

**Course 107**

**Grace of God**

*An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry*

**Defining the Grace of God**

Defining the Grace of God is akin to measuring God: it is truly impossible! However, God has chosen to reveal aspects of His Transcendent self; even He who is Omniscient, Omni Present and Omni Potent has elected to allow His Grace to be revealed in various measures to different members of His family. This is another way of saying that whatever we put forward here as definition of the Grace of God is not exhaustive! It is rather the measure of understanding that God has chosen to reveal through this vessel and this particular platform.

What this means, in practical terms, is this: we know in part and we teach and prophesy in part until the day when we will know all things! 1 Corinthians 13: 12(KJV) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

This is another way of issuing a caveat: if our definition does not measure up to that of some other authorities or does not satisfy your intellectual curiosity, please forgive us. In putting this defence forward, we are absolving ourselves of any undue expectations. We can only share what is revealed to us and gladly receive other insights God has chosen to reveal through other vessels.

The Grace of God, simply defined is “the measure of the person, presence and ability of God freely made available to members of His family in the person and influence of Jesus Christ for the purpose coming into His Kingdom, living, serving and demonstrating Him”

From a practical point of view therefore, Grace is not so much an “it” as it is a “Him”. What this means is this: GRACE is the same as the person of Jesus Christ. He is the fullness of the Grace of God expressed in bold relief for all the realms of life – Heaven, Earth and Hell – to behold. Receiving Jesus is akin to receiving the Grace of God.

John 1:16-17 (KJV)

16And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

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

Living the Christ life, attached as it were to He who is the True Vine is the ONLY basis on which the Grace of God flows through the indwelling Holy Spirit through the spirit and soul of the saint to demonstrate on the outside, the reality of the quantum of space where Christ has true rule.

John 15:1-8 (KJV)

1I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Having said that, let us also acknowledge the potency of one of the most quoted definitions of Grace that was released through one of the faith worthies of old whose name we do not even remember:

G.R.A.C.E: God's Riches At Christ Expense. This definition advances, in direct manner the thesis that everything owned by God was downloaded in Christ when He hung on the tree on behalf of fallen humanity. As He willingly paid the supreme price, Jesus alone has become the reference point through which and by whom God deals with all of humanity. All that is God is, in effect, freely available only in and through just one source and intermediary: Jesus the Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) 21For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

### **The Verb Perspective of Grace**

There is another dimension to the definition of Grace. This angle looks at Grace as a verb which describes actions. From this perspective, the best definition comes through a vessel who has experienced Grace in a great measure, Bishop Robert E. Smith Snr of Total Outreach for Christ Ministries in Little Rock, Arkansas. In his epic booklet, Seven Aspects of God's Grace, Bishop Smith defines : "Grace is the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life, including gratitude, acceptance, benefit and favour". This book is recommended for all who are studying this course.

### **Grace: The Misconception of Old Testament versus New Testament**

There is a commonly held misconception that the Grace of God did not function in the Old Testament. This is based on a narrow reading of John 1: 17. The Word is very clear, shorn of every humanistic interpretation: The Law was given through Moses at Sinai. But Grace and Truth came through Jesus. A proper understanding of the nature and scope of the unique personality called Jesus Christ – even the God-Man reveals that He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and existed before time.

Hebrews 13:8 (KJV)

8Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Let us remember that it was He who told an incredulous people that He existed before Abraham:

John 8: 51-58 (KJV)

51Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

52Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

54Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

55Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

56Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

57Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

In this course, we shall be examining all dimensions of Grace in order to grasp a fuller meaning of what it is. We shall also show practical applications of Grace in everyday life and ministry. Get ready to learn the one single factor which can lead you to succeed in life and ministry, more than anything else: The Grace of God in Christ Jesus! Get ready...

## **An Old Testament Scriptural Survey**

### **Grace of God: An Old Testament Scriptural Survey**

Today, we shall take a presentation from [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) concerning references to the word Grace in Old Testament. Every participant in the Global School of Ministry is encouraged to, over the next few days, read through these citations and the context in which they were made. The idea is to show forth, with clarity, that Grace of God is not confined to the New Testament only. The misapplication of the intent and context of scripture in John 1:16,17 is the catalyst of the error. God is Grace personified. In all the dispensations, He has always made His grace available to those who He wills.

#### 1. Genesis 6:8

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:7-9 (in Context) Genesis 6 (Whole Chapter)

#### 2. Genesis 19:19

Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

Genesis 19:18-20 (in Context) Genesis 19 (Whole Chapter)

#### 3. Genesis 32:5

And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

Genesis 32:4-6 (in Context) Genesis 32 (Whole Chapter)

#### 4. Genesis 33:8

And he said, what meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, these are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

Genesis 33:7-9 (in Context) Genesis 33 (Whole Chapter)

#### 5. Genesis 33:10

And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

Genesis 33:9-11 (in Context) Genesis 33 (Whole Chapter)

#### 6. Genesis 33:15

And Esau said; Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? Let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

Genesis 33:14-16 (in Context) Genesis 33 (Whole Chapter)

#### 7. Genesis 34:11

And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.

Genesis 34:10-12 (in Context) Genesis 34 (Whole Chapter)

8. Genesis 39:4

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:3-5 (in Context) Genesis 39 (Whole Chapter)

9. Genesis 47:25

And they said Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.

Genesis 47:24-26 (in Context) Genesis 47 (Whole Chapter)

10. Genesis 47:29

And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:

Genesis 47:28-30 (in Context) Genesis 47 (Whole Chapter)

11. Genesis 50:4

And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, if now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,

Genesis 50:3-5 (in Context) Genesis 50 (Whole Chapter)

12. Exodus 33:12

And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

Exodus 33:11-13 (in Context) Exodus 33 (Whole Chapter)

13. Exodus 33:13

Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Exodus 33:12-14 (in Context) Exodus 33 (Whole Chapter)

14. Exodus 33:16

For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Exodus 33:15-17 (in Context) Exodus 33 (Whole Chapter)

15. Exodus 33:17

And 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.

Exodus 33:16-18 (in Context) Exodus 33 (Whole Chapter)

16. Exodus 34:9

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.

Exodus 34:8-10 (in Context) Exodus 34 (Whole Chapter)

17. Numbers 32:5

Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.

Numbers 32:4-6 (in Context) Numbers 32 (Whole Chapter)

18. Judges 6:17

And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

Judges 6:16-18 (in Context) Judges 6 (Whole Chapter)

19. Ruth 2:2

And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

Ruth 2:1-3 (in Context) Ruth 2 (Whole Chapter)

20. Ruth 2:10

Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

Ruth 2:9-11 (in Context) Ruth 2 (Whole Chapter)

21. 1 Samuel 1:18

And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

1 Samuel 1:17-19 (in Context) 1 Samuel 1 (Whole Chapter)

22. 1 Samuel 20:3

And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.

1 Samuel 20:2-4 (in Context) 1 Samuel 20 (Whole Chapter)

23. 1 Samuel 27:5

And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

1 Samuel 27:4-6 (in Context) 1 Samuel 27 (Whole Chapter)

24. 2 Samuel 14:22

And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, Today thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.

2 Samuel 14:21-23 (in Context) 2 Samuel 14 (Whole Chapter)

25. 2 Samuel 16:4

Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

2 Samuel 16:3-5 (in Context) 2 Samuel 16 (Whole Chapter)

26. Ezra 9:8

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 9:7-9 (in Context) Ezra 9 (Whole Chapter)

27. Esther 2:17

And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:16-18 (in Context) Esther 2 (Whole Chapter)

28. Psalm 45:2

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

Psalm 45:1-3 (in Context) Psalm 45 (Whole Chapter)

29. 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.

