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Power of Grace

Grace is greater than all our sin



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The Power of Grace

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Introduction:

Upon hearing the word grace what immediately comes to mind? The average evangelical probably thinks of two words: “unmerited favor.” Protestants have been conditioned to think of grace in the context of a previous salvation experience that impacts the destiny of the believer after this life. When we hear the word “grace” our attention is drawn to this famous verse written by the apostle Paul.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

But, did the authors of the Bible intend to restrict our understanding and application of grace to the context of a past salvation event only applied to future salvation destiny after this life? Evangelicals have allowed a centuries’ past theological debate to restrict the practical application of grace in the present. There is so much more to grace than has been taught by leadership. This document seeks to explore the deeper and more practical application of in the present.

Session 1: Greater Definition of Grace

When the average person hears the word grace what immediately comes to mind? The average person probably thinks of a graceful performer such as a famous ice skater or ballet dancer. Audiences will allocate great resources to see such demonstrations of extraordinary grace. Movements are carefully choreographed in unity and harmony often with music to portray a story that touches emotions ministering to the soul. Precision leaps and jumps leave the audience breathless wanting more. Though performers make the movements look easy those movements require years of training and practice. Not everyone is gifted in ways to pull off the beautiful performance.

What does the secular picture of grace have to do with the Biblical view of grace? Biblical grace is not only similar to joining a team and dreaming about someday getting gold medal. Biblical grace is also about the process of training putting together into practice graceful movements taught along the way. Many Christians are wanting the gold medal without having to practice graceful movements in the present. How can you put into practice what you have not been taught? This document seeks to teach you more fundamentals about the power of grace for application in the present.

What is the greater definition of grace as described in the Word of God? To bring out the deeper, fuller and more practical meaning of grace let us start by describing not one but rather four theologically accepted definitions of grace. Grace is the “undeserved favor of God” towards sinful humanity. Grace is “the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.” Grace is “the influence of God upon the heart.” Grace is “the ability of God to produce His intended outcome.” To help bring out this fuller meaning of grace we will read each of these definitions into the famous text from Ephesians frequently quoted by evangelicals today.

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Grace is the “Undeserved Favor of God”:

While humanity was yet rebellious legally deserving the wrath of God, not only did God extend mercy (not giving humanity what they deserved) but He also extended grace (giving humanity more than they deserved). Those who have partaken of this grace through faith in God’s promise extended through Abraham to those who believe have received not only the mercy of forgiveness but also the grace of an eternal relationship with the Creator. This grace was given not based upon the works of mankind but entirely upon the nature of God and the finished atoning and redeeming work through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 For by (**undeserved favor**) you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Grace is the “Finished Work of Jesus Christ:

One important aspect of the good news of the grace of God is that the work has been finished. On the cross Jesus declared this saying “it is finished” (John 19:30). This is why we are called in water baptism to identify ourselves with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For, the apostle Paul wrote “We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” (Romans 6:6); and, “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2); and the apostle Peter wrote “God has given us everything necessary for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). Paul shared that this grace was given that we might be able to “walk in the good works which God prepared beforehand” (Ephesians 2:10). Therefore, this finished work of Jesus enables the believer to step back into the purpose, timeline and destiny prepared for us from before the foundation of the world.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 For by (**the finished work of Jesus Christ**) you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Grace is “Divine Influence upon the Heart”:

Grace involves the placing of the seal of God upon the believer and the Spirit of God into our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:22; Galatians 4:6), the writing of God’s Word onto the tablets of our human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3), the shining of God’s light into our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:6), the enlightening of the very eyes of our heart regarding our inheritance (Ephesians 1:18), the giving of the peace to guard our hearts in Christ (Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15), the discerning of the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12), the writing of God’s laws upon our hearts (Hebrews 8:10,10:16), and the purification of our hearts (James 4:8).

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*Ephesians 2:8-10 For by (**divine influence upon the heart**) you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Grace is the “Ability of God”:

Grace is best understood not as a religious end goal or philosophy but as a practical instrument of God’s empowerment. God empowers salvation deliverance from the presence and power of sin. Grace empowers the process of sanctification becoming more like Jesus Christ. God empowers the production of the full basket of spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Attempting to accomplish that good works that God prepared beforehand from of the power of our flesh produces nothing of eternal value. But, walking in the power of the grace of God’s ability brings into earthly reality our heavenly inheritance in Christ. The grace of God’s ability is the power behind our walk of faith.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by (**the ability of God**) you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Therefore, by accepting the greater definition of grace disciples come out of the paradigm grid that restricts them from experiencing the power of grace in the present through faith.

