January 4, 2015

# "Grace - It's Just Amazing!"

An Introduction to Grace

"And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved." