pletho (play'-tho); to "fill" (literally or figuratively; specifically, to fulfil (time): (accomplish, full)

**Luke 5:26-Fear, Luke 6:11-Madness, Acts 3:10-Wonder, Acts 5:17-Jealousy, Acts 13:45 – Envy,**

**Example of choosing to be filled**- Eph 5:18 - Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**.

**God's Grace is ALL WE NEED; we tend to get in the way**– 2 Cor 12:8-9 - 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU**, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**There is power in God's word of Grace**- Acts 20:32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

**Detailed description of Grace making us Christians** - Rom 6:1-11 - What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! WE DIED TO SIN; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM so that the body of sin might be done away with, that WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO SIN— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now IF WE DIED WITH CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 IN THE SAME WAY, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### WHERE DOES GRACE COME FROM?

**LAW** –Rules given to show how wrong we are with coverings to substitute until the offer of Grace

**MERCY** – is excusing you from going through the punishment you deserve

**GRACE** – Offering you a gift of eternal life and of power you don't deserve

\*Law is an itemized set of rules & regulations, a series of Do's and Don'ts we are responsible for

\*Grace is purpose. It encompasses EVERYTHING we do while totally trusting in God by Faith

- **Grace has always existed, but just like the Holy Spirit it was only given to certain people and for certain situations until Christ made it available to everyone. Grace is known as "Favor".**

**The time for God's Grace (favor) is now** - 2 Cor 6:1-2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, NOW IS THE TIME of God's favor, NOW IS THE DAY of salvation.

### Example from Jesus of how we were in the Law and should be in Grace

Matt 5:21-22 - 21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.

Matt 5:27-28 - 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his HEART.

**Where does Grace come from and for what reason?** - Rom 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

**As death came through one man, life also came through one man** - Rom 5:15-17 - 15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

**God is still a God of justice, this is why someone had to die to pay the penalty** - Rom 3:25-26 -25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

**God's grace allowed our "deserved" death to be received by Christ** - Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might TASTE DEATH FOR EVERYONE.

**We received Salvation and God's Spirit as a gift through us believing** - Gal 3:1-5 - You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

**Grace releases us from the slavery of sin and gives us the choice and ability to live by Grace** - Rom 6:11-14 - 11 In the same way, COUNT YOURSELVES dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **DO NOT LET sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its evil desires. 13 **DO NOT OFFER** the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **OFFER YOURSELVES TO GOD**, as those who have been brought from death to life; and **OFFER THE PARTS OF YOUR BODY TO HIM** as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

**God's Grace is given to us not because of our works—**

**Grace was planned before we existed** - 2 Tim 1:8-10 - 8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. **THIS GRACE WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME**, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

**\*We have nothing to offer to earn the salvation that God has given us** - Titus 3:4-8 - 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

**\*Though Grace is NOT received by works, it is received by Belief, which is a combination of Faith displayed by works.**

**We access this Grace through Faith** - Eph 2:8-9 - 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

**We get Faith through the Word** - Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Faith is displayed in heart and action**- James 2:14-26 - 14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? →

→ 17 In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith by what I do.** 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by WHAT HE DID. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham BELIEVED GOD, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and NOT by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

## HOW GRACE WORKS IN OUR SALVATION?

**Grace saved us from us** - Eph 2:3-5 - 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, **WE WERE BY NATURE OBJECTS OF WRATH.** 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved

**Grace is God's gift for us to live a spiritual life instead of an emotional, physical, selfish life** - 2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 **HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING** we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**Grace credits us with something we could NEVER earn** - Rom 4:4-5 - 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is CREDITED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**True righteousness comes through Faith by Grace** - Rom 3:21-24 - 21 But now a **righteousness from God, APART FROM LAW,** has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 **This righteousness from God comes THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST TO ALL WHO BELIEVE.** There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely BY HIS GRACE through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**We grow in Grace through our relationship with God** - 2 Peter 1:2 **Grace and peace be yours in abundance THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF JESUS OUR LORD.**

**We have to make sure the teaching of God's grace is protected and that no false teaching exist that can defile** - Heb 12:14-15 - 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 **SEE TO IT** that no one misses the grace of God and that **no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.**

**It's God's grace that strengthens us, don't be misled by false teachings** - Heb 13:9-10 - 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

**God's grace fully provides us with all we need** - 1 Cor 1:4-7 - 4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— 6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

**Christ gave just the right amount of grace we each need for our walk** - Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

**Grace must be applied to everything we say** - Col 4:6 Let your conversation be **ALWAYS FULL OF GRACE,** seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**Know that Grace is what will cause people to believe** - Acts 18:27-28 - 27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those WHO BY GRACE HAD BELIEVED. 28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. **\*Debate with the Jews is using what the Jew believe in (scripture) to show Christ.**

**We need to grow in Grace** - 2 Peter 3:17-18 - 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 18 But **GROW IN THE GRACE and KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.**

**Be strong in grace** - 2 Tim 2:1 - You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**Stand firm in God's Grace** - 1 Peter 5:12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

**Our giving must be through God's grace –**

2 Cor 8:1-5 - And now, brothers, we want you to know about the **GRACE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN THE MACEDONIAN CHURCHES.** 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. ENTIRELY ON THEIR OWN, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 And they did not do as we expected, but they **gave themselves FIRST TO THE LORD** and **THEN TO US** in keeping with God's will.

2 Cor 9:6-9 - 6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 **Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** 8 And **GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TO YOU,** so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

**\* This is why we call Christian giving "Grace giving" instead of tithe and offerings today.**

**God's grace will have us suffer at times for a Godly purpose** - 1 Peter 5:10-11 - 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Grace will be offered to Jews, just as it selected Gentiles** - Rom 11:2-6 - 2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah — how he appealed to God against Israel: 3 "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? 4 And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5 **So too, at the present time there is a remnant CHOSEN BY GRACE.** 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

**Our hope needs to be locked in on the final result of God's grace** - 1 Peter 1:13-16 - 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

**We want every aspect of our lives to be fully based on God's grace** - 2 Thess 1:11-12 - 11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that **BY HIS POWER HE MAY FULFILL every good purpose of yours** and every act prompted by your faith. 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, ACCORDING TO THE GRACE OF OUR GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Question: (Grace)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does the Bible mean when it says the wages of sin is death?
2. What did we do to get God's Mercy and Grace?
3. Which group of people have seen God's Grace?
4. What does it mean to be "Full of Grace" ?
5. Explain why our weakness strengthens Grace.
6. Another name for God's Grace is what?
7. How do we access Grace that has been offered to everyone?
8. If we claim to have faith, that is all we need. (True or False) Explain.
9. What were we serving before we were offered Grace?
10. What are tithe and offerings known as now?