

EMBRACING GRACE

Growing together in the grace of God.



Grace defined:

The Greek word for grace, *charis*, is defined as “gracious gift.”

- Jesus is our gracious gift from the Heavenly Father.
- Jesus is our rescue from our hopeless state.
- Jesus is the fullness of God’s love, mercy, and kind favor, given for us to receive.

But there are also more definitions and uses throughout Scripture. According to Strong’s concordance and the Greek Lexicon, here are others:

- from 5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):--acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks).
- that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech
- good will, loving-kindness, favor
- of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues
- the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace
- the token or proof of grace, benefit
- benefit, bounty
- thanks, (for benefits, services, favors), recompense, reward

[John Piper](#) says, “It appears that the word *grace* in Paul’s use not only refers to God’s character trait or disposition or inclination to treat people better than we deserve, but the word *grace* also refers to the action or the power or the influence or the force of this disposition, which produces real, practical outcomes in people’s lives, like being sufficient for good deeds or enduring the thorn in the flesh or working harder than everybody else, which Paul says about his own apostolic work.”

Grace reflected:

Meditate on the truths from these Scriptures (ESV):

- Ephesians 2:8–9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not 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, that we should walk in them.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

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. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Hebrews 4:15–16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 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.

- John 1:16–17

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Read that last verse again. Do you get the magnitude of what grace really means for every believer? We have received the fullness of God’s love, mercy, forgiveness, benefits, inheritance, and kindness through knowing Christ! Let that sink in for a moment. This term, *grace upon grace*, means that blessing is piled on blessing. It’s beyond what our minds can wrap around. Yet this is the character of God at work in our lives.

Reflecting on the magnificent, free gifts of God’s grace will grow us in gratitude and love, leading to greater surrender and trust as we walk by faith.

Grace applied:

As an heir of Christ, we aren't just given grace to be saved from the penalty of death, but we are equipped to do Kingdom work in our place in the world. We are to make disciples, love others, glorify Christ, and create good things in the world. Here is a list of ways that God's kindness is applied to our ongoing growth as Christians. The same grace that saves us, grows us, and keeps us secure until Christ returns.

- Grace provides us access to God to communicate and fellowship with Him ([Ephesians 1:6](#); [Hebrews 4:16](#)).
- Grace provides us with a new relationship of intimacy with God ([Exodus 33:17](#)).
- Grace disciplines and trains us to live in a way that honors God ([Titus 2:11-14](#); [2 Corinthians 8:7](#)).
- Grace grants us immeasurable spiritual riches ([Proverbs 10:22](#); [Ephesians 2:7](#)).
- Grace helps us in our every need ([Hebrews 4:16](#)).
- Grace is the reason behind our every deliverance ([Psalm 44:3-8](#); [Hebrews 4:16](#)).
- Grace preserves, comforts, encourages, and strengthens us ([2 Corinthians 13:14](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#); [2 Timothy 2:1](#)).

I hope that you will take some time to study, meditate on, and share with others about the doctrine of grace. Doing so will change us from the inside out as we become more aware of the sacrifice and love bestowed upon us. It will also help us be discerning in our study of Scripture as we encounter different uses for the word grace and how to apply that to our lives.

I pray that each of us would be filled with the grace and knowledge of Christ and be walking illustrations of His kindness to all those God places in our paths.

In Christ,

Terri Prah

Author/Writer

If you want to spend some time reflecting deeper on the many gifts of God's grace, check out my new book, *Grace: Reflections of a Heart Set on God*. It is 30 daily readings that will point you to set your heart on God anew.



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GRACE: REFLECTIONS OF A HEART SET ON GOD

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