

PRIVILEGED “God’s Favor Is for Everyone” December 16, 2018

Grace isn’t something we cease to experience after being born again, but it’s available to us for the entirety of our whole Christian walk.

*Jesus “offers” us **MORE grace** so we can draw upon His love, empowerment, & ability. But we have to **receive** it & grow in it.*

4 Ways to Receive More of God’s Grace & Grow in God’s Grace

#1 FAITH

Romans 5:1 Since we’ve been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 **Because of our faith**, Christ has brought us into this place of **undeserved privilege** where we now stand...

Ephesians 2:8 NKJV By **grace** you’ve been saved **through faith**, & that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

His grace offers Himself & His favor; but our faith accepts/receives Him.

Grace is God granting the provision

Faith enables us to access the provision

*“You have access to **God’s grace** through **your faith** in Him”*

Grace is Jesus saying “I provide”; Faith is us saying “I receive”

Grace says “Because I love you, I have provided for you”

Faith says “Because You love me, I believe & receive Your provision”

#2 THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

2 Peter 1:2 May God give you **more and more grace** and peace as you grow in your **knowledge of God** and Jesus our Lord.

*Not just accumulating facts & information about Jesus;
but knowing God in a personal & intimate way – a heart experience.*

Philippians 3:8a Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... **10a** I want to know Christ & experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead.

Paul prayed:

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He'll empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. **17** Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love & keep you strong. **18** May you have the power to understand, ..., how wide, long, high, & deep His love is.

#3 HUMILITY

James 4:6 He gives grace generously. As Scriptures say, "God opposes (resists/goes against) the proud but gives grace to the humble." **7** So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. **8** Come close to God, & God will come close to you...

God resists the prideful, arrogant person who says, "I can do it on my own, I don't need God, I can do it by myself" – Pride is sin.

As long as you acknowledge your need for Him, You'll continue to enjoy, experience & benefit from His grace growing inside you.

#4 BOLDNESS

"Boldness is confidence based on God, arrogance is pride based on self."

Hebrews 4:14 TPT We must cling in faith to all we know to be true. We have a magnificent King-Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who rose into the heavenly realm for us, & now sympathizes with us in our frailty. **15** He understands humanity, for as a Man, our magnificent King-Priest was

tempted in every way just as we are, & conquered sin.¹⁶ Now we come freely & boldly to where love is enthroned, to receive mercy's kiss & discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our weakness.

We're invited to a throne of grace! Not judgement.

*Will we find criticism or fault-finding or condemnation? **NO!!***

Peter's response to the religious leaders:

Acts 4:12 "There's salvation in no one else! God's given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." ¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter & John, they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

Later, after they left & went back to the others, they gathered...

Acts 4:31 MSG While they were praying (*going to the throne of grace*), the place where they were meeting trembled & shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit & continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence...³³ The apostles gave powerful witness (boldness) to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, & grace was on all of them.

*"Boldness isn't based on your feelings.
Boldness is founded on trusting in God's character"*

GRACE IN ACTION

To those who are without God, empty, down, or without hope, grace is the unconditional love of God offering the gift of forgiveness & eternal life.

To every prodigal who walked away from the Father's good plan-

grace is the opportunity for complete restoration and another chance.

To Christians overwhelmed with the pressures & problems of life, **grace** is the continuous infusion of power & strength; it's God's sufficiency to bring you victoriously through life's challenges.

To believers struggling with habits, bondages, & sins of the flesh, **grace** is not only a release from guilt, condemnation & shame, but it's empowerment to rise above the power of sin & walk worthy of the calling of God.

To you who are struggling financially, **grace** is God as Jehovah Jireh-the Lord our Provider. Grace reveals God's love for us & by His grace, all of our needs can be met & we can be generous toward others.

To individuals wondering if your lives can be productive, **grace** imparts spiritual gifts & abilities, equipping you with tools for effective service.

Grace inspires how we live for Him & empowers us to carry out the responsibilities we were created to fulfill.

Grace helps us to become everything God has ordained us to become and to do the things He has called us to do.

Grace is a launching pad that propels us into a life of obedience & a catalyst enabling us to fulfill all God has planned & desires in our lives.

I pray that we would cease striving in the flesh, and may we experience and enjoy the grace-based life He has ordained for us.

As our lives are totally connected to Jesus, we can say what Paul said:
1 Corinthians 15:10 TPT God's amazing grace has made me who I am!
And His grace to me was not fruitless. In fact, I worked harder than all

the rest, yet not in my own strength but God's, for His empowering grace is poured out upon me.

“Dear Jesus, I thank You that I have received wave after wave of your overflowing grace. I receive your grace by faith, & I thank You that Your grace is multiplied to me through knowing You. I recognize that I can do nothing without You, and I know that as I humble myself before You, I thank You that You give me even more grace. I thank You that I don't have to feel inferior or unworthy before You, and that You've invited me to come boldly to Your throne of grace to obtain mercy & to find grace to help me in my times of need. I want to be like You Jesus, full of grace in my heart & on my lips. Thank You Father, that I'm a grace child of a gracious God. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.”