



A Lifestyle of Grace

Most of us are aware of God's grace to us as Christians. Grace is often defined as "undeserved favor," something given to sinners that cleanses them from their sins. Songs are sung about grace as it refers to salvation. People talk about grace, indicating that they received something from God that they didn't deserve. But seldom do we hear, sing or talk about a lifestyle of grace after we become Christians. We don't hear of this aspect of grace because most people aren't aware of it. *Not only is grace something that allows us to become Christians, it is also something that should be added*



to our Christian lifestyles after becoming a Christian.

Our Christian walks begin by faith, the enabler of grace. "Faith" means, "believing," and "grace" means, "favor." Without faith, there can be no grace. Faith brings grace into your life, and grace is increased in you by your faith. They go hand in hand.

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to

all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (Romans 4:16)

And . . .

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:2)

Faith enables access into a Christian grace, that which allows you to become born again.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy

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according to the proportion of faith; (Romans 12:6)

Not only are faith and grace companions, the proportion of your faith determines how much grace is evident in your life. This is where “salvation grace” ends and a “lifestyle of grace” begins. You can never leave salvation grace. Once you are born again, you are always a child of God. But, this isn’t the grace you receive after salvation. *After you become a Christian, you can walk into more and more grace, extra grace if you will, according to your believing.*

The salvation grace that you have was given unto you. It isn’t something that you make up, design, or otherwise acquire. It is given unto you as a gift of Christ. That’s really special. This gift of grace is talking about what you

receive when you become born again as a Christian.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

But I’d like to focus on the grace you receive after you become born again. You can exercise your faith to receive more grace, and this grace or favor is a laboring force. It enables many things in your spiritual walk.

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Paul clearly identified his greatness with the grace he received.

He was what he was because of God’s grace

in his life. You can see that he worked hard through out his life, but it was God’s grace that enabled him to do the great spiritual things that he did.

If you want more of God’s grace in your life, you can have it, but to get it, you must do certain things according to God’s Word. You can get to the place that God’s grace becomes your sufficiency.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

If you give grudgingly, you won’t have a lifestyle of grace. If you give of necessity, you won’t have a lifestyle of grace. Giving

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cheerfully brings God's grace into your life. When you give cheerfully, God WILL make all grace abound towards you. Wow! This is really powerful. In Acts, God's grace is what enabled all of the wonderful signs, miracles and wonders. Do you want to see such things in your life? Would you like to see the first century church come alive in the 22nd? I'm here to tell you that you can. But you have to do it God's way, according to His grace.

What greatness will God's grace bring into your life? For one, you will always, yes, I did say always, have all sufficiency in all things. Whoa, stop right there. What does this mean? It means that you will always be sufficient in all things that you do. That's right.

God has made you sufficient for everything; your job, your family, your kids, your friends, your business, your schooling, your

research – everything! The next time you find yourself challenged with a new situation, reflect on this, the fact that you can do what has come your way because you have all sufficiency in all things. In order to attain this level of grace, you have to give with a cheerful heart.

This means you have to make a significant life-style change.

You can't have any "grudging" or "out of necessity" actions anymore.

You must have cheerfulness in everything you give out. Financial and material giving is included in this, but also any other type of giving. This is a totally different level of life – a different plane of existence.

For another thing, God's grace in your lifestyle will bring about the ability to abound to every good work. God wants us abounding in everything, especially in the

things that correspond to helping others. That's what good works are all about. Good works can be any good thing you do for another person. There is no limit to these things, but you need God's grace in your life to fully abound in them. Give cheerfully to start this process of abundance!

Did you know that you reap what you sow?

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Have you ever wondered from where God provides you your reaping? The answer is quite simple. It comes from your sowing.

If you've sowed a lot, you can reap a lot. If you've sowed a little, you can only reap a little. This is a spiritual law.

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If you want to reap more in your own life, you must sow more. The next time you ask God for some of your harvest, try to imagine Him reaching into your own fields and gleaning some of your sowing. If your fields aren't abundant, then you need to get busy sowing cheerfully. This is what starts the "all grace" abundance you just read about.

Grace makes you strong. If you need more strength in your lifestyle of giving, you need more grace. Grace in abundance strengthens you beyond your own human strength.

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:1)

And . . .

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that

ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (1 Peter 5:10)

You can expect strength to accompany God's unleashed grace in your life. What a great expectation to have. And how many of us could use a little more strength? *I am convinced that the first century Christians thrived because of a lifestyle of grace.* They didn't live like Christians live today, going to church once a week or month, and just being religious. They lived in God's grace and saw God manifested unlike anything we've ever seen. It was truly all about a lifestyle of grace. Do you want God's grace magnified to you? You can have it, but you must understand a few more things.

Don't leave God's grace. People left God's grace back then and they can leave it now. .

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (Galatians 1:6)

This doesn't mean that they were no longer Christians. Not at all. It means that they no longer lived a true Christian lifestyle, one filled with God's abundant outpouring of grace. Once you receive some of God's extra grace, don't leave it behind for the things of the world.

