



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 201.0

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Who Gets Grace? — P2

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (Ephesians 4:7).

We’re leaving the grace of God’s salvation and looking at the second type of grace: God’s support, strength, encouragement, direction, blessings, etc. in the struggles, temptations, difficulties, frustrations, and traumas of the Christian life.

Only Believers who are struggling and having difficulties receive this type of grace, right? On the contrary, every single Believer receives God’s grace in their lives to be where they are and what they are. You have not accomplished what you have accomplished through your own abilities—it was the grace of God that provided you with your mind, your body, and abilities in the first place. *“He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist”* (Acts 17:27b-28a).

You have almost no control over your life. Can you stop a plane from crashing on your house or a car veering into you on the freeway? No. Can you even prevent your own car from having a catastrophic failure? No. *“The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps”* (Pro. 16:9). *“Many plans are in a man’s heart, but the counsel of the Lord will stand”* (Pro. 19:21).

We like to think we have control over our circumstances, and we like to think we have earned what we have through our own striving, but the reality is that everything you are and everything you have came from God. Unfortunately, we don’t always live like it: *“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.’ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that’”* (Js. 4:13-15). By the grace of God, WE WILL LIVE,

and then perhaps accomplish whatever else we desire or hope to be—also by His grace.

Now that isn’t to say that we bear no responsibility for what happens in our lives—we are to be responsible with what God makes us aware of—if you see your car needs work, take care of it, if you discover the food you are eating is poisoning you, change your diet, and if you are practicing sin, stop! But in the big picture, our lives are entirely outside of our control. We owe our very existence to the grace of God, much less the blessings in our lives.

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me” (1 Cor. 15:10).

And it is not merited—we didn’t earn or deserve it! As we will see later, it isn’t because you are a “better” Christian that you have blessings bestowed on you, while another Believer experiences trouble or want. Also, it isn’t because you are less loved or less deserving that you are going through challenges or difficulties. God’s grace gives us no room for pride in our “accomplishments” nor judgement in another’s struggles. There is no room for us to boast where God’s grace has been administered. He does all for His purposes, according to His will for His glory: *“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”* (Dan. 4:35). And yet, it is all for our eternal good, for *“we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”* (Rom. 8:28).

Every Believer needs grace to live, much less succeed at anything, and every Believer receives grace. It is by the grace of God that we are what we are, and we are where we are. In our lives, may we always say of ourselves and others, “if the lord wills.” Amen.

(Next week’s topic: “Is grace given equally to every Believer?”).