

Amazing Grace

The Christian journey always turns difficult when we attempt to travel God's road in our own strength. If we are going to get to the place that God has prepared for us, we are going to need God's help. Positive thinking, self-help books and so-called expert opinions won't cut it. If you're finding your walk with God a bit too hard, that may be a signal that you are toiling in your own strength instead of operating in God's grace.

Although there have been countless sermons preached and books written about the grace of God, the struggles in our lives reveal that we often miss it. Ask just about any church-going Christian to define God's grace, and you're likely to hear that it is God's "unmerited favor." That is certainly true – when God bestows His grace upon us, He is giving us what we do not deserve. Our very lives are a testament to God's grace (or favor).

Paul says the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). David spoke for us all when he said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). Put it together and it becomes abundantly clear that unholy, sinful man 'deserves' death. Yet God, through His grace, not only gives us life here on earth, but offers us eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. Amazing grace indeed! Yet, as great as this is, there is so much more we need to understand about God's grace.

In addition to being unmerited favor, God's grace is *power*. Ephesians 2:8 says it is by grace that we are saved through faith. Every person was born in sin, and as we discussed, sin leads to death, which is eternal separation from God. Once we put our faith in Jesus, however, it is the grace of God that pulls us out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). It is God's grace that rescues us from Satan's death grip; that takes us off the road of condemnation to the pathway of eternal salvation. It takes mighty power to do all that. God's grace is that power!

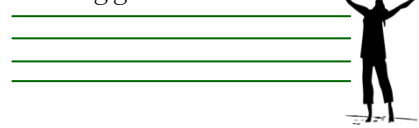
God's grace is also our *help*, a help that is available to us anytime we need it. In Psalm 46:10, the psalmist declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." When we find ourselves in a tight spot of whatever kind, we can approach God with confidence that He will be there and He will help us by His grace. This is why Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." God's help is ours for the asking. This, too, is the grace of God.

God's grace is also *sufficient*. In fact, it's more than enough! When you call on the grace of God – His favor, His power and His help – please know that He will give you exactly what you need to overcome the challenge set before you. When Paul was being afflicted by a "thorn in the flesh," and asked for relief, the Lord responded, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). God's grace will sufficiently meet your needs ... and then some.

In the first chapter of John's gospel, we're told that we have received "grace for grace" (John 1:16). The Amplified Version puts it this way: "For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift."

God's grace – His blessing, favor and gifts – are heaped upon us in abundance. It is more than enough to meet our deepest needs.

So the next time you think about God's grace, don't think of it as merely His unmerited favor. It's that and so much more: favor, power, help, blessings and gifts. And all of that is available to you in abundance, just for the asking! Just thinking about that is enough to cause you to give God glory and praise right where you are! So what are you waiting for? Go ahead and shout out glory for God's truly amazing grace! ☺



GRACE AND PEACE, READERS!

Was this newsletter passed on to you? If so, would you like to receive your own copy? Maybe you know someone who might want a copy? How about members of your church or customers in your store or establishment? Would you like to distribute it? Whatever the case, let us know. We'd love to include you in our mailing. **IT'S FREE! IT REALLY IS.** Just log onto: www.ongoodground.org. We'll be waiting for you!



Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psalm 25:5

Answer Key

BIBLE QUIZ

1b (2 Kings 6:5-6)
2a (1 Kings 17:21)
3a (Matthew 12:13)
4b (2 Kings 5:14)
5d (Matthew 17:27)
6b (Mark 7:33-35)
7c (Matthew 21:19)
8d (John 9:6-7)
9b (Acts 9:40)
10c (Acts 3:6-7)



- "Amy and John and family"
Beverlee Antonoff
Joseph Baker and family
Maria G. Bournes
David Brockett
Debbie Brockett
Mark Brockett
Teddi Brockett
Darryl Brown
Henry Brown
Steve Conley, Jr.
Kevin Edwards
Beverly Fannell
- Cathy Fannell
Angelica Hackett
Myra Hackett
Sally Kelly
"Little Frankie"
Jim Livesey
Mrs. Pyllos
Tanya Teal and family
Donna Walter

The Prayer of Salvation

Father God, I come to You in the name of Jesus, and confess my sins before You. You said in Your Word, that there is no one without sin. That all have fallen short of the glory of God. You sent Your Son that through Him I would be saved. I come believing in Your Word, God, and confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and You raised Him from the dead. Forgive me God. Save me, God. Thank You for hearing my prayer. Thank You for covering me in the precious blood of the Lamb. I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and believe that I am now saved and have been born again. I thank You for loving me and coming into my heart right now. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.



A FREE Christian Newsletter distributed by
Minister Jeffery B. Farnell
Sis. Evelyn Farnell

By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

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Mean What You Say

In Ephesians 4:25 NLT, Paul told the church to “stop telling lies.” That’s an amazing directive to give to the people of God. One might ask: why would God’s people have to be told to stop lying? The answer is obvious: because too many of God’s people lie. What a sad testimony when you consider that we serve a God who cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2). Yet, everyday, there are Christians who play fast and loose with the truth in ways great and small. Now, before you remove yourself from such ranks, consider: Have you ever told someone that you would attend their get together or come out for that church function, and even while you were saying it, you *knew* you weren’t going to attend? Has someone ever mistakenly believed that you did something praiseworthy and you failed to correct their mistaken belief? Has someone ever asked for your opinion and you told them something that was nowhere close to what you *really* think? Well, you can say can that you were being “less than truthful,” or some other politically correct phrase, but the fact is, if it’s not the truth, it’s a lie. There’s no getting around it. The Bible says “let your yea be yea; and your nay be nay” (James 5:12; see also Matthew 5:37). In other words, say what you mean and mean what you say. Put yet another way, tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth .. and stop telling lies!! 