

# Guided by Grace

When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for his time, that is a wage. When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that is a prize. When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an award. But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award--yet receives such a gift anyway--that is a good picture of God's unmerited favor. This is what we mean when we talk about the grace of God.

G.W. Knight, Clip-Art Features for Church Newsletters, p. 53.

## I. Grace Demonstrated

### What is Grace?

Vines Dictionary states that grace is “on the part of the bestower, the friendly disposition from which the kindly act proceeds, graciousness, loving-kindness, good will generally, especially with reference to the divine favor or grace. In this respect there is stress on its freeness and universality, its spontaneous character, as in the case of God’s redemptive mercy, and the pleasure or joy He designs for the recipient; thus it is set in contrast with debt (Romans 4:4, 16) with works (Romans 11:6), and with the law (John 1:17).

### A Key Attribute of God

**Exodus 34:6–7 KJV 1900**

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and

truth,

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

## It was Demonstrated in the Old Testament

**Deuteronomy 7:7–8 KJV 1900**

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

## It is Revealed through Christ

The grace of God was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace

**Luke 2:40 KJV 1900**

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

He was also its very embodiment

**John 1:14 KJV 1900**

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.

Bringing it to human kind for salvation

**Titus 2:11 KJV 1900**

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is through the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

**Acts 15:11 KJV 1900**

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

**Romans 3:24 KJV 1900**

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

**Romans 3:28 KJV 1900**

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Paul makes it abundantly clear that salvation is not something that can be earned; it can be received only as a gift of grace.

**Romans 4:4 KJV 1900**

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

In fact, if we attempt to add anything to salvation, then we frustrate the Grace of God.

**Galatians 2:21 KJV 1900**

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

The term *frustrate* is from the Greek word *atheteo* which means “to do away with, to set aside, disregard”.

**Galatians 2:16 KJV 1900**

Knowing 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.

## II. Grace Demanded

### Grace in Forgiveness

**Ephesians 4:32 KJV 1900**

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

**Ephesians 5:21 KJV 1900**

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

### Grace By Serving

**John 13:12–15 KJV 1900**

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

**Mark 10:31 KJV 1900**

But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last first.

# Grace through Loving

**John 13:34–35 KJV 1900**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**1 Peter 4:10 KJV 1900**

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

In his book, *Guided by Grace* Paul Chappell explains, “Because grace is the inner working and development of the Holy Spirit, only those who have been born again by the Spirit of God can attain the privilege of serving as a leader. This service begins with worship, and ministry to others is merely an extension of our worship of Him...When growth in God’s grace is absent from our lives, it is impossible to exhibit His love before a world that is weary of power politics and fleshly leadership.”

**Titus 2:10 KJV 1900**

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

## Conclusion

“The plague of the generations is service and ministry that do not flow from a heart of grace, from a heart that knows Him. The result is that the world and the church do not see a genuine Christian experience in the lives of those who bear the name of Christ.” (Chappell, Paul. *Guided by Grace*. P. 21)

**1 Peter 2:20 KJV 1900**

For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.

Today, God offers for you to be the recipient of His grace. He extends it freely, and invites you to put your faith in Christ and accept the free gift of Grace today.

When you put your faith in Christ, His grace is freely given so that you might be saved!

**Ephesians 2:8–9 KJV 1900**

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

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

It is not about what you do, but about what He has done! I urge you to call upon Him as your saviour and be saved today. We are not promised a tomorrow, nor another day, nor another hour. But at this moment, God is reaching out to you to say, Come and receive grace by putting your faith in Christ today.