Psalm 84:10-12 (in Context) Psalm 84 (Whole Chapter)

30. Proverbs 1:9

For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Proverbs 1:8-10 (in Context) Proverbs 1 (Whole Chapter)

31. Proverbs 3:22

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Proverbs 3:21-23 (in Context) Proverbs 3 (Whole Chapter)

32. Proverbs 3:34

Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Proverbs 3:33-35 (in Context) Proverbs 3 (Whole Chapter)

33. Proverbs 4:9

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:8-10 (in Context) Proverbs 4 (Whole Chapter)

34. Proverbs 22:11

He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

Proverbs 22:10-12 (in Context) Proverbs 22 (Whole Chapter)

35. Jeremiah 31:2

Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

Jeremiah 31:1-3 (in Context) Jeremiah 31 (Whole Chapter)

36. Zechariah 4:7

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Zechariah 4:6-8 (in Context) Zechariah 4 (Whole Chapter)

37. Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zechariah 12:9-11 (in Context) Zechariah 12 (Whole Chapter)

### **A New Testament Scriptural Survey**

Following from the outline of various mentions of Grace in the Old Testament, we now resort again to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to search out the New Testament equivalent. Please keep all these references in mind as we prepare to mine into the depths of the matchless Grace of God. As you would have noticed, some of the references to Grace in the Old Testament concerned

people finding favor and good understanding with fellow humans. Please keep this principle in view.

1. Luke 2:40

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:39-41 (in Context) Luke 2 (Whole Chapter)

2. 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. John 1:13-15 (in Context) John 1 (Whole Chapter)

3. John 1:16

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

John 1:15-17 (in Context) John 1 (Whole Chapter)

4. John 1:17

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:16-18 (in Context) John 1 (Whole Chapter)

5. Acts 4:33

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:32-34 (in Context) Acts 4 (Whole Chapter)

6. Acts 11:23

Who, 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. Acts 11:22-24 (in Context) Acts 11 (Whole Chapter)

7. 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.

Acts 13:42-44 (in Context) Acts 13 (Whole Chapter)

8. Acts 14:3

Long 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 14:2-4 (in Context) Acts 14 (Whole Chapter)

9. Acts 14:26

And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

Acts 14:25-27 (in Context) Acts 14 (Whole Chapter)

10. Acts 15:11

But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Acts 15:10-12 (in Context) Acts 15 (Whole Chapter)

11. Acts 15:40

And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Acts 15:39-41 (in Context) Acts 15 (Whole Chapter)

12. Acts 18:27

And 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:

Acts 18:26-28 (in Context) Acts 18 (Whole Chapter)

13. 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. Acts 20:23-25 (in Context) Acts 20 (Whole Chapter)

14. 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.

Acts 20:31-33 (in Context) Acts 20 (Whole Chapter)

15. Romans 1:5

By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Romans 1:4-6 (in Context) Romans 1 (Whole Chapter)

16. 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.

Romans 1:6-8 (in Context) Romans 1 (Whole Chapter)

17. Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Romans 3:23-25 (in Context) Romans 3 (Whole Chapter)

18. Romans 4:4

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. Romans 4:3-5 (in Context) Romans 4 (Whole Chapter)

19. Romans 4:16

Therefore 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,

Romans 4:15-17 (in Context) Romans 4 (Whole Chapter)

20. 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.

Romans 5:1-3 (in Context) Romans 5 (Whole Chapter)

21. Romans 5:15

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. Romans 5:14-16 (in Context) Romans 5 (Whole Chapter)

22. Romans 5:17

For 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.)

Romans 5:16-18 (in Context) Romans 5 (Whole Chapter)

23. Romans 5:20

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:



Romans 5:19-21 (in Context) Romans 5 (Whole Chapter)

24. Romans 5:21

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20-21 (in Context) Romans 5 (Whole Chapter)

25. Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Romans 6:1-3 (in Context) Romans 6 (Whole Chapter)

26. Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:13-15 (in Context) Romans 6 (Whole Chapter)

27. Romans 6:15

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Romans 6:14-16 (in Context) Romans 6 (Whole Chapter)

28. Romans 11:5

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Romans 11:4-6 (in Context) Romans 11 (Whole Chapter)

29. Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Romans 11:5-7 (in Context) Romans 11 (Whole Chapter)

29. Romans 12:3

For 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.

Romans 12:2-4 (in Context) Romans 12 (Whole Chapter)

30. Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Romans 12:5-7 (in Context) Romans 12 (Whole Chapter)

31. Romans 15:15

Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,

Romans 15:14-16 (in Context) Romans 15 (Whole Chapter)

32. Romans 16:20

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Romans 16:19-21 (in Context) Romans 16 (Whole Chapter)

33. Romans 16:24

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Romans 16:23-25 (in Context) Romans 16 (Whole Chapter)

34. 1 Corinthians 1:3

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2-4 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 1 (Whole Chapter)

35. 1 Corinthians 1:4

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

1 Corinthians 1:3-5 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 1 (Whole Chapter)

36. 1 Corinthians 3:10

According 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.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 3 (Whole Chapter)

37. 1 Corinthians 10:30

For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

1 Corinthians 10:29-31 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 10 (Whole Chapter)

## **A New Testament Scriptural Survey (2)**

We need to press in and examine more instances of the Word Grace in the New Testament. Let us discern by the Spirit, the multi-faced applications of the word so that we can gain a fuller understanding of what it is. The Lord says He has a controversy with His people because they spend more time and effort to read books filled with wisdom of men and doctrines of devils and has little or no time for His Holy Word! This is a terrible travesty! The Word of God alone abides forever and is the only sure ground of our faith, life and eternal destiny.

It makes sense therefore to build our faith entirely on what the Word says rather than in the opinions of men, no matter how smart and intelligent they may seem to be or even anointed for that matter! Matthew 7:21 - 27 lend itself to constant study. What are you building your Kingdom life on? Let us therefore not be weary in studying the subject matter of grace which is the ground and strength of our life in Jesus Christ! Please prayerfully study this material, downloaded from Bible Gateway.com. It is an excellent resource site for the serious!

1. 1 Corinthians 15:10

But 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.

1 Corinthians 15:9-11 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 15 (Whole Chapter)

2. 1 Corinthians 16:23

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

1 Corinthians 16:22-24 (in Context) 1 Corinthians 16 (Whole Chapter)

3. 2 Corinthians 1:2

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1-3 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 1 (Whole Chapter)

4. 2 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.

2 Corinthians 1:11-13 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 1 (Whole Chapter)

5. 2 Corinthians 4:15

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:14-16 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 4 (Whole Chapter)

6. 2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 Corinthians 6:1-3 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 6 (Whole Chapter)

7. 2 Corinthians 8:1

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 8 (Whole Chapter)

8. 2 Corinthians 8:6

Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

2 Corinthians 8:5-7 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 8 (Whole Chapter)

9. 2 Corinthians 8:7

Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

2 Corinthians 8:6-8 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 8 (Whole Chapter)

10. 2 Corinthians 8:9

For 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.

2 Corinthians 8:8-10 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 8 (Whole Chapter)

11. 2 Corinthians 8:19

And 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:

2 Corinthians 8:18-20 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 8 (Whole Chapter)

12. 2 Corinthians 9:8

And 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:

2 Corinthians 9:7-9 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 9 (Whole Chapter)

13. 2 Corinthians 9:14

And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

2 Corinthians 9:13-15 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 9 (Whole Chapter)

14. 2 Corinthians 12:9

And 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.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 12 (Whole Chapter)

15. 2 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.

