

GRACE

What is Grace?

Eph 2:8 **For by grace you are (being) saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

Does the expression "it is the Gift of God" apply to grace, to salvation or to faith?

Eph 4:7 **But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of (in proportion to) the gift of Christ (which is the gift of God). KJV**

Grace is the gift of God Himself to us, and Christ is to us the knowledge of God:

2 Cor 2:14-15 **...The fragrance of the knowledge of God...the...fragrance of Christ...**

We have as much grace as we have of Christ; we have as much of Christ as we have of grace. Consequently we are not saved when we begin to receive grace, receive Christ, receive God, but we are being saved as we continue to receive more grace:

2 Cor 2:15 **...The fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved...**

Therefore God wants each of us to receive more grace, more of Christ, more of God:

2 Cor 9:8 **God is able to make all grace (all of Himself) abound toward you...**

Rom 5:17 **...Those who receive abundance of grace (abundance of God)...**

Why must I have Grace, and have Grace more abundantly?

Rom 6:14 **Because sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (Sin is self ruling our will and not God - Isaiah 53:6).**

What is the law? Law is the written word of God without the Holy Spirit bringing it to life. Grace, God, Jesus Christ is the word of God made alive and powerful by the Holy Spirit. Sin, self, continues to dominate our will when self is trying to keep God's written word, as under the First Covenant. But when God's written word speaks to our hearts by the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, and becomes real to us, that is the grace by which we are born again and by which we grow in the knowledge of God. This is now the New Covenant. Freedom from sin, self, only comes as I submit to grace, that is, to God.

1 Cor 15:56 **The sting of death (to God) is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.**

2 Pet 3:18 **But grow in grace (that is) in the knowledge of...Jesus Christ...(of God).**

To be under grace is to be under Christ, living under God's control, and freed from self. Now with grace, God, abounding in our hearts we have grace, God, to impart to others:

Eph 4:29 **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but a word good for building others up, that it may impart grace (Christ) to the hearers.**

How do I receive more Grace?

Or, how do I receive more of Christ, more of God? By receiving more of God's words, His words of Grace, and by receiving the Holy Spirit, His Spirit of grace. Together, God's living words and God's Holy Spirit are Jesus Christ, if we no longer know Him after the flesh but after the Spirit, He is the revealed knowledge of God the Father.

Acts 20:32 **...I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified** (and our salvation is through being sanctified - 2 Thess 2:13).

Heb 10:29 **...The Spirit of grace.**

We receive more of God's words, brought and spoken to us by God's Spirit, and we receive the Holy Spirit, by faith, by believing God's words, God's promises. Because as we believe God's living words they impart to us His divine nature, Himself, Grace.

Rom 4:16 **Therefore it is of faith, that it might be (can be) by grace...** KJV

2 Pet 1:3-4 **The knowledge of God...for this reason there are given to us exceedingly great and precious promises (God's words spoken by His Spirit), that by these you may be partakers of the divine nature...**

In what part of me do I receive more Grace?

Where do I receive more of Christ, more of God, in order to be saved from self-will?

Philem 25 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be within your spirit.** Amen.

Col 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...with grace in your hearts...**

Jer 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know Me (not head or physical heart, but spirit)**

Eph 3:17 **So that Christ may live in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (can, by His Spirit, impart Him to others).**

Who does God give more of His Grace, Himself to, so as to save us from ourselves?

1 Peter 5:5 **...All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**

God gives more of Himself to the humble, the God willed, and not the proud, the self willed. Even the meaning of the word "Grace" is hidden from the proud, who think it means unmerited favor, or use it to describe God's apparent providence for them in some way. The truths of God, including Grace, He only reveals to those who humble themselves as His little spiritual children under His complete authority over them.

Matt 11:25 **Jesus...thank you Father for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise, and for revealing it to little children.** TLB