

God's Grace ~ Part 2

"Perhaps there is no word in the Bible more precious than Grace."

~ Rick Countryman, Senior Pastor, Big Valley Community Church
Modesto, Ca.

What Is God's Grace (cont.)

In my last post, we began a new series on the topic of God's grace. We left off studying the word *grace* in both the Tanakh and the Brit Hadashah by looking at the Hebrew and Greek words used for *grace* in the Scriptures. In this post, I want to finish looking at what God's grace is from a definitional standpoint.

God's Power Freely Given: Joyce Meyer's defines grace as: "God's power to help us do whatever it is we need to do."¹ If you've been in the world very long, you've learned that there are very few days that go exactly the way we'd like them to go. Thankfully, God is never going to put us in a situation without giving us the ability to be in it with joy.

You can have that dose of God's power today, but you have to receive it, and the only way to receive it is by faith. The Bible says that "***God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you.***" (Romans 12:3b CEB)

When we release our faith and trust God to do what we can't do, we're putting our faith in Him. God's grace, His power, will come through the channel of faith and will enable us to do things that will amaze us and others.

Her longer definition of grace is: "***It's God's power coming to us freely, meaning it doesn't cost us anything other than just putting our faith in God, enabling us to do with ease what we could never do on our own with any amount of struggle or effort.***"² We need to put our faith in God because He wants to give us His grace today.

Quit Trying to Save Yourself: In a recent edition of the Daily Hope Devotional, Pastor Rich Warren shared his definition of grace. "*God says that he will give you His grace. But what is grace? It's when God gives you what you need, not what you deserve. Grace is when God says, 'I'm going to take your problem and make it my problem.'*"

Yeshua wants to save us from our hurts, our habits, and our hang-ups. He wants to save us for His purpose and by His grace. But we've got to quit trying to do it yourself. We've got to relax. We need to let go and let God be God. Remember that He is God and we're not.

Humility and Grace: We need to go to God humbly in prayer when we are seeking His grace. Ya'akov (James or Jacob) quoted from Proverbs 3:34 when he wrote, "But the grace He gives is greater, which is why it says, "God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble He gives grace." (James 4:6). We receive God's grace when we acknowledge the greatness of God, who humbled Himself at the cross (see Philippians 2:5-11).

¹ Joyce Meyer: Promises for Everyday Life ~ A Daily Devotional (YouVersion)

² Ibid.

The most powerful position on earth is kneeling before the Lord of the universe.

A Biblical View of Grace: It has been said that one definition of grace is God's making up the difference between the requirements of His righteous law and what we lack in meeting those requirements. This definition of grace sounds very generous of God, doesn't it, making up whatever we lack? The problem with this definition, though, is that it isn't true. We need to be sure we have a biblical view of grace, for grace is at the very heart of the Besorah.

Although this series will emphasize *living* by grace, we need to be sure we first understand *saving* grace, for two reasons. First, this series presupposes that we have experienced the *saving* grace of God – that is we all have trusted in Yeshua alone for eternal salvation. If that isn't true for you, go back and review Ephesians 2:8-9 and then contact me.

Second, although this series will emphasize *living* by grace, grace is always the same, whether God exercises it in saving us or in dealing with us as Believers. In whatever way the Bible defines saving grace that same definition applies in the arena of living the Messianic life day by day.

Now that we have a better understanding of what grace is, in my next posting in this series I want us to look at the topic of how we appropriate God's grace.

Your challenge until then is to look at each of the Scripture references that I have given you in this post.

In my next posting, we will return to look at God's Appointed Times – Yom Kippur.