2 Corinthians 13:13-14 (in Context) 2 Corinthians 13 (Whole Chapter)

16. Galatians 1:3

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Galatians 1:2-4 (in Context) Galatians 1 (Whole Chapter)

17. Galatians 1:6

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Galatians 1:5-7 (in Context) Galatians 1 (Whole Chapter)

18. Galatians 1:15

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Galatians 1:14-16 (in Context) Galatians 1 (Whole Chapter)

19. 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.

Galatians 2:8-10 (in Context) Galatians 2 (Whole Chapter)

20. Galatians 2:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 2:20-21 (in Context) Galatians 2 (Whole Chapter)

21. Galatians 5:4

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:3-5 (in Context) Galatians 5 (Whole Chapter)

22. Galatians 6:18

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Galatians 6:17-18 (in Context) Galatians 6 (Whole Chapter)

23. Ephesians 1:2

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1-3 (in Context) Ephesians 1 (Whole Chapter)

24. Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:5-7 (in Context) Ephesians 1 (Whole Chapter)

25. Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians 1:6-8 (in Context) Ephesians 1 (Whole Chapter)

26. Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:4-6 (in Context) Ephesians 2 (Whole Chapter)

27. Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-8 (in Context) Ephesians 2 (Whole Chapter)

28. Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:7-9 (in Context) Ephesians 2 (Whole Chapter)

29. Ephesians 3:2

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Ephesians 3:1-3 (in Context) Ephesians 3 (Whole Chapter)

30. Ephesians 3:7

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Ephesians 3:6-8 (in Context) Ephesians 3 (Whole Chapter)

31. Ephesians 3:8

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;

Ephesians 3:7-9 (in Context) Ephesians 3 (Whole Chapter)

32. Ephesians 4:7

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Ephesians 4:6-8 (in Context) Ephesians 4 (Whole Chapter)

33. Ephesians 4:29

Let 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.

Ephesians 4:28-30 (in Context) Ephesians 4 (Whole Chapter)

34. Ephesians 6:24

Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Ephesians 6:23-24 (in Context) Ephesians 6 (Whole Chapter)

35. Philippians 1:2

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-3 (in Context) Philippians 1 (Whole Chapter)

36. Philippians 1:7

Even 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.

Philippians 1:6-8 (in Context) Philippians 1 (Whole Chapter)

37. Philippians 4:23

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Philippians 4:22-23 (in Context) Philippians 4 (Whole Chapter)

### **A New Testament Scriptural Survey (3)**

It does not hurt in any way but rather, it is truly beneficial to take the scriptural survey of the Word Grace all the way through to the Book of Revelation. This central principle of divine life,

living and power deserves all the minutest detail we can receive from the God of All Grace!  
Bible Gateway.com is again the source of this download and we cannot give it enough credit!

113. Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1-3 (in Context) Colossians 1 (Whole Chapter)

114. Colossians 1:6

Which 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:

Colossians 1:5-7 (in Context) Colossians 1 (Whole Chapter)

115. Colossians 3:16

Let 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.

Colossians 3:15-17 (in Context) Colossians 3 (Whole Chapter)

116. Colossians 4:6

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:5-7 (in Context) Colossians 4 (Whole Chapter)

117. Colossians 4:18

The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Colossians 4:17-18 (in Context) Colossians 4 (Whole Chapter)

118. 1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 (in Context) 1 Thessalonians 1 (Whole Chapter)

119. 1 Thessalonians 5:28

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:27-28 (in Context) 1 Thessalonians 5 (Whole Chapter)

120. 2 Thessalonians 1:2

Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-3 (in Context) 2 Thessalonians 1 (Whole Chapter)

121. 2 Thessalonians 1:12

That 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.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (in Context) 2 Thessalonians 1 (Whole Chapter)

122. 2 Thessalonians 2:16

Now 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,

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 (in Context) 2 Thessalonians 2 (Whole Chapter)

123. 2 Thessalonians 3:18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 3:17-18 (in Context) 2 Thessalonians 3 (Whole Chapter)

124.1 Timothy 1:2

Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:1-3 (in Context) 1 Timothy 1 (Whole Chapter)

125.1 Timothy 1:14

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:13-15 (in Context) 1 Timothy 1 (Whole Chapter)

126.1 Timothy 6:21

Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 (in Context) 1 Timothy 6 (Whole Chapter)

127. 2 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:1-3 (in Context) 2 Timothy 1 (Whole Chapter)

128. 2 Timothy 1:9

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,

2 Timothy 1:8-10 (in Context) 2 Timothy 1 (Whole Chapter)

129. 2 Timothy 2:1

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:1-3 (in Context) 2 Timothy 2 (Whole Chapter)

130. 2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:21-22 (in Context) 2 Timothy 4 (Whole Chapter)

131. Titus 1:4

To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Titus 1:3-5 (in Context) Titus 1 (Whole Chapter)

132. Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Titus 2:10-12 (in Context) Titus 2 (Whole Chapter)

133. Titus 3:7

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:6-8 (in Context) Titus 3 (Whole Chapter)

134. Titus 3:15

All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Titus 3:14-15 (in Context) Titus 3 (Whole Chapter)

135. Philemon 1:3

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:2-4 (in Context) Philemon 1 (Whole Chapter)

136. Philemon 1:25

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Philemon 1:24-25 (in Context) Philemon 1 (Whole Chapter)

137. Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:8-10 (in Context) Hebrews 2 (Whole Chapter)

138. Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (in Context) Hebrews 4 (Whole Chapter)

139. Hebrews 10:29

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot 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?

Hebrews 10:28-30 (in Context) Hebrews 10 (Whole Chapter)

140. Hebrews 12:15

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:14-16 (in Context) Hebrews 12 (Whole Chapter)

141. Hebrews 12:28

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:27-29 (in Context) Hebrews 12 (Whole Chapter)

142. 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.

Hebrews 13:8-10 (in Context) Hebrews 13 (Whole Chapter)

143. Hebrews 13:25

Grace be with you all. Amen.

Hebrews 13:24-25 (in Context) Hebrews 13 (Whole Chapter)

144. James 1:11

For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

James 1:10-12 (in Context) James 1 (Whole Chapter)

145. James 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:5-7 (in Context) James 4 (Whole Chapter)

146. 1 Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:1-3 (in Context) 1 Peter 1 (Whole Chapter)



147. 1 Peter 1:10

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

1 Peter 1:9-11 (in Context) 1 Peter 1 (Whole Chapter)

148. 1 Peter 1:13

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:12-14 (in Context) 1 Peter 1 (Whole Chapter)

149. 1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, 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.

1 Peter 3:6-8 (in Context) 1 Peter 3 (Whole Chapter)

150. 1 Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:9-11 (in Context) 1 Peter 4 (Whole Chapter)

151. 1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, 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.

1 Peter 5:4-6 (in Context) 1 Peter 5 (Whole Chapter)

152. 1 Peter 5:10

But 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.

1 Peter 5:9-11 (in Context) 1 Peter 5 (Whole Chapter)

153. 1 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.