Session 2: Origin and Source of Grace

Scriptures teach that the grace and truth of God were fully demonstrated from, though, and in the person of Jesus Christ. For, the Word became flesh and dwelt among mankind as Immanuel, God with us, enabling and fulfilling the purposes and plans of God for humanity.

John 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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Session 3: Grace Connected to the Past

God, who is essentially spiritual Light, who is named the Father of lights, and Jesus who is named the Light of the World, and the Holy Spirit who indwells believers enlightening their hearts, these Three in One, created humans in His image, being His workmanship, both male and female, in foreknowledge, predestination and consecration appointed from before the creation of the world for a purpose to conform to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ, to perform the will of God in the assigned timeline and to fulfill the works of God prepared beforehand for His children to walk in. This grace of God therefore extends all the way back to the beginning before the very dimension of time came into existence.

1 John 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

James 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

John 8:12 (ESV) ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ephesians 1:15-21 (ESV) ¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV) ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Romans 8:28-30 (ESV) ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

1 Peter 1:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

2 Timothy 1:9 (ESV) ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Session 4: Grace Connected to the Future

The amazing grace of God extends not only from eternity past into the present but also into eternity future as expressed through our inheritance in Jesus Christ. Scriptures command believers to set their hope on the grace to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Angels have been assigned to serve believers who by grace will receive this imperishable, undefiled and unfading inheritance stored up in heaven for those who are protected by God’s power. But, don’t be deceived into thinking that this inheritance will be received through empty words by sons of disobedience. Though God is merciful and gracious He is also righteous and just. Grace was not given as an excuse for sin but rather that believers might walk in grace unto good works prepared beforehand. Believers have to walk by grace through faith unto the good works prepared beforehand that result in abounding gracious inheritance to those who love God. Works of the flesh will not be rewarded.

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) ¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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Titus 3:7 (ESV) ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 4:13 (ESV) ¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Ephesians 3:6 (ESV) ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Hebrews 9:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...

Galatians 3:29 (ESV) ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Ephesians 2:7 (ESV) ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

James 2:5 (ESV) ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

Galatians 5:19-23 (ESV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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Session 5: Grace Connected to the Present

While grace was established in eternity past in the nature of God, while at the right time the fullness of grace and truth stepped into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, while the grace of God is reserved and extended throughout future ages into eternity through our inheritance in Christ, this same grace is given to empower believers in the present for overcoming sin and for walking in the works God prepared beforehand extending spiritual fruit through the Holy Spirit to others for more thanksgiving and glory unto God. God extends this grace in the present season to restore, confirm, strengthen and establish believers through human weakness. Therefore, to receive the inheritance promised in the past and reserved in heaven for the future believers have to appropriate grace throughout the present.

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Ephesians 2:5 (ESV) ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Romans 5:20-21 (ESV) ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 8:37-39 (ESV) ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1 Timothy 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

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2 Corinthians 4:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Session 6: Grace Connected to Identity

When a sinner places his or her faith in the grace of God through the finished atoning work of Jesus Christ (His death, burial and resurrection on the third day), the Father immediately makes that person into a new creation, identifies that person into the body of Jesus Christ, regenerates the human spirit causing the person to be “born again” and connects his or her spirit to the indwelling Holy Spirit who by grace empowers the humble not only for justification but also for sanctification and glorification to fulfill the works prepared beforehand unto inheritance.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV) ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (ESV) ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Corinthians 6:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

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Acts 2:38 (ESV) ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

James 4:5 (ESV) ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

James 4:6 (ESV) ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Titus 3:7 (ESV) ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Ephesians 5:26 (ESV) ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Romans 8:30 (ESV) ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Therefore, the believer has a new identity grounded and growing the spirit of light and grace. Believers need to perceive and project their new identity in the light and grace of God. For, every good and perfect gift comes through the grace of God through the Holy Spirit enlightening the eyes of our heart towards the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints causing us to overflow with love for Jesus and for the saints, to steward our spiritual gifts for service, to shine as lights in this world, and to extend the work of grace unto completion. The grace of God empowers the believer for a present lifestyle of overcoming and finishing what God planned beforehand unto ultimate completion.

