

## Grace & Works

**Grace:** Gk.5485- *khar'-ece-* *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially in the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including *gratitude*): benefit, favour, gift.

Heb.2580- *khane-* *graciousness*, that is, subjectively (*kindness, favor*) or objectively (*beauty*):- favour, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, (well-) favoured.

- The word grace is used 122 times in the New Testament (*KJV*) and 37 in the Old. Its meaning differs from one passage to another and depending upon usage the context determines the meaning.

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### Grace in Gratitude

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power (*Holy Spirit- v. 31*) **gave the apostles witness** (*Gk.3142- something evidential, that is, [generally] evidence given: -testimony*) **of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:** and great grace (*Gk.5485- gratitude*) was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and **distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.** (*Emp. Added*)

- After being threatened by the Jewish council to not speak of Jesus as the Christ, Peter and John rejoined the other apostles with the news of their abduction, threatening and freedom. After praying for boldness, Holy Spirit responded by removing any fear that would hamper their message in bringing to their remembrance the evidence to show of Christ's resurrection. In this context grace is to be translated as a type of thanksgiving, not just because those who lacked had their needs met, but because of the resurrection of Christ and the benefit the multitude could have enjoyed as a result.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (*They still had to ask.*)

Joh 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

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### Grace in Action

Act 24:27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room (*Gk.1240- a successor in office*): and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure (*Gk.5485- favour*), left Paul bound.

- Once again, context determines meaning. The word pleasure in this passage is the same Greek word for grace. Sometimes "grace" can be shown in a negative way.

Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour (*5485*) with God and man.

- Favour here is understood, again in the meaning within the context, as in Jesus' gracious mannerisms and actions which put Him "in favour with God and man". Likewise with those who were converted on the day of Pentecost. Their behavior was noticed.

Act 2:47 (*all that believed- v. 44- were...*) Praising God, and **having favour** (5485) with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (*Emp. Added*)

- It wasn't "negativity" that helped the Lord add to the church. It was their gracious attitude.

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Grace in Speech

Col 4:6 Let your speech *be* alway with grace (Gk.5485), seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (*We never know if we might have to eat our words. And notice he didn't say that our words are to seasoned with Tabasco sauce.*)

Luk 4:22 And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious (Gk.5485- *pleasant*) words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

- His words were not very pleasant when Jesus remarked of His being a prophet and how He would not be accepted for long.

*Luk 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,*

Ecc 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious (Heb.2580- *pleasant, [well-] favoured*); but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

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**Works**

**Works:** Gk.2041- (to *work*); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication an *act*: -deed, doing, labour, work.

Thayer: "Moreover, the word *χαρις* contains the idea of *kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved*:"

As Larry Arnold remarked in his lesson on grace: "*God's grace is not what we deserve. It's what we need.*" We cannot, therefore, earn God's unmerited favor.

Rom 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant (Gk.3005- *remainder*) according to the election (Gk.1589- *[divine] selection: -chosen*) of grace (Gk.5485- *favour*). 6 And if by grace (*favor*), then *is it* no more of works (*act on our part*): otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Tit 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by **works** (Gk.2041) **of righteousness which we have done**, but according to His mercy (Gk.1656- *compassion*) He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which He shed (Gk.1632- *to pour forth; figuratively to bestow: -gush [pour] out*) on us abundantly (Gk.4146- *richly*) through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified (Gk.1344- *to render [that is, show or regard as] just or innocent*) by His grace

(Gk.5485- *favour*), we should be made heirs according to the hope (Gk.1680- *expectation or confidence*) of eternal life. (Emp. Added)

Isa 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.* (Emp. Added)

Act 10: 35 *But in every nation he that feareth Him, and **worketh** (His) **righteousness**, is accepted with Him.* (Emp. Added)

- God favors the remainder of those who obey His commands that do His righteousness. The choices we make determine the choices He makes in whether we are selected to receive His unmerited favor.

Luk 13:24 *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (People who think they can earn God's grace.)*

Mat 13:41 *The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom (the church) all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

Rom 6:23 *For the wages (Gk.3800- rations for a soldier, that is, his stipend or pay) of sin is death (Because we toil in sin, we earn no less than to be separated from God); but the gift (Gk.5486- char'-is-mah- a [divine] gratuity, that is, deliverance [from danger or passion]; [specifically] a [spiritual] endowment, that is, [subjectively] **religious qualification** [Rom 11:5], or [objectively] miraculous faculty: -[free] **gift**) of God is eternal life through (Gk.1722- [fixed] position [in place, time or state], and [by implication] a relation of rest) Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- Those who qualify to receive His grace are those who do **His** righteousness!