1 Peter 5:11-13 (in Context) 1 Peter 5 (Whole Chapter)

154. 2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,  
2 Peter 1:1-3 (in Context) 2 Peter 1 (Whole Chapter)

155. 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:17-18 (in Context) 2 Peter 3 (Whole Chapter)

156. 2 John 1:3

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

2 John 1:2-4 (in Context) 2 John 1 (Whole Chapter)

## The Two Contexts of Grace in Old Testaments

### 1. 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.

Jude 1:3-5 (in Context) Jude 1 (Whole Chapter)

### 2. Revelation 1:4

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:3-5 (in Context) Revelation 1 (Whole Chapter)

### 3. Revelation 22:21

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Revelation 22:20-21 (in Context) Revelation 22 (Whole Chapter)

In all, we have shared about 159 references to the word “Grace” spanning the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful to Bible Gateway for the excellent resources, including passage look up on their site. Now it is time to do the actual work of putting the word GRACE in context so that we can live in its experiential reality as well as be fit for purpose labourers who minister in Grace and can preach, teach and function with Grace.

On what Basis did Grace operate in the Old Testament?

A careful study of the contexts in which Grace was cited in the Old Testament will reveal two broad bases. Both confirm the reality that God has always released Grace to humans in all dispensations.

### 1. Finding Favour with God or fellow people

The first is the context of finding favour with God or people. From Genesis 6:8 to Esther 2:7, there are 27 references to Grace in the Bible Gate way download we have looked at over the past two days. One central thread running through all the 27 references is the concept of Grace as finding favour with God or with fellow humans who have something we need.

Genesis 6:8 lays this solid foundation of how the remnant of God is able to live opposite lifestyles from their contemporary generation: they find grace in the sight of God. What this implies is that Noah’s walk and by extension, our walk with God is not a function of our individual ability or preferences, as it were. We are rather able to function in a way that pleases God because He enabled us to find favour in His sight!

### 2. Gift freely given by God to people

The second, equally awesome context of the word “Grace” is that of a GIFT freely given by God to people. This is articulated in 10 instances from Psalm 45:2 to Zechariah 12:10

Summary: Grace is un-merited favour from God!

Looking at both contexts, we can see the wisdom in the definition of Grace as “Un-merited Favour”. In other words, Grace refers to the divine act of releasing to humanity acceptance, strength and capacity to accomplish tasks that are normally outside our range of ability.

Come to think of it: Adam and Eve were really products of Grace and lived by Grace until the day they frustrated Grace by sinning against God. Please read Genesis chapters 2 and 3 to understand this profound insight

### **Jesus Christ, Grace and the Kingdom of God! (1)**

Jesus Christ, Grace and the Kingdom of God!

As we saw in our last lesson, God is the God of All Grace, sitting on the Throne of Grace! He is simply the epitome of Grace. It was by Grace therefore that God created man and enabled Adam and Eve to exercise the awesome authority and privilege to be His assign over all of creation shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Satan has commissioned even well meaning people to extract Matthew 6:33 out of context to send saints on a wild goose chase for a phantom Kingdom! Jesus made it clear that He is coming back again and has left us on earth to do His Kingdom business – proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom, bringing in the lost, demonstrate His life and love to all and take away any excuse of not hearing from any one or people group which they may want to plead on the Last Day! We are to fill the earth with the glory and Presence of God through an active other worldly lifestyle which proclaims Him!

Luke 19:10-13 (KJV)

10For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

11And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

### **Ephesians chapter 2**

One of the most beautiful expressions of the extent and quantum of the Grace of God is in Ephesians 2: 1-22. What can be more glorious than this beautiful word concerning what Jesus accomplished for us, even when we were unworthy?

Understanding the fact that we were and are utterly unworthy and could not have earned citizenship of the Kingdom of God by the Law or any endeavour of our own selves is critical to enable us appropriate the fullness of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ.

The Jews needed Grace to come into the fullness of the election! Those who were called gentiles of old needed Grace to be inducted into the Commonwealth of God and Israel! Glory to God that out of these two formerly hostile enemies God has made one new man; One new man fashioned in the image of God, filled with His Grace to live the God kind of life and complete the ministry of reconciliation of all things to He who created all!

Let us just meditate on this awesome scripture and allow its Spirit and letters to seep into every fibre of our being. Above all things, let us live out the principles this scripture espouses – by the Grace of God, amen!

Ephesians 2 (KJV)

1And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

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.

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 fellow citizens 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. on. A diligent study of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 will reveal the self-evident truth that man had absolutely no part to play in the creation of the world or the awesome dominion vested in human kind. All that Adam and Eve did was to receive what had been prepared by God! That is the nature of Grace!

When Adam and Eve messed up, God was gracious in dealing with the extraordinary breach of His trust. Two important issues of Grace were activated at the fall of Adam and Eve.

\* God made provision for activation of an adequate atonement to recover mankind when He announced in Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”. By so doing, God announced the gracious plan of redemption.

\*To cover their nakedness, God sacrificed some animals so that their skins would serve these first rebels of human kind as recorded in Genesis 3:21

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

In the fullness of time, the Grace of God was revealed in a person, the God Man, Jesus Christ. The mystery of God becoming man in order to fulfil the legal basis of redeeming man is still a subject that confounds even the most brilliant of human minds. There should be no surprise about this because the mind of man, even his intellect, was never designed to comprehend the deeper dimensions of spiritual truth. They are received only by revelation!

1 Corinthians 1:18-29 (King James Version)

18For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

19For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

20Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

22For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29That no flesh should glory in his presence.

The truth is that only the humble will have the deep things of God revealed to them by the Holy Spirit who bypasses the intellect to communicate His wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:7-16 (King James Version)

7But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

To function as a complete man, Jesus had to shed part of His glory during the 33 ½ years He walked on earth as attested by Philippians 2: 5-11.

5Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **The Two Critical Things Jesus Modelled for all Saints (1)**

Having received this awesome Grace which came from the Father through the Holy Spirit, Jesus went on to model how the redeemed are to walk in the fullness of Grace. He did it through two principal means:

1. He always sought the will of the Father in ALL things.

This made prayer a central fulcrum of the incredible life of Jesus. Prayer was not a tap for Him to turn on and off at will. Jesus made the art of praying a critical part of His daily routine.

Mark 1:35 (King James Version)

35And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed

His lifestyle was centred on the will of the Father. No less is expected of true saints today.

Three voices scream for our attention daily: The Voice of the Father; The Voice of the enemy and the Voice of the Flesh (soul and body). Which one moves you most on a regular basis and at critical, challenging times?

John 5:30 (King James Version)

30I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 (King James Version)

38For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

To select the 12 disciples, Jesus spent all night in prayer! He could not afford to be presumptuous but rather needed to know who exactly the Father chose to accompany Him. Luke 6:12-16.

### Lessons

Saints, if this was so for He who is the Captain of our Salvation, we have no excuse to ignore the incredible charge to make prayer the centre-piece of our daily lives. We will be spared so much pain if only we would pray about who to set in office in the ministries Jesus committed to our trust! We would be spared so much of the conflicts and politicking that pervade ministries if only we would take good time to cover members of our team with much prayer and spiritual warfare like Jesus did for Peter in his moment of weakness! Luke 22:31,32

Luke 11:1-13 (King James Version)

1And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

9And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 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?

Luke 18:1-8 (King James Version)

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

## Two Critical Things Jesus Modelled for all saints (2)

2. Jesus focused on the assignment for which He came to the earth!

He came to recover the Kingdom of God Adam lost to Satan, prepare humans for it by living it out experientially, preaching its precepts and ultimately paid the supreme price for lost mankind to be reconciled to the Father. He avoided all kinds of distractions, including offers from Satan and Jews who wanted Him to become a Politician and rallying point for their deliverance from Rome as well as the determined efforts of some of His inner circle to hinder Him from completing the assignment!