James 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Philippians 4:23 (ESV) ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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Ephesians 1:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 6:24 (ESV) ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

1 Timothy 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Romans 12:6 (ESV) ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophesy, in proportion to our faith;

Colossians 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

2 Corinthians 8:7 (ESV) ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Philippians 2:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

2 Peter 3:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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Philippians 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Session 7: Grace Connected to Spiritual Gifts

I believe that walking in the good works that God prepared beforehand is directly connected to discerning, developing and deploying spiritual gifts from the Father, from the Holy Spirit and from the Son fulfilling His plans and purposes. Now, I understand that there is a wide spectrum of beliefs regarding the spiritual gifts from cessationism all the way to sensationalism. I am not trying to debate any particular denomination's doctrinal distinctions. At the end of the day each person is going to behave according to their subconscious beliefs, anyway. Instead, the purpose of this session is simply to present Biblical data points. You may draw your own conclusions. First, I would like to point out the fact that in Greek the words for "grace" (χάρις) and "gift" (χάρισμα) come from the same root. Second, I would like to point out the fact that the grace of God is sufficient and that His power is made perfect through human weakness. "For, when we are weak then God is strong." The good works that God prepared beforehand must be accomplished not by human strength or will power but rather by grace through faith. The fruits of the Spirit are accomplished by grace through faith in humility. Third, I would like to point out the fact that God gives the believer everything necessary for life and godliness. God gives everything including grace, love, salvation, sanctification, spiritual fruit, eternal life, resources, spiritual armor, inheritance, etc. Would it be any shock that God would also give spiritual gifts to accomplish His purposes through His people? Take off your denominational lenses and look intently into the Word of God below regarding the grace of God given through spiritual gifts:

The Father imparts these gifts to motivate people to His redemptive purposes

Romans 12:3-8 (ESV) ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Holy Spirit imparts these gives to manifest the works of God for the common good of the body:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (ESV) ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the

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interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Jesus Christ imparts these gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry to build up His body:

Ephesians 4:8, 10-14 (ESV) ⁸ Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men...” ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

The authors of the New Testament acknowledged the power of grace working through spiritual gifts. These spiritual grace gifts originated from God to empower service but also were imparted through certain individuals for the purposes of mutually strengthening and encouraging faith among members of the body of Christ.

Romans 1:11-12 (ESV) ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

Session 8: Grace Connected to Spiritual Power

Grace provides spiritual power not only for predetermined purposes, salvation, justification, overcoming sin, sanctification, bearing spiritual fruit and demonstrating spiritual gifts but also for spiritual power over demons and also demonstrations of signs and wonders.

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Mark 16:15-18 (ESV) ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Believers have access to the throne of grace to help in time of need:

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God multiplies both grace and peace unto believers:

1 Peter 1:2 (ESV) ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Believers should set their hope on the grace to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) ¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God's grace gifts produce signs and wonders and miracles:

Hebrews 2:4 (ESV) ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Session 9: Grace Connected to Inheritance

There is a connection between the grace of God and inheritance in Christ. The mechanics work this way. From before the creation of the world God planned each individual for an eternal inheritance that would be based upon their particular timeline, location, design, responsibilities and spiritual empowerment. Satan's deception resulted in sin, transgression and iniquity that separated individuals from that inheritance. The grace of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ restored access to that inheritance. But, the fullness of inheritance must be appropriated by walking in the Spirit unto those good works that were prepared beforehand. In other words, the more that believers walk by grace through faith in the promises of God, the more access they have to the rewards of eternal inheritance. You can by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ receive eternal life and then stop at that part of your inheritance. But, you can step out in faith by grace into other areas of calling, gifting, purpose and destiny to receive further eternal rewards or crowns extending above and beyond eternal life. This is why Jesus spoke words like “blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.” Those are literal promises. The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom.

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Ephesians 1:11-14 (ESV) ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Acts 20:32 (ESV) ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Titus 3:7 (ESV) ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 5:5 (ESV) ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 19:29 (ESV) ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 25:34 (ESV) ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV) ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

The Power of Grace

Session 10: How to Appropriate more Grace

Grace is wholly undeserved and is received not by works but through faith and humility. By grace you have been saved through faith... not by works, so that nobody can boast. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and He will lift you up at the proper time. There is more grace to be appropriated through faith, humility, prayer, walking in the Spirit, worship, the Word, witness, etc.

Romans 5:2 (ESV) ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

James 4:6 (ESV) ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Acts 4:31 (ESV) ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Psalms 86:6 (ESV) ⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Romans 8:26 (ESV) ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 12:1 (ESV) ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Acts 13:2 (ESV) ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 20:32 (ESV) ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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Acts 14:3 (ESV) ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Conclusion:

This study on grace serves as a modular launch into a deeper phase of our relationship with God. By overcoming through grace the Lord opens many doors of possibilities not only for this life but also in the life to come.