



**God's Amazing Grace Series
Part 1 : Introduction
Sunday March 29, 2009**

A merciful and gracious God

Exodus 34:6

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

1 Peter 5:10

But may the God of all grace,

James 4:6

But He gives more grace (greater grace)...

Grace Defined

1. Divine favour
2. Divine enablement
3. Divine Character

Divine Favour

"to be gracious, considerate; to show favor";

"to pardon or to show mercy" ;

"favor," often when it is neither expected nor deserved;

"generosity," a gift from the heart;

to be "pleasant and agreeable" before some one

Genesis 6:8 : "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Romans 5:1,2

**1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

God relates to us out of His grace...accepting us, doing things for us, giving things to us, which we may not expect and which we do not deserve.

Divine Enablement or Empowerment

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Corinthians 12:4 There are diversities of gifts (*Gr. Charisma*), but the same Spirit.

Grace Greek *Charis*

Charisma = gifts of grace

English word 'Charismatic'.....

'automatic' = operates on its own



Charismatic = operates by grace

The gifts of the Spirit are expressions of God's grace upon an individual and toward an individual.

Divine Character

John 1:14 2 Peter 3:18

euprepeia (G2143), "comeliness, goodly appearance," is said of the outward appearance of the flower of the grass, Jam 1:11.

Overview

Sovereign Grace and Appropriated Grace

Exodus 33:19 Galatians 1:15

Paul's calling – a work of God's sovereign grace

Ephesians 2:8 James 4:6 Genesis 6:8

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Paul contending against demonic powers – the messenger of satan, a work of appropriated grace.

Grace and Truth

John 1:14,17

Grace does not negate or contradict the truth.

Grace is an expression of God's compassion. Truth is an expression of His justice.

Those who believe are saved by grace. Those who do not will die in their sins.

Examples in real life: God powerfully uses a person who does not seem 'qualified' in our eyes.

Religion requires. Grace empowers!

Truth without grace leaves us with a religion that requires but does not empower. It leaves us with a religion that is oppressive and burdensome.

Grace and righteousness

Romans 5:20-6:2

5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

5:21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Grace does not give us the license to sin or be compromising in our lives ('sleazy grace').

Grace empowers us to live righteously.

Young people, you can appropriate the grace of God needed to live righteously in this world.



Grace and works

Charismata versus works-amata

Grace empowers us to do the work. Grace does not make us complacent, inactive, passive, indifferent, etc.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Seasons of Divine grace (Favour) in certain areas

Ezra 9:8

And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.

Abundance of grace

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

There is abundance of grace available for all of us to 'reign in life' – to live victoriously in life.

Appropriating God's Grace

Ask in faith

Psalms 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

Whatever area of life you need grace, ask in faith.