Right at the beginning of His public ministry, Satan tried to ambush Jesus and offer Him the same toxic alternative offered Adam:

Luke 4:1-13 (KJV)

1And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

2Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

3And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

5And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

12And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

13And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Focus on the Mission meant that everything, including food and rest were given up by Jesus. Saints, with His Grace we can do likewise today!

John 4:31-38 (King James Version)

31In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

32But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

33Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

34Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

35Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.



Even when His own disciple, Simon Peter tried to resist the idea of Jesus going to the Cross, the focussed Master did not suffer him gladly:

Matthew 16:21-23 (King James Version)

21From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jesus had to fight and win the internal battle, subduing His soul and body in order to press into full yeildedness of His Spirit so that the atonement could be undertaken.

Matthew 26:36-46 (King James Version)

36Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

37And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

38Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

40And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

41Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

42He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

43And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

44And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

### **Jesus, epitome of Grace, is centre of the Kingdom!**

It is amusing when some people speak of the Kingdom and ask you to forget Jesus and focus on its benefits! Jesus is the centre and circumference of the Kingdom! He is not just our Saviour and King but also our perfect example of how to live the Kingdom life approved by the Father. His example and His commands are the two wings of acceptable Kingdom life. It is He that we look up to!

Hebrews 12:1-3 (KJV)

1Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word affirms that no one, speaking or writing by the Spirit of God can ever diminish the centrality of Jesus Christ as the focal point of the Kingdom! Whoever will teach you the Kingdom and have a problem with the centrality of Jesus is either ignorant or an impostor. Do not give him your ears as 2 John verses 9-11 warn.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (KJV)

3Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Contrary to what humanists who masquerade as Kingdom preachers tell us, Jesus made it clear that pursuit of the Kingdom is not about accumulation of earthly stuff or search for secret esoteric knowledge! It is plainly a transition from living for the present to a life lived for the future when He will return to set up the Kingdom of God on earth. This is a life in which there is a paradigm shift in our priorities and interests:

Matthew 6:19-34 (King James Version)

19Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

22The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow

### **The Grace Nonagon:**

#### **9 Critical Dimensions and Uses of Grace in our walk with God.**

#### **The Grace Nonagon (side 1)**

The more we mature in Christ, the more we come to understand how immeasurable His Grace is in our lives. We cannot but be grateful to be adopted into the Family of God entirely By His Grace, grow in Him, worship Him in Spirit and Truth; serve Him and the brethren and are preserved unto the Day of the Lord. It sounds incredible but true that in none of these phases of our pilgrimage on this side of eternity is we in any way able, on our own volition able to earn our position in Christ or undertake that which is committed to our trust!

Let us try to mine the incredible depths of Grace by looking at the Grace Nonagon (9 sided figure) which x-rays how much the Love of God has bestowed in and on us the incredible inexhaustible riches of God in Christ Jesus. This aligns with the prayers that Paul the Apostle prayed for saints, using those at Ephesus as point of contact:

Ephesians 1:3-11

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:

Ephesians 1:15-23

15Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 3:16-21

16That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

This is an examination of 9 dimensions of Grace as we have received by revelation in the Word of God. In so doing, we shall allow Scripture to speak for itself by quoting substantial portions of scripture. All scripture references are from the King James Version and are downloaded from Bible Gate way.

### **1. Grace brings us into the Kingdom**

A glorious truth of the Kingdom of God is that we are brought into it entirely by the Grace of God in Christ Jesus! No of us could ever have earned entry into the Kingdom by our self righteousness nor indeed by any other way. Jesus is the ONLY DOOR into the Kingdom – another way of saying that whoever seeks to enter in has no option than to receive the free gift of salvation offered by a Father whose high standard of justice over the fall of Adam (loss of dominion by man) was paid for by the obedience and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Those who purport to know and teach the Kingdom of God and are unable to understand and receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus are clearly out of the way and are preaching another gospel. No genuine Kingdom teacher will ever gripe against the gospel of Salvation by Grace!

Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 4:16

Therefore 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,

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.

Romans 5:15

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Romans 5:17

For 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.)

Romans 5:20

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Romans 5:21

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 11:5-7 (King James Version)

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Ephesians 1:3 - 8

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According 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:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Ephesians 2:1-19

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

11 Wherefore 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;

12 That 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:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having 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;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

## Grace Nonagon (Side 2) Processing

### Side 2: Grace processes us into true Kingdom citizens

The biggest problem saints face is that while they easily acknowledge that they are saved by the Grace of God, very few ever come to the experiential reality that on their own self effort, they cannot make progress in their Kingdom Life. This is the root of most of the struggles to be holy and frustrations which arise when those high standards are not attained. No one can ever live the life of God by self effort.

Romans 6:1-16

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?

3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

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?

It is ALL by Grace! It is a received life in which we lay hold of the Grace of God freely given to us; reckon our death with Christ and resurrection with Him a done deal. What the Lord requires of us is to believe what happened at the Cross, accept it as a done deal and yield to the Holy Spirit as He works in and through us to give Jesus right of way to rule our spirit man which in turn rules the soul and body. The conscious yielding of the soul and its latent powers to the leadership of the spirit man which is under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit is a key means of appropriating the grace to be holy unto God 24/7. Philippians 1:6 and Philippians 2:13 define this reality.

Romans 8:1-17

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

2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither

indeed can be.

8So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

By faith therefore, we simply abide in Jesus and simply yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the fullness of the God kind of life through His dealings.

John 15:1-8

1I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

This is made possible when we learn to trust God to work out His good purpose for our lives notwithstanding the fires we pass through! As we pass through difficult situations, Satan would tempt us to resort to self help and deem God as in capable of helping us. In the divine economy however, we need to release our trust and faith in God, knowing assuredly that He who is Omniscient knows what we are passing through and has ordained same, no matter how unpleasant, to be the very instrument of bringing forth His divine pre-ordained purpose for our glorification. Oh! That our eyes will be opened to see His matchless grace in action in the midst of all kinds of difficulty. An understanding of this principle was a core principle which made Paul an extraordinary person!

Acts 20:22-27

20And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24But 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.

Romans 8:28-33

28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

In the modern world, even saints can speak evil of you when you are passing through some crises due to no fault of yours. Many there are who will deem you to have sinned or have done something to occasion the troubles you are passing through. Saints, it is better to know and believe the report of God!

The Apostle Peter knew this connection between God, Grace and troubles when he declared:

1 Peter 5:10

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.

It is for this reason that we are commanded to grow in Grace and in knowing Jesus Christ experientially:

2 Peter 3:18

18But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen

### **Grace Nonagon (side 3) - Power to Worship Acceptably**

#### **3. Grace empowers us to worship God in Spirit and in Truth**

In His epic dialogue with the woman at the well of Samaria, Jesus laid out one of the most critical benchmarks of acceptable worship. Jesus made it clear that in the Kingdom of God, physical temples built with brick and mortar would give way to the true temple of the hearts of true worshippers. Location would give way to the heart! Church would move from "going there" to "inside here". Here is what the King said:

John 4:21-24 (KJV)

21Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Lord has appointed that where He wants to meet us primarily is the unseen region of our hearts and minds! There can be no pretensions there! There are no grey areas there! Everything is definitely pure or impure; holy or unholy. Interestingly, no man, on his own accord to cleanse the inward parts! It is only by the Grace of God is this realm of life sought out, identified and purified by the Blood of Grace!

The moment we are able to comprehend the fact that all things about God and us is based on His Grace, we will cease to engage in dead religious works and rest in the Lord and His incredible love. This will cause a spontaneous eruption of a spirit of gratitude deep within our



spirit and soul leading to emission of joy for what the Lord has done. With this attitude, we are able to release our faith to receive ALL the incredible riches of God in Christ Jesus.

