

By Grace We Have Been Saved **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Grace! What a wonderful word! Everyone wants it. In spite of our high opinion of ourselves, no one deserves it. We all have an idea about it, and there is much error taught about it. Some try to make it more than God has made it and others try to make it less than God has made it. If we could just get the Bible “scholars” out of the picture and let us just read what the scriptures say about it, we would be better off. So, let’s explore the Word of God and learn about grace from the teaching of the Father in heaven.

Grace Defined

In the Greek used in writing the New Testament the word for *grace* is *charis* (khar'-ece). It means

1. properly, that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech
2. good-will, loving-kindness, favor
3. what is due to grace
 - a. the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace,
 - b. a token or proof of grace
4. thanks

The word for grace in the Hebrew of the Old Testament carries the same meaning of favor, usually with the idea of favor extended from one superior to an inferior.

Traditionally, people define grace to mean “unmerited gift.” You will notice that the word “unmerited” is not in the definition. However, it is clear from the scripture that the grace which God gives us is unmerited. We cannot earn it. We will show this as we go along in the lesson.

What are some things we should know about grace?

1. Grace was planned by God in Christ before time—II Timothy 1:9
2. Christ tasted death for everyone by grace—Hebrews 2:7
3. Source of grace is Jesus—John 1:16
4. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble—Proverbs 3:34
5. The wicked person doesn’t respond to grace—Isaiah 26:10
6. Grace is good news—Acts 14:26
7. God’s grace expects us to submit to and obey God and to work for Him—Genesis 6:9-22, Acts 14:26, Ephesians 2:10

How does grace help me for salvation?

1. We cannot come into a state of salvation by earning it with works—Romans 4:4, Ephesians 2:8, 9
2. Salvation is grace—Acts 11:23
3. Wages of my sin is death, but God gives the gift of eternal life—Romans 6:23
4. Great sin brings great grace—Romans 5:20
5. We are able to believe through grace—Acts 14:26
6. In Christ we have redemption and forgiveness according to the riches of God’s grace—Ephesians 1:7
7. Grace will finish my salvation—I Peter 1:13
8. Grace is an unmerited, free gift—Romans 3:21-26

How does grace help me live every day?

1. We are justified by grace—Titus 3:7
2. Grace brings us thanksgiving—II Corinthians 4:15
3. Grace makes it possible for us to abound in every good work—II Corinthians 9:8
4. Grace sustains us in infirmities and weaknesses—II Corinthians 12:7-10
5. We have consolation and hope by grace—II Thessalonians 2:16
6. Because of Christ we may at any time approach the throne of grace to receive grace in time of need.
7. Grace can be found in the wilderness—Jeremiah 31:2
8. Word of grace builds us up and gives us an inheritance—Acts 20:32
9. God’s grace is the source of the gifts in my life—Romans 12:6, I Corinthians 1:3, 4
10. Our hearts are strengthened by God’s grace—Hebrews 13:9
11. We can grow in grace and be strong in grace—II Peter 3:18, II Timothy 2:1
12. The more we are willing to submit to God and be humble, the stronger His grace will make us in the fight against the devil—James 4:6-10
13. When we are suffering because of the devil, if we resist and stand firm in faith, after a little while our God of grace will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast—I Peter 5:6-12

How can I use the grace given me for the benefit of others?

1. God gives us the grace to serve others—Hebrews 10:28, I Peter 4:10
2. God gives us grace to preach to others—Romans 1:5, Galatians 2:9
3. God gives us grace to minister—Romans 15:15
4. Husbands can treat their wives with grace so that prayers are not hindered—II Peter 3:7
5. We can speak with grace—Colossians 4:6
6. We can speak the word of wisdom and give grace that way—Proverbs 3:22
7. We can sing with grace—Colossians 3:16
8. We can pray for and wish for grace on others—Romans 1:7
9. The opportunity to give to help others is a grace given to us by God—II Corinthians 8:1-7

Are there any warnings about grace?

1. We must continue in grace—Acts 13:43
2. Grace cannot be used as an excuse for sin—Jude 4, Romans 6:1, 14, 15
3. We are not to insult the spirit of grace—Hebrews 10:29
4. We can fall short of grace—Hebrews 12:15
5. We can fall from grace—Galatians 5:4
6. Grace can be received in vain—II Corinthians 6:1

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.	Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.	The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.	Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.
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By John Newton, 1779