



The Purpose – Lesson 3

Grace Works

Dorothea Shields

Yes, God is more than ready to overwhelm you with every form of grace, so that you will have more than enough of everything—every moment and in every way. He will make you overflow with abundance in every good thing you do. 2 Corinthians 9:8, TPT

Introduction

Grace is a word that is often overused and misunderstood, but grace is actually supernatural power to accomplish God's calling and assignments in our life.

1. What Grace Is Not

- A one-time experience at salvation. We do experience grace at salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9) but grace actually carries us beyond salvation and into the kingdom. It is to be experienced day-by-day.
 - Grace is not static or inactive.
 - Grace is not a magic potion to get you through your bad choices.
 - Grace is not a license to sin (Romans 6:12-16).

2. What Grace Is

- Active – it moves us beyond salvation and into an abundant, victorious life.
- Empowerment to accomplish what He sets before us.
- Thayers definition: "The merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls 1. Turns them to Christ (salvation) 2. Keeps them 3. Strengthens them 4. Increases them in Christian faith, knowledge and affection 5. Kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues."
- Grace grows – even Jesus grew in grace and relied upon God's grace, as empowering presence – Luke 2:40 TPT "The child grew more powerful in grace, for He was being filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon Him." And Hebrews 2:9b "For it was by God's grace that He experienced death's bitterness on behalf of everyone."
 - We grow in grace as we need it.
 - One definition of grace is *unmerited favor*. That works for salvation, but not for God's empowerment in our lives. If Jesus grew in grace,

there must be more to grace than unmerited favor because Jesus did not need **UN**merited favor. Jesus was perfect and deserved all favor he received, yet he grew in grace and so do we.

3. Say Yes To Grace

- Grace gives us the power to do all God created for us (2Corinthians 9:8, Ephesians 2:10)
 - He propels us forward through grace.
 - He enables us to live a godly lifestyle.
 - He empowers us to walk in our destinies.
- Grace is available in abundance (2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV)
 - Abound – superabound – abundance, overflow, “to furnish one richly so he has abundance”
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 NKJV
- But we have to interact with grace and walk in it!
 - Grace doesn’t just happen, it requires discipline and a deliberate choice.
 - Grace is available – and in abundance.
 - We have to say yes and receive it.
 - We pray and ask for grace and for His plan for our lives, but sometimes when he answers, we don’t like the way it looks. For example, waking early in the morning to spend more time with God, an extra job for needed finances, etc.

4. Why the Struggle? To Recognize Our Need!

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 – in weakness He is strong.
 - What is grace if it is not needed or tested?
- Romans 5:3-4
- Hebrews 5:8 – We learn obedience through the things we suffer. The suffering is death to self.
- Proverbs 17:3 – Purification through tests and trials

5. No Partiality

- Acts 10:34 (explain background of Peter’s revelation of salvation being for the Gentiles and not just for the Jews).
- In God there is no favoritism - We are ALL accepted regardless of background, economic status, education, gender, race, etc.
 - Our need for Jesus is the great equalizer.
 - We have equal opportunity in Jesus!
- But what is favor?
 - We pray and ask God for favor in all kinds of situations.
 - Luke 2:52 – Even Jesus grew in favor.

- Mary found favor.
- The early church found favor.
- If God doesn't show favoritism, then what is this favor?
 - The Greek word translated as favor is the exact same word that is most often (121 out of 152 times) translated as GRACE!
- What is the relationship between no partiality and favor/grace?
 - We all have a level playing field with God with an equal opportunity to enter the kingdom through salvation.
 - But what do you do with your opportunity?
 - Do you mix it with faith and enter into all God has for you?
 - Do you pursue God with all your heart?
 - Do you believe His word and walk in it?
 - Or do you doubt?
 - Do you complain?
 - Do you just accept your salvation and nothing else?
 - Opportunity is available to all, but favor/grace is distributed as one presses in to advance the opportunity.
 - Favor/grace is not about God liking one person, race, etc. more than another.
 - Favor/grace is about a person's attitude and determination to advance the kingdom.
 - Who needs grace and favor if they are not doing anything?
- Grace and favor are to receive provision for
 - Your calling
 - Your assignments
 - Not stuff (having nice things are fine as long as they are not the focus)

Conclusion:

Can you – will you – look upon your circumstances as an opportunity, an invitation, to step into a greater outpouring of grace and a greater outpouring of provision?

Reflect:

- Where have you seen favor/grace come on your life?
- Is it possible you have forfeited favor/grace in an area of your life because it didn't look like you wanted it to?