Grateful beyond measure, we find ourselves yielding to the Holy Spirit in a trusting manner as He navigates us through this process of time during our pilgrimage in the body. Instead of struggling to avoid certain sins only to fall into others, the redeemed of the Lord who understands grace comes to the realization that working out salvation with fear and trembling is not a recipe for religiosity but actually a call to know and yield to the inner dealings and workings of the Holy Spirit!

Philippians 2:12-15

12Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

We must trust the Lord to complete what He started in us! He will not abandon us in the middle of the waters of life if only we will give Him right of way to continue the work of Grace in us.

Philippians 1:6

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:

The Holy Spirit used Apostle Paul to exhort us to avoid a regression into a spirit of religion which seeks to lay a heavy yoke of bondage on saints who try to please God on their own strength and when they fail(as they should), become susceptible to fainting. The philosophy of Jesus Christ is superior to that of the religious system! The religious system is about avoiding sin through self effort. The spiritual approach is about reckoning what happened at Calvary rightly (victory over Satan and Sin) and appropriating it by faith, allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our lives even in the inward parts. Religion on the other hand consists of things that are done to impress people yet do not proceed from what God has done in the heart of an individual.

Colossians 2:6-23 (King James Version)

6As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

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.

16Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

20Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21(Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Holiness is not and cannot be a product of self effort! It is a fruit of the dealings of the Holy Spirit who applies the Word and the Blood to great effect on hearts and minds of saints yielded to Him!

### **Grace Nonagon (side 4) - Enabler to Serve God**

#### **Side 4. Grace enables us to serve God the way He prescribes – by a measure of the Power of His Holy Spirit.**

There are many people who want to work for God. God however is interested in people who will walk with Him! Walking with God involves abiding in Jesus in an intimate embrace! The Holy Spirit simply passes through the beings of such people to minister to God and with God!

It is by the same measure that we serve the brethren and build them up principally through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive rather than unsanctified natural talents which minister to the fleshly realm.

Acts 1:4-8

4And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The risen and glorified Jesus had to specially arrest and commission Paul of Tarsus to exposit how the Holy Spirit works through every member of the Body of Christ to ensure the release of the fullness of Him both in the local assembly and in the larger Body through three core scriptures: Romans chapter 12; 1 Corinthians chapter 12; Ephesians chapter 4.

When saints are ignorant, they keep chasing an elusive “anointing” that is specially on a select number of ministers who they equate as closer to God! The truth however is that all saints who are filled with the Holy Spirit are anointed! The measure of the Holy Spirit at work in and through you is revealed by His spiritual gifts. That defines the grace level in you. As long as you operate by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there is safety because you are living and ministering supernaturally!

The grace you carry simply is bespoke, made to measure for your assignment! It is imperative that you pray and study to understand all that Jesus has made you to be and release yourself to be a vessel through who the Holy Spirit expresses Jesus Christ to other saints and to the world. When we live this way, the word “impossible” will cease to exist in the lexicon of saints! What a glorious life?

Romans 12:3-8

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

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

1Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

3Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

4Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Ephesians 4:7

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ

The five fold – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are specially embedded in the Body and commissioned to enable saints to know who they are in Christ and who He is in them! They are not titles of honour or as decorations to be worn like badges. The five fold exist to be used by Jesus to bring His Body to perfection and full strength so that there will be a visible difference between us and the world around. What makes all the difference is GRACE!

Ephesians 4:11-16

11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The apostle Peter was to also pick up this theme when writing by the Spirit, he averred:

1 Peter 4:10-11 (King James Version)

10As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good

stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Bottom line is this: every saint is part of the Royal Priesthood of Jesus Christ after the Order of Melchizedek! Because of Grace, God does not consult your past to determine if He will use you. God does not ask if you are White, Black, Hispanic or Asian; male or female, young or old.

Galatians 3:26-29 (King James Version)

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

He elects vessels of honor according to His Omniscient knowledge of their heart! Peter denied Jesus three times; James and John were problematic; Paul was a murder accomplice. Yet, God used them mightily. Because of Grace, God does not call the qualified; He rather qualifies the called – by His amazing Grace!

### **Grace Nonagon (side 5). Grace defines our uniqueness**

**Side 5. Grace enables us to be unique within the Body of Christ and His Kingdom as well as within the sphere of influence He apportions us. We celebrate our uniqueness while recognizing what others are called to so that unity of the Body is maintained in the bond of peace.**

The work of God is done by His Grace. The extent of Grace we receive requires us to allow God to use us to the fullest possible extent to discharge same. There is no room for comparison with other people who function according to the extent of Grace they receive. Let us use Paul as a case study of how a saint can understand the extent of Grace at work in his life and proceed with all grace to fulfil same.

Paul was constantly aware of the “dispensation of Grace” committed to his trust. He made His boast in the Lord for being called to Minister Christ to the gentiles and recognized that Peter and others were called to the Jews. Paul was also keenly aware that God had elected him to the role of a Master builder of the New Testament Church.

We must reject the strange notion that everybody is called to do the same thing. Our callings are bespoke – made to measure. Just as the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world, God has also ordained specific roles for everyone in the Body of Christ. If you understand your specific role, discharge all encumbrances and go for it – with all your heart! Give it your all and with the Grace of God available freely for that purpose, you will not struggle to fulfil your course. In the same vein, never be jealous or envious when you see other saints who are focussed on fully discharging the grace of God in them!

For those who flow in the prophetic, it is critical that you recognize that not all the things that come to your mind is from God. Sometimes, your Grace may be at work, releasing, as it were, that which you are personally perceiving. You therefore need to avoid a situation where you always preface your utterance with “thus says the Lord”. By all means, be bold to indicate when God has given you a direct word. However, when that is not the case, you may well indicate that you are speaking from the Grace granted you. In effect, flowing in the prophetic is different from standing in the office of a Prophet! Incidentally, many flow in the prophetic but try to project themselves as Prophets. This opens a major door to the enemy and demonic attacks.

Never be ashamed to stand on your Grace – in spite of what others are seeing or doing. Know your assignment and receive the quantum of Grace required to convey it. Do not be deceived to

think you are humble by denying who God has made you to be. Be known to all people – sinners and saints alike by the Grace of God in you and the calling of God on your life. Paul constantly reminded people of the grace he received!

1 Corinthians 3:10

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

Ephesians 3:2

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Ephesians 3:7

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Ephesians 3:8

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;

Philippians 1:7

Even 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.

Paul was so committed to his special commission to preach the gospel of Grace through which gentiles could have access into the Commonwealth that he publicly rebuked Peter and Barnabas when they tried to retreat into legalism at Antioch.

Galatians 2:11-21

11But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

12For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

15We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

16Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

17But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

18For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

19For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

20 I 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.

Peter and the other Apostles were to recognize the special grace granted Paul to minister Jesus and the Kingdom of God to gentiles. Even the weight of great revelations granted Paul concerning Grace were recognized by Peter.

2 Peter 3:15-16

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.

## **Grace Nonagon (side 6). Grace preserves in trouble**

### **6. Grace keeps us in the face of external troubles and internal pain**

God never promises a trouble-free world to His sons on this side of eternity. On the other hand, Jesus variously indicated that those who would follow Him are called into a world where troubles are many; where His followers would suffer persecution and face hard choices. This truth is a self-evident one common to saints of all generations from the time when Jesus walked the streets of Galilee to when He will return in power and Majesty.