Act 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name (Gk.3686- authority) of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift (Gk.1431- gratuity) of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise (Gk.1860- an announcement; especially a divine assurance of good) is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call (Gk.4341- summon, invite).*

2Th 2:14 *Whereunto He called (Gk.2564- bid) you **by our Gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Emp. Added)

Joh 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by (Gk.1223) Me.*

- Everything we receive from God concerning our eternal salvation comes through the sacrifice He gave in the body and person of His Son Jesus Christ.

Heb 10:5 *Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldst not, but **a body hast Thou prepared Me**:* (Emp. Added)

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Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through (*Gk.1223- the channel of an act*) faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift (Gk.1435- a present; specifically a **sacrifice**: -gift, **offering**) of God:* 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- By these passages we can understand that salvation cannot be earned through human oriented efforts. But we also need to understand that God doesn't just give His grace randomly to just anyone either. There is the necessity that exists where man does play a part in his redemption. He obtains God's unmerited favor through his obedient faith.

Gal 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith (*Gk.4102- by extension the system of religious [gospel] truth itself*) of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. (*Belief is a righteous act that God requires for us to be saved.*)

Luk 8:10 And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing (*Gk.991- to look at: -behold*) they might not see (*Gk.991- perceive, take heed*), and hearing (*Gk.191- to hear: -give audience*) they might not understand (*Gk.4920- to put together, that is, [mentally] to comprehend: -consider*).

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith **wrought with** (*Gk.4903- to be a fellow worker, that is, **cooperate***) **his works**, and **by works was faith made perfect** (*Gk.5048- to complete*)? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham **believed** (*not "believed in" [which he did\*]*) God, and it was imputed (*Gk.3049- concluded, accounted*) unto him for righteousness (*Gk.1343- justification*): and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that **by works a man is justified**, and **not by faith only**. (*Emp. Added*)

*\*Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God **must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Emp. Added)*

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works (*an act or deed*), he hath *whereof* to glory (*Gk.2745- a boast*); but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

- When you earn your pay through the labor you put in for your employer, he owes you a paycheck at the end of the pay period. He would have been in debt to you for the work you did for him. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. That price was paid in full by the blood of Christ. It would be like receiving a paycheck without having earned it, as though it was a gift from our employer. That's grace. That's unmerited favor. But it is not without condition on our part.

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the **work of God**, that ye believe (*Gk.4100- to have faith [in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing], that is, credit; by implication to entrust [especially one's spiritual wellbeing to Christ]*) on Him Whom He hath sent. (*Emp. Added*)

- Our part in receiving the unmerited favor of God is to entrust our very souls to Christ. So how do we do that? I remember once receiving an announcement in the mail stating that I had received a "free gift". The gifts pictured in the announcement looked somewhat

expensive so, naïve as I was at the time, I called and set up an appointment to receive my “free gift”. The catch was that I had to listen to a sales pitch for some photography company before I could receive the gift. I went and suffered through the sales pitch in order to receive that gift. *(Not that it matters to the story but I couldn’t just pick one of the prizes on sight. They handed me a bowl with a bunch of paper slips in it and that’s how I would chose the free gift, which turned out to be a coupon for a reduced price on a sitting to have my picture taken. To be “fair” they showed me the other slips in the bowl that had the other more expensive prizes on them but the coupon slips were more abundant.)* But you see, I had to do my part in going there to receive the free gift. Had I not gone I wouldn’t have received it. Of course the free gift from God is priceless. In order to receive it you don’t have to suffer through a boring sales pitch either because the gospel message of salvation is not a “sales” pitch *(the gift is free)*.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified (*rendered just or innocent*) freely by His grace (*unmerited favor*) through the redemption (*ransom paid*) that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation (*Gk.2435- an atoning victim*) through faith (*Gk.4102- assurance*) in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission (*Gk.3929- toleration*) of sins that are past (*Gk.4266- have previously transpired*), through the forbearance (*Gk.463- self-restraint*) of God (*Ex 32:10*); 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the Justifier (*Gk.1344- to render innocent*) of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith (*love God, love your neighbor and you’ll live- Lk 10:27-28*).

Thayer: “but the N.T. writers use *χαρις* pre-eminently of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners that pardon of their offences, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ.”

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that **grace** (*God’s unmerited favor*) may abound? 2 God forbid. (*Let in never be.*) How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (*Emp. Added*)

- If a person hasn’t been baptized into Christ’s death, how can he rise to walk in newness of life? How can he receive God’s unmerited favor and live?

Hear: Romans 10:17 ...“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Believe: Heb 11:6 ...“for he that commeth to God must believe that He is”...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ...“except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Confess: Mat 10:32 “Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven.”

Be baptized: Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ...“even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

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