

THE GRACE OF GOD

Defining Grace

FOUNDATION STATEMENT: If we fail to fully know what the grace of God is we will fail to experience its fullness in our lives

I. Defining Grace? When you fail to fully know what a thing is, you miss out on all it can do

- A. We haven't fully know what the grace of God is & missed out on all it can do
 - 1. Galatians 2:21-Don't frustrate the grace of God (**Frustrate**-Set aside, disregard, thwart the efficacy of anything, nullify, make void, refuse, despise)
 - a. You can choke God's grace in our life and stop it's operation in your life
 - b. I want to walk in the fullness of God's grace and miss out on nothing
 - 2. EX: The minister that brought the hummer to a family in a third world country; they had to walk five miles everyday to get water. He showed them the hummer, showed them it had a DVD player, air conditioning, how you could lay the seats back etc. He came back a few months later and saw that family sitting in the hummer watching a DVD, with the seats laid back, and the air conditioning on. It was time for them to get water and then grabbed the buckets and started heading towards it on foot and he said what are doing? The explained they were going to get water.
 - a. They didn't fully know what that hummer was & missed out on all it could do
 - 3. Most people's definitions of grace are not incorrect they're incomplete
 - a. Grace is one of the biggest words in the NT & cannot be defined by one phrase
- B. (1) **Grace Is:** Good will, loving-kindness, favor; the friendly nature from which the kind act proceeds; there is stress on its freeness
 - 1. Ephesians 2:8-Grace is a free gift that cannot be earned; you can't earn what's free
 - 2. James 1:17-Anything good in your life came from God & it was an act of his grace
 - a. The healing, the money, the victory, the peace, etc was all his grace; it is God showing you goodwill, loving-kindness, and favor that is free
- C. (2) **Grace is:** That which gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, loveliness
 - 1. When something gives you joy, pleasure, delight; when things are sweet and lovely that is the grace of God (2 Cor 9:6-15)
- D. (3) **Grace Is:** The spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace
 - 1. God can minister grace to you (be gracious to you) & His grace can be on you
 - a. Grace is a divine enablement that can be **ON** a person
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 15:10-He credits who he was to the grace of God that was on him
- E. (4) **Grace Is:** The (benefit) advantage in life

1. **Benefit**-Act of kindness where favor is given; to do good, gain an advantage, advance in prosperity
2. **Advantage**-Any state or condition favorable to success or prosperity – superiority
3. 2 Cor 2:11-Satan's looking 4 an advantage over u; grace gives u the advantage
 - a. Romans 5:20-Satan has no answer for the grace of God working in your life
 - 1) Sin (Satan's work) was abounding, but it was still no match for grace
 - a) On Satan's best day He's still no match for the grace of God
 - 2) Grace came right over the top of sin and trumped it

II. People have limited the grace of God to something that takes place at salvation and they've failed to walk in "grace to live" or "everyday grace"

- A. Ephesians 2-Grace doesn't stop at salvation, Grace begins with salvation
 1. 1-3-Everything you did God hated and despised
 2. 4-God is rich in mercy (Good thing because we put it to the test)
 - a. There is no shortage of mercy in God
 - b. God showing mercy is an act of grace & there's no shortage of Grace in God
 3. 5-God made us alive together with Christ this is when grace saved us
 - a. Ephesians 1:7-We have forgiveness of sins according to His grace; that's one thing the riches of His grace did in our lives; but that alone does not define it
 - b. The grace of God is so much more than the forgiveness of sin; it is the healing of your body, the renewing of your mind, the strengthening of your spirit, the provision in your finances, the love in your relationships, and the divine empowerment to accomplish any task whether it be possible or impossible-You were forgiven by grace, but the Grace of God is ready to do so much more in your life. Don't limit the grace of God.
 4. 6-He raised us up together & made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - a. AMP-He gave us joint-seating; He made us a joint-heir with Jesus (Rom 8:17)
 - b. Hebrews 1:2-Jesus is the heir of all things and I'm a joint-heir with him
 - c. I'm seated with him far above all principality, power, might, dominion (Eph 1:18)
 5. 7-He saved us by grace and raised us up and made us sit together with Jesus so that he could show us the exceeding riches of His grace (MORE GRACE)
 - a. God is Grace, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Grace and therefore His grace is unlimited so why limit it to one thing
 - b. Salvation is not the end of God's grace, it's only the beginning of it
 - c. It was never God's intention that grace would stop at salvation; he wants to show you more grace; he wants to show you the exceeding abundant wealth and riches and fullness of his grace
 - 1) He wants to you to sit down next to him so he can show you the abundance of His grace in your spirit, in your soul, in your body, in your relationships and in your finances

6. 8-By grace are you saved
 - a. All wholeness and deliverance for any suffering person (in any area of life whether it be spiritual, physical, financial, or social) is a result of working grace which only responds to working faith
 - b. It is always an act of God's grace and it's always received by faith
 7. 10-The good life is the one in which the exceeding riches of his grace is manifesting
 - a. The saved by grace life is the good life
- B. Hebrews 12:25-Grace can't stop at or be defined by salvation; U need grace 2 live everyday
1. The Kingdom of God is a new system, a new government, a new reality and it rules over all (Psalm 103)]
 - a. There's a new way to live
 2. There's an acceptable way to talk, to act, to think, to live
 - a. You can talk, act, think and live in a way that pleases him or displeases Him
 3. Grace is the only means by which we will live a life that is acceptable to God
 - a. I need grace to walk in love, to live by faith, to win the battle in the mind, to be thankful, to walk in the spirit and not yield to the flesh, to forgive, to not judge, to say the right things, to act the right way, to obey God
 4. You don't wait until you feel graced to start acting; one of the main ways you get into grace is you start doing-Acts 14:26
 - a. Grace is for doing
 - 1) Some people want grace, but don't want to do anything until grace comes
 - 2) Grace to help you to do that is not received by asking, it's received by faith and faith acts
 - b. Grace is for doing and you won't see the grace to do something until you start doing it
 - 1) It's the step of faith in which you begin to do that will launch you into the grace to do
 - 2) The more steps of faith you take the greater grace you walk in
 5. Everything that God has for you to do His Word, there's grace available to do
 - a. If you're struggling it's because grace is absent; Grace will remove the struggle
 - b. Matthew 11:30-Jesus' yoke is easy is burden is light
- C. Grace doesn't enable you to struggle through life, it enables you to power through life no matter what the situation
1. Grace is a thriving force, not a surviving force-Romans 4:20
 - a. Abraham didn't struggle through this, he was strong in faith
 - b. He was graced to stand in faith
 2. People who walking in grace aren't struggling they're pressing on-Lk 22:43

- a. 42-When he took this step of faith he got into grace and that grace enabled him to pressure his pressure and not give in and quit when the temptation was so great to do so; you don't wait for grace, you take the step of faith
- b. It would be unacceptable to God for Jesus to yield to this pressure; Grace enabled him to live acceptably

III. The grace of God is the answer to every question, the solution to every problem, the provision to meet every need

A. 2 Cor 9:8-Grace will leave u always having more than enough no matter the need

- 1. AMP-Whatever the need-Grace is transforming, changing force; Grace as the ability to become whatever you need it to become; it has the ability to transform into whatever you need it to be

B. Hebrews 4:16-In anytime of need (no matter what he need is) you need grace to HELP

1. Grace will **help**

- a. To aid; to assist
- b. To lend strength or means towards effecting a purpose; (*as, to help a man in his work; to help one to pay his debts; to help the memory or the understanding.*)
- c. To lend means of deliverance; as, to *help* one in difficulty or distress;
- d. To relieve; to cure, or to diminish pain or disease.
- e. To remedy; to change for the better.
- f. To prevent; to hinder
- g. To advance
- h. To promote
- i. To deliver from difficulty
- j. To help over, to enable to overcome; as, to *help* one over a difficulty.
- k. To help off, to remove by help;
- l. To help to supply with; to furnish with.
- m. To help out, to lend aid; to bring a supply.
- n. That which gives assistance; that which contributes to advance a purpose

2. In the time of need you need grace to help

- a. In the time of need you don't need to go to any person, anything, to medicine, or to the economy b/c you're not going to find grace there
- b. In the time of need you, you need to look to God b/c that's where to find grace
 - 1) In the time of need you need to go where grace is
 - 2) God is the source of grace and if you need grace to help go to the source
- c. Make His grace your aim in life because once grace helps you win