Matthew 10:32-39 (King James Version)

32Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

34Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:24-26

24Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul

What the Lord promised is a peace which surpasses human understanding even in the face of death and trouble

John 14:27

27Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid

John 16:33

33These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world

The reason for this seeming paradox is simple. The Kingdom of God, which is received by Grace, is in the heart. It is not an external thing on this side of eternity. God may well bless us immediately with great measure of His enormous resources. On the other hand, He may allow us to go through some trials through which He prepares us to mature to handle the great blessings that are ours by the Blood of the Lamb.

Luke 17:21

21Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. Of this Kingdom, which in the now is evidently received and dwells in the hearts of the redeemed, the Lord provides a sketch of its present outlook:

Romans 14:17-18

17For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

18For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

It is for this reason that the various parables of Jesus are meant to challenge true saints to live a life opposite to their contemporaries. While all those around us live by the principle of acquiring more wealth and material stuff which gives great pleasure, we are called to an opposite lifestyle centred on the King and His Kingdom. What gives us the greatest satisfaction is not what we accumulate in the present but what we forgo to acquire or hold onto the one thing which matters most: the Blessed Kingdom of God!

Matthew 6:19-34

19Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

22The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

No human being can make this paradigm shift in the heart and mind – from getting to giving; from living for the now to living for the future – outside of the Grace of God! Only the Grace of God can fill our spiritual tanks with the capacity to count it all joy concerning the things to come!

When Jesus returns to set up the physical aspect of the Kingdom, it will be a different ball game and then our redemption will be consummated! There will be ample rewards. In the present time, we may face all kinds of trouble, crises and challenges. With the sufficiency of the Grace of God in our lives, we overcome them and say, like Paul, “None of these things move me!” Let us see what the Lord has to say through Paul, concerning some of the things that may affect one who He sends. It is also evident that Grace has a major role to play:

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-15

3 Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

The Apostle to the Gentiles epitomized what God used him to preach. His epic out of this world experience was followed by a visitation he did not bargain for: the messenger of Satan which was allowed to buffet him. The man through whom great miracles were done ended up learning one of the most critical lessons of his entire apostolic ministry: what matters most in life and ministry is the sufficiency of Grace for every situation!

## 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (King James Version)

7 And 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.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And 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.

10 Therefore 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.

Consider these immortal words which define the scope of Grace in a yielded vessel:

## 2 Corinthians 9:8

And 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.

## Grace Nonagon (sides 7) Humility & Unity

### 7. Grace enables us to be humble and keeps us in that state

We need Grace to be truly humble; yet we receive more Grace if we are humble before God and men! The key to humility is to remember that without His Grace, we would have remained sinners, hell bound. Furthermore, humility comes without struggle when we realize that everything we have – from life itself to health, wealth and indeed the very ministries committed to our trust are manifestations of His Grace. It is also in the manifestation of spiritual gifts and exercise of our callings that we must watch our hearts, motives and mindsets to ensure that pride does not creep in. It is easy to come to a place where we no longer give God the glory nor even reverence Him when flowing in charismatic gifts. This is made worse when we allow what He has given us to induce a sense of high mindedness or esteem our grace and gifts as more important than that of other people.

## Romans 12:3

For 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.

The spirit of pride is what causes a saint to think he or she can turn on the Holy Spirit or the spiritual gifts on and off as you use a faucet for water! We cannot determine when the Holy



Spirit will manifest. He turns us on or off at His own will and not the other way round! To therefore print posters and sponsor expensive commercials announcing that all the lame, blind and deaf will definitely be healed because a popular miracle worker is coming may well be a dangerous path to tread. Let us be more sober about what we claim we can do for the Lord. He uses us to do what He wants, when and where He wants! Our role is to be in intimate relationship with Him and sensitive to His voice in order to receive revelation of what He wants to do or say!

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

7But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

11But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Even one second of forgetfulness that this is TRUE will lead a saint to slip into the error of pride. Pride is part of the nature of the Devil. It was on the day that pride was found in Lucifer that he lost his pre-eminent stature in the Kingdom! Read Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28: 11-17. That is why God Himself resists the proud. How terrible for he or she whom God personally resists!

James 4:6-10

6But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

10Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Let us remember a mystery. Among men, very few have been used in working of miracles or healings as the man Paul of Tarsus. Yet, there was a time he left his Personal Assistant, Trophimus, sick in Miletus. This was because the Holy Spirit did not determine that He would use Paul to minister healing to him at that very time! Saints, we have nothing to prove! Let God use us as He will, when He wants!

2 Timothy 4:20

Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

## **Grace Nonagon (sides 8) Humility & Unity**

### **8. Grace requires us to live and act graciously with fellow saints.**

In view of these precious benefits of Grace freely received from God in Jesus Christ, the weight of responsibility comes heavily on the redeemed of the Lord to live in a way that we become conduits through which God can display the marvels of His Grace! In effect, Grace enables us to be in the show case of God so that with great pleasure, He can display us to all realms of creation as the fruit and outcome of His incredible love! A measure of this display will happen in the present as He makes us the Light of the World and Salt of the earth. This will silence Satan and his cohorts. In the future, this will be consummated on the day of ultimate redemption, at the appearing of Jesus Christ! Romans 8:18-25.

These are the specific areas of response required of us:

a. We need to receive people as they are and trust God to use us to Minister Christ and the Kingdom to them.

This is no excuse for them to remain in sin as members of the congregation lest their consciences be seared as with hot iron! At entry point, we do not erect impossible religious and doctrinal barriers for people. We do not insist on dressing code and rules of the house for people who are unsaved. We must allow them to come as they are and trust that the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Grace alone, not our human rules can and will transform them. When God wanted to break the yoke of Jewish culture in Peter, He did it in a most dramatic way by first showing him the trance/vision of the sheet from heaven and confirming it with the call to minister to Cornelius and thus open the way to more gentiles. Acts 10: 1-48. His epic encounter with Paul at Antioch revealed that old habits and cultures can die hard – even though some one

is filled with the Holy Spirit and holds a great title! Galatians chapter 2.

b. Grace requires us to patiently allow God to nurture baby saints until Christ is fully formed in them.

Discipleship can be a slow process where we have to bear with the slow pace of those committed to us. In patience, we graciously feed them with milk until they outgrow it and require meat.

Galatians 4:19-20

c. Grace requires us to forgive those who sin against us.

Just as God forgave us when we were unworthy, we must make allowance for peoples faults and have the mind to forgive those who may seem unworthy of our relationship.

Ephesians 4:32

32And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13-15

d. Grace requires us to minister the Word with grace.

Gracious speech is always powerful and makes Truth more acceptable. We do not gain many souls with cantankerous speech which may offend and cause people to be turned off.

Ephesians 4:29

Let 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.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

e. Yet, Grace also requires us to tell people the inconvenient truth.

This includes a clear presentation of the consequences of rejecting the love of God and lifestyles which can lead to eternal torment.

Galatians 1:6-9

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.

8But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

f. Grace requires us to locate the Grace of God in other saints and give them right of way to manifest same!

Grace however makes no room for human ambitions and projection of self-interests! The affairs of the Kingdom are conducted in unity of faith sealed in the bond of peace. No one is an island, no matter how gifted. God has ordained that His work is done by teams under authorities set by Him alone. Yet God entrusts different aspects of His Kingdom work into vessels men call visionaries. Then He brings other saints, He has graced in specific ways to understand, embrace and run with that same vision. When the early Church was expanding, God ordained Peter to lead the work on the home front in Jerusalem and to the Jews at home while Paul was chosen to lead the charge to the gentiles.

