

doctrine to simply "unmerited favor" does not do justice to what God is communicating when He speaks of His grace.

Here are some examples of the powerful use of "grace" in Scripture:

Grace and truth are inseparable

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

Grace empowered evangelism

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33)

Grace is evident in the life of the recipient

"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." (Acts 11:23)

Grace can build us up

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

Grace is for obedience

"By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:" (Romans 1:5)

Grace provides spiritual gifts

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;" (Romans 12:6)

There is so much more that could be said about the grace of God; maybe another time.

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### Conclusion:

We are mistaken if the ONLY thing we embrace about grace is that it gets us into Heaven. **IT DOES DO THAT!** But there is so much more to God's grace.

We must embrace all that the Word of God says about grace. If Scripture tells us that grace teaches and empowers us to live godly in this present world... it would be folly to think that His grace is too WEAK to succeed in changing our lives to be more like Him.

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The grace of God is one of the most **critical** topics in Scripture. Much is assumed about grace, while much is ignored.

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### Salvation Is A Gift

Salvation is a gift from God, offered by His grace and received through faith.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" (Ephesians 2:8)*

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Grace Is Unmerited Favor

God's gift of grace cannot be earned or added to by diligent efforts.

"Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:9)

Works have absolutely **nothing** to do with our justification before God. Any reliance upon works demonstrates a lack of faith in the accomplishment of Jesus Christ and His crucifixion.

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# GRACE TEACHES

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## Grace Is Divine Enablement

We do a great disservice to God's grace if we **LIMIT** it to being **ONLY** unmerited favor. Grace is an unearned gift, but that is NOT ALL it is. Grace also enables and empowers us to live righteously and fulfill God's will.

*"Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the **grace** of God given unto me by the **effectual working of his power.**" (Ephesians 3:7)*

*"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which **God** hath before **ordained** that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)*

Here is some of what we learn from the above Scriptures:

- \* God calls us according to the gift of His grace
- \* We can succeed in fulfilling God's will by His power because of His grace
- \* We are created in Jesus for good works
- \* God foreordained that we should walk in those good works

By **God's grace**, He has given us **Jesus** and filled us with the **Holy Spirit**. It is impossible for recipients of God's grace to be impotent to live righteous lives. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

*"According as **his divine power hath given** unto us **all things** that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" (2 Peter 1:3)*

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Grace Teaches

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) **Teaching us** that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should **live soberly, righteously, and godly**, in this present world;" (Titus 2:11-12)*

In this passage, we see the instructions of Grace.

Some people proclaim that it doesn't matter how we live after we believe in Jesus and receive salvation by grace. For example, they say things like this, *"You absolutely can choose to live like the devil"* once you are saved.

That is NOT what GRACE teaches us!

Paul writes to Titus and says that grace instructs believers to:

- * deny ungodliness
- * deny worldly lusts
- * live soberly
- * live righteously
- * live godly

Paul teaches us that grace empowers and enables us to live in the here and now ("in this present world.")

It is horrible to say that God's grace has the **power to SAVE**, but His grace is **IMPOTENT to change lives**. The true God of the Bible is INFINITELY BETTER than that!

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## Mature In Grace

*"But **grow in grace**, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)*

Grace is part of the Christian walk and is about us growing and maturing spiritually.

Receiving God's unmerited favor (grace) is appropriate and essential for justification. But **limiting** God's grace and rejecting His Divine enablement is NOT acceptable. Grace gives us the power to live the way God wants us to.

Is it even conceivable that God is TOO WEAK to improve us and make us increasingly like Jesus?

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Grace Is Truly Amazing

The Greek word often translated as "grace" appears in the New Testament more than 150 times. This word has many powerful applications and is genuinely an incredible concept. To LIMIT such an extraordinary