

Testament and ONLY regulate it for sinners before baptism. It seems as if grace is only available for those in sin and that once one obeys the Gospel, he begins to not need the grace of God anymore. Grace DOES NOT STOP AT BAPTISM. Instead, it continues until we die. Thankfully, such is the case, for we sin (1 John 1:8; 2:1) and we need that kindness. While we live as faithful Christians, we should remember that perfection is unattainable. One said, “God doesn’t wait for perfection to grant grace.”[8] Like the teacher who still has much to learn about teaching, the NFL rookie who makes mistakes, and the new parent who should read more parenting books, so does the Christian have much to learn as he walks with Christ. In what ways do Christians have the grace of God?

- *Spiritual blessings* (Ephesians 1:3). They have the blessing of providence, prayer, and people (Christians).
- *Cleansed by the blood of Jesus* (1 John 1:7-9). Children of God are counted righteous, despite their imperfections.[9] As long as they continue to walk in the light, they are constantly cleansed of all sin.
- *Privileged to GROW* (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). The admonition to grow is in vain if perfection were required. God’s grace allows us to grow daily.

Allen Webster said, “When we do our best, His grace makes up for the rest” and another penned, “God will not deny grace to anyone who is doing his best.”[10]

Grace’s Examples.

Both the Old and New Testament give us wonderful examples of grace. Each of the following example has three parts: (1) God’s grace, (2) man’s faith, and (3) man’s obedience.

Noah. He found grace in God’s eyes despite the world’s wickedness.

- *God’s Grace* (Genesis 6:8): God told Him how to build an ark.
- *Noah’s faith* (Hebrews 11:7).
- *Noah’s obedience* (Genesis 6:22).

God’s grace led to Noah’s salvation!

Lot. Despite Sodom’s wickedness, God gave grace to Lot. God destroyed the city, but spared Lot.

- *God’s grace.* The sending of the two men to retrieve him out of the city (Genesis 19:1).
- *Lot’s faith* (Genesis 19:13-14).
- *Lot’s obedience* (Genesis 19:14).

Lot accessed God’s grace through obedient faith and he was saved because of it!

Ahab. Ahab was an evil king (1 Kings 21:25). God’s words through Elijah on one occasion (1 Kings 21:18-24) however, prompted his humility (1 Kings 21:27).

- *God’s grace* (1 Kings 21:29).
- *Ahab’s faith.* He believed the message.
- *Ahab’s obedience.* He humbled himself.

God’s grace was given to Ahab.

God’s grace is such a wonderful part of who He is and we can be so thankful that it has been given to us. What better way to receive grace than from the throne of grace itself (Hebrews 4:16).

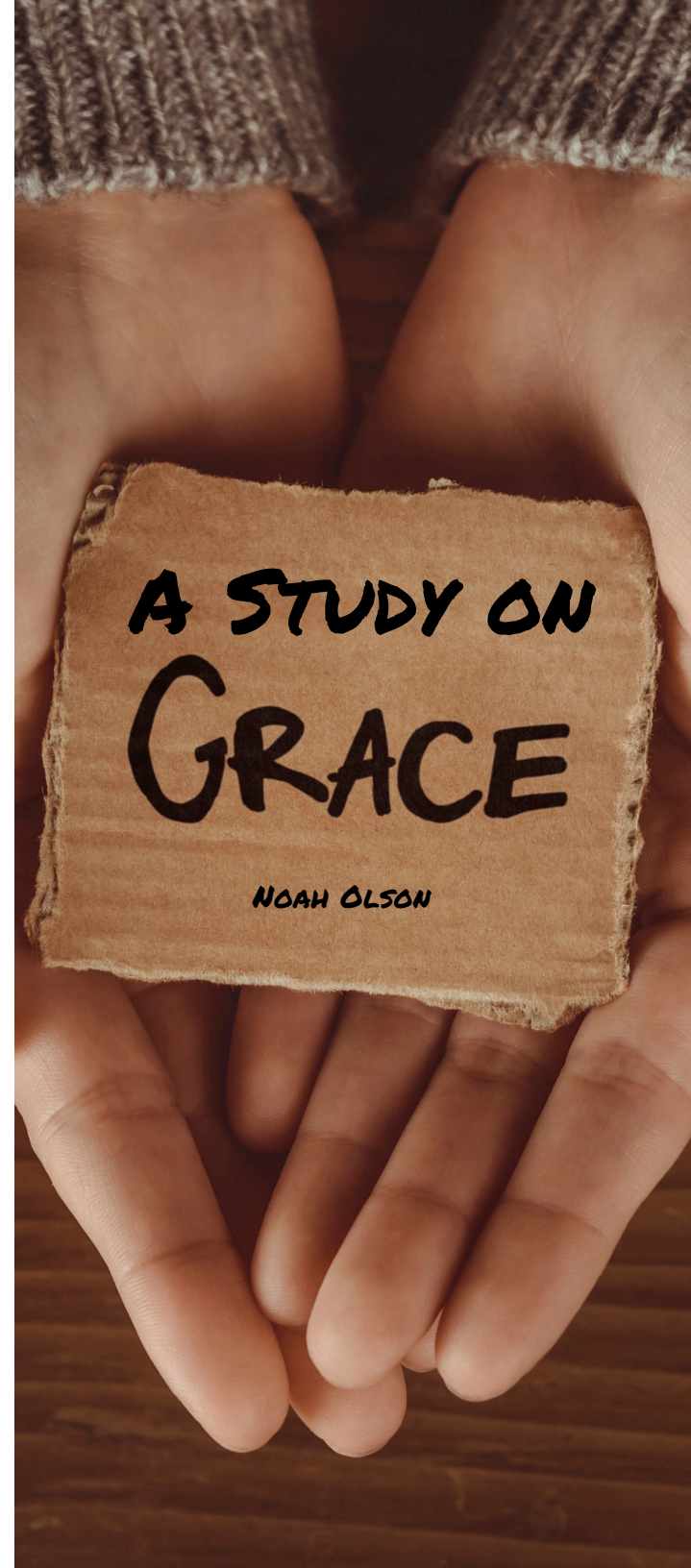
“Amazing grace how sweet the sound!”

Endnotes

- 1 Gary Chapman, *The Five Love Languages*, p. 77.
- 2 <https://www.bufordcoc.com/gods-grace-free-but-not-unconditional/#:~:text=It%20is%20true%20that%20the%20grace%20of%20God%2C,through%20the%20redemption%20that%20is%20in%20Christ%20Jesus.>”
31192 Annual Preachers Forum, *Grace Faith Works How Do They Relate?*, p. 13-14
- [4] Bob Winton, *An Outlined Commentary on 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. p. 283: gbntv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Textual/25-Winton-Timothy_Titus_Philemon.pdf
- [5] Allen Webster, <https://housetohouse.com/gods-amazing-grace/>
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Point and some information in point comes from Ibid.
- [8] Aaron Cozort.
- [9] 1192 Annual Preachers Forum, *Grace Faith Works How Do They Relate?*, p. 9
- [10] Ibid, p. 7



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If you were to ask people today what the best gift you could give them would be, you likely would receive a plethora of answers. Maybe one would say that a nice dinner by a riverside would be enjoyable. Another may say getting married. One may say having children. Some would list an abundance of possessions that would make them the happiest. Merriam Webster defines a gift “as something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation.” For some, “Gifts are visual symbols of love.”[1] It is through a special gift that God has expressed His love to us. It is through this gift that we are made to feel loved and special. This gift is unlike any other gift in the world. This gift...is GRACE.

Grace is truly a gift from God. It is a free gift too, for our own personal works of merit did not buy it (Ephesians 2:8). People like gifts in their every day life for different life purposes. What about a gift for your eternal life?

Grace is found 170 times in the KJV and it appears in 23 New Testament books. Luke is the first one to record the Word in the New Testament (Luke 2:40) and interestingly, Jesus NEVER used the Word grace; however, He did teach it. While it is an often-used word in the New Testament, paradoxically, it is the one of the most misunderstood.[2] Many false teachings have arisen from such misguided information.

- *Some teach that one is saved by grace alone.* However, “Obedience and grace do not stand in opposition to one another.”[3]
- *Some teach that God’s grace gives one a license to sin* (Romans 6:1-2; Jude 3-4).

Where perfection is, Grace is not needed.

God’s grace is an essential element of our spiritual walk. Like air, grace allows us to breathe, feel secure, and have peace, but without it, we will drown. Let’s examine the WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD!

Salvation: A Two-Side Coin.

Salvation is truly a double sided effort. God’s grace must be accessed by obedient faith (Ephesians 2:1-9),

but obedient faith would mean nothing if it were not for God’s wonderful grace. Grace originates with God (1 Peter 5:10). One famous acronym is used when defining grace: “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.” If we are to understand the totality of grace then we must understand some definitions regarding God’s role and man’s responsibility.

God’s role. A person cannot grasp onto something that is not there. If God did not give man grace, he could not take a hold of it.

- **Justice.** Justice is getting what one deserves. Israel, Judah, and all unrepentant sinners will get what they deserve at judgement (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). One man said, “I want god’s justice on judgement,” but he truly did not understand for what he was asking. We deserve the justice of God for our sinful past (Ephesians 2:1-3), but we do not have to receive justice on judgement.
- **Mercy.** Mercy is the sibling of grace being very close in resemblance. Mercy is NOT getting what one deserves (Exodus 34:6-7; Jonah 3:10; Ephesians 2:4).
- **Grace: Unmerited Favor.** Grace is God’s kindness to man. The first example of grace is in Genesis 3:21. The Greek Word for grace *charis*. We cannot buy grace with cash or beg God for it. It is freely given to us. Grace is used in other ways as well: (1) Salvation’s plan (Acts 13:43; Romans 6:14) or (2) A Greeting (2 Timothy 1:2).

This is God’s wonderful part, but what about our part?

Man’s responsibility. While man does not merit or EARN his salvation, he does have to access this grace by

- **Personal faith.** Faith is not just the mere consent of God’s existence, it is the conviction that is coupled with trust of the things which are true (Hebrews 11:1). This leads men to want to obey God. One said that while many believe in God, they do not believe Him. Without true Biblical faith, one will NEVER access the grace of God (Romans 5:1-2). Faith is a step toward accessing the grace of God.

- **Works.** We are not saved by works of merit (Ephesians 2:9) or the Law of Moses (Romans 3:28); however, we are saved by works of obedience (Acts 10:34-35; Hebrews 5:9; James 2:21). Obedience has always been the point at which God’s grace can be accessed. Grace teaches us to obey (Titus 2:11-12). One said “God’s grace is directly tied to his commands; it expresses his law.”[4] Without obedience one cannot access the grace of God.

God gave grace, now man must take it from His hand.

Grace is for ALL.

Just like God’s love extends across all dimensions (Ephesians 3:17-18), so does God’s grace. Etched in His love is His grace which appears to all men (Titus 2:11). In order to access this grace though, one must be in a specific place. A rich man may offer to help a homeless man, but the homeless man will not receive this help unless he reaches for the rich man’s hand. Grace is found in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:1).

Grace is for those who look like they cannot have it.[5] Sinners do not deserve the grace of God due to their sinful practices, sensual programs, and satanic promotions; however, God’s grace was given to them, being available for them to access (cf. 1 Timothy 1:14-15). Beautifully, “Grace is unaffected by the degree of sin.”[6] Although not deserved, these sinners needed it. Not one sin is too powerful for God’s grace to cover. Through the Gospel, they can access this by obedient faith.

Grace is for those who think they don’t need it.[7] Some do not access the grace of God because they think they do not need it. But they are mistaken. They trust in their own righteousness instead of trusting in the grace of God. Perhaps it is because they think their own works are good enough. Maybe they believe the good they have done and do will allow them to enter heaven. However, without God’s good favor, one will NEVER go. A person may be morally good, but still can be sinfully dirty. God’s grace through the blood of God can wipe them clean.

Grace is for Christians. Sometimes proponents of legalism will look at the grace in the New