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.

In spite of the scope of gifting of each member of the team, proof that the grace of God is at

work will be the lack of personal ambitions as saints march in formation to one achieve the divinely pre-determined end.

Joel 2: 7, 8.

People of Grace therefore live out an irony: on the one hand, they can do all things through Christ residing in and working through them by the Holy Spirit! Secondly and equally true, they undertake Kingdom business from a Body perspective as good team players! They rarely think and plan solo because the great measure of divinity in them is expressed in the "we" rather than "me" paradigm!

### **Grace Nonagon (sides 9) Grace Preserves + Judgement!**

**9. Grace preserves us till the very end when we reconnect back to eternity as the Crown Jewel of God in all creation. In the same vein, Grace is the basis of judgement for those who rejected, despised or frustrated it.**

The Grace of God which leads to our redemption and keeps us holy unto the Lord is not an end in itself. It simply provides the means through which God brings to pass the new creation that is absolutely confounding in the sheer scope of its beauty and manifestation of the merciful and gracious nature of God. This is why the whole world yearns for manifestation of fruits of Grace, even the redeemed of the Lord! This perspective is beautifully captured by Minister Sondra Jenkins, an accomplished Teacher of the Word who coordinates the Global School of Ministry in Detroit. Here is what she posted in the Global School of Ministry interactive forum on face book:

"Eph 1:6 is a "signature" verse for me. It blows my mind to recognize that the core purpose of my redemption in Christ is not actually about "me." We typically use John 3:16 as the proof text for explaining God's purpose in our salvation -- He sent Christ to redeem us because He loved us so much and wanted so much to be in relationship with us that He built the bridge through Christ's crucifixion.

But I see that that paradigm, while not untrue, as "me-centred," if it stops there. It suggests that somehow, WE are at the centre of God's plan. Ephesians 1:6 tells us that in essence, the case study of our redemption is an "advertisement" of the glory of the grace of God through Christ!"

Ephesians 1:3-12 (King James Version)

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 fullness 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.

Anyone who despises Grace or used it as an excuse to remain in sin has, in effect, rejected God's only appointed means of salvation and acceptable Kingdom life! The Grace of God produces practical results of new life in Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11-14

11For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

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.

That is why no one can validly use Grace as excuse to remain in sin!

Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:15

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

This gives God a solid basis of judging and condemning such people to eternal damnation.

Those who argue that a loving and caring God cannot commit people to an eternal, literary Lake of fire and brimstone miss the point! The loving God graciously made all the provisions for their redemption. However, because He respects the will of the man He created, God will never force Himself and His mercy on any one! Those who reject Grace have simply chosen Judgement! It is as simple as that! This is why saints are charged to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature so that those who believe can be saved.

Mark 16:15-20 (King James Version)

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Those who refuse will have their rejection of Grace to be a witness against them on the Great Day of the Lord!

Revelation 20:11-15 (King James Version)

11And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

For true saints, the good news is that God does not abandon His own alone but rather upholds them till the very end – by His Grace.

Jude 1:24-25 (King James Version)

24Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

### **Down the wire..**

As we come to closure of this epic course that has exceeded 85 pages of A4 paper, we can see that God has truly been gracious to us. God has given us such a comprehensive insight into what Grace means and its applications. He has taken us far beyond the narrow constructionist view of religion which essentially limits the subject matter to salvation.

Yet God is not through with us yet. He is still speaking and willing to reveal far more than any of us can possibly grasp! We are speaking of the God of ALL GRACE who sits on The THRONE OF GRACE. Grace is part of the very nature of God. God is Love. God is Holy. God is also Grace. If we can but grasp this fundamental reality, our entire world view may experience a radical transformation.

In effect, when we receive Jesus into our hearts, we receive all that He represents – His Person, Nature and Kingdom! Religion shrinks at this very thought while its opposite, the pseudo-kingdom gospel squirms because there will be no room to manipulate a saint who catches this revelation which screams out of the pages of scripture.

John 1:11-12 (King James Version)

11He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

If you are genuinely saved, Grace is right within you, even the nature and power to be a son of God! What the Lord would have you do is to proceed to burn the bridge with your former life represented by your ambitions, priorities, preferences and inclinations.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (King James Version)

17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The call of Grace is a call to go beyond the entry point of salvation if you are an Evangelical and in the case of Pentecostalism, go beyond looking for the Power of the Holy Spirit. It is an invitation to take all of God that is on offer to humanity: an exchange of our sin nature for His Holy nature and our inclination for works and struggle to survive, inherited from Adam to enter into the rest of Grace purchased for us in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4: 1-3,9-11

1Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

9There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

No one who insists on living the normal human life can enter into this rest. The invitation of Grace hinges on going beyond the free gift of salvation to burn the bridge of doubt and self help to cast ourselves entirely into the hands of the living God in a child like trust in His divine providence which takes care of every situation and every need of our lives. That trusting totally in God is called total consecration and primal commitment to live for Him and not ourselves.

Matthew 11:28-30

28Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

Romans 12

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.

When we thus make Him and His Kingdom the prime pursuit of our lives, we come into a new reality. In this reality, it is ALL of and by Grace. It is an incredible exchange God offers us: Make Me and My Kingdom the core of your life while I take care of all of your needs!

Matthew 6:25-34 (King James Version)

25Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We need the sufficiency of Grace to communicate the gospel of the Kingdom. We also need Grace to communicate with our spouses, children, parents and other family. We also need His Grace to share certain kinds of information with some kind of people. We need Grace for each new day, week, month and year. We need Grace to handle certain kinds of situations.

Show me a home where there is constant friction. In that place, no one wants to pay the price to be the conduit of Grace! Show me a crumbling marriage of two saints and the core issue is that both or at least one has refused to walk in Grace! Grace manifests as love, mercy and unmerited favour. These three are but faces of Grace! Grace overcomes evil with good and is unperturbed by reactions from ungrateful people.

Ultimately, the grand plan of God is to have a global community of Grace called The Church on this side of eternity. Our local assemblies are not to be defined by size of income, beauty of architecture or size of crowd. No, they are to simply be communities of Grace where the Love, Unmerited Favour and Mercy of God is constantly impressed by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of saints who in turn express same to build up one another!

I do not know of you but the truth is that I am what I am entirely by the Grace of God. The God of Grace is also manifests in His patience. He had called me since I had any consciousness of the world beyond the physical. My response was to seek Him in religion when I became a Mass server at the local parish in 1970. Between 1973 – 1977, I felt Him prompting me, trying to reveal Himself to me. Unfortunately, my response was to seek Him through books and magazines published by World-wide Church of God notably, Plain Truth. By 1977, I stopped attending religious services altogether in the Roman Catholic Church, exasperated by the sheer hypocrisy of the system. For 11 more years, I just read up anything of God I could on God and religion. The vacuum still existed in my heart. I answered a few altar calls in a living Church at the invitation of a young Lady, Joyce Amanze, who I met in College. 23 years ago, to this day (April 1, 1988) the God of All Grace finally arrested me with the loop of His unmerited favour!

The show business impresario had an unforgettable encounter with the King, even Jesus Christ that is still very vivid and will remain so until I see Him in glory. For whom much was forgiven, Jesus said, to love much is made possible, by His Grace! We shall yet find time to share of the incredible riches of His Grace where in we stand.

## Questions

Please feel free to post your questions on the discussion board in our group page on face book and we will make every honest effort to answer them! If it's of a private nature, kindly post them into the message box or via email.

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