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; (Hebrews 12:15)

One of the easiest ways to determine if you do or don't have God's grace abounding in your life is to diligently observe your own life.

Look at it, highly focused, and

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see if you have bitterness in it. Bitterness refers to having an axe to grind. You know, wanting to get revenge on someone for something they did to you. You need to bury your axes and keep them buried! No more time for bitterness if you really want to completely change your Christian lifestyle to become one filled with an abundance of extra grace. This is a major life change and it does require major changes in your lifestyle. You are considered “defiled” if God’s grace isn’t abounding in your life.

Grace is a growing experience. When you decide to make this lifestyle change, it may seem to start slowly, but it will build because it is a growing experience.

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 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 3:17-18)

If you really want to grow into a grace filled life, you must be willing to change your old habits and actions into ones that reflect Christ. If you want Christ

to really become manifested in you, you must have God’s grace abounding in your lifestyle.

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (Galatians 5:4)

If you don’t have this super abundance of grace in your life, you won’t see Christ like you could see him. Sure, you’ll be born again, but you won’t really be active spiritually. I’m not saying that you aren’t currently trying. Many of

us are, but most of us have never been exposed to this “lifestyle of grace” concept. We all know of salvation grace, but not the second step. I want you to start taking that second step right now. I want you to start expecting God’s grace in untold abundance right now. The next time you face a challenge, I want you to do something very important.

I want you to ask for God’s grace. Go to His throne and ask for it! It is there for the taking, and

God expects us to come to Him and ask for it. His grace will allow us to sufficiently handle anything that comes our way.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

The next time you are under

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pressure, go to the throne of grace. Go there instantly and ask God for grace to help in time of need. This is how you receive additional, extra grace into your lifestyle today. Now do you see the difference between “salvation grace” and “lifestyle grace?” This second form can and will be added unto you if you seek it out.

I tell all my fellow believers to claim God’s favor in their lives. I do this myself, every day. ***The first thing I do every day after I wake up, is thank God for His favor in everything that I do, in everything that I say, in my family, my work, my relationships, my business deals, absolutely everything!***

I want you to do the same and I want you to start doing it right now!

The devil flees from God’s grace.

Grace is a most powerful tool in removing satanic devices from your life. You must learn to ask for more grace. It will help you in any time of need. The reason people don’t have the help they need, when they need it, is because they don’t know how to ask for it. They don’t even know what to ask for. I’m changing that right now. If you do what I say, your life will forever be changed for the better!

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:6-7)

Yes, you can get the devil to flee far away from you, but there is a catch. Not only must you have God’s grace abounding in your life, you must be humble. If you are prideful, God does and will continue to resist you. If you are

humble, God will give you more and more grace. How exciting to know that you can control these heavenly grace valves. You can determine exactly what happens to you on a daily basis. Don’t you think it is about time to leave the prisons of the world, exchanging them for God’s sufficient grace in all things?

If you really want to see significant spiritual movement in your own personal life, you must have God’s abundant grace, and perhaps the most significant change you must make is in humility. ***You must be a humble person; you must be willing to submit yourself to God.*** There isn’t room for any

human loftiness at God’s throne. You may think you can get away with having it on earth, but the only thing it guarantees you is spiritual failure. God wants you to be a successful Christian, one with sufficiency in all things. If

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you, too, want this, you must do it God's way. Humble yourself before God and he will give you more grace than you know what to do with!

Once you start to receive God's grace, understand that grace is ministered from one person to the next. God is grieved when we don't minister His grace to others. After you receive it, you must be willing to give it out!

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:29-30)

And . . .

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with

salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Colossians 4:6)

You have the unique ability, with God's grace, to minister the same to another human being. What a fantastic privilege, but it will never happen if you are always complaining, criticizing, or condemning others. *Your words must be godly words, words that leave NO question in the minds of the hearers as to their heavenly origin.* Can you see now why I said this requires a change of lifestyle? You must be willing to make changes if you want to walk into such a grace that has rarely been seen since the first century church.

After you begin to receive God's grace in abundance, you must learn to hold onto that grace. It is far too easy to lose it. The world is

designed to steal God's grace from you. You must design your life to hold onto it at all costs.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have [hold onto] grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (Hebrews 12:28)

You've now got a decision to make. Are you going to launch out into a new lifestyle of grace, or are you going to remain in a complacent life of your own devising, one more focused on the things of the world than the things of God. Take the time to look diligently at your life. Focus on the spiritual side for a while and determine if you'd like to see what the first century believers saw. They were no better than we are, but they definitely had something that we don't experience today. They witnessed God's grace unlike anything we've ever seen. Most Christian's today only

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dream of this time gone by. Let's stop dreaming and start demanding to see God's grace in every aspect of everything we do. *Start going to God's throne of grace now.* Start giving cheerfully now. Start humbling yourself before God and others now. Get rid of your grudges, bitterness, and so forth now. Start laying claim to something new, something exciting, something almost completely hidden to most Christians today, the greatness of a lifestyle of God's abundant and ever-flowing grace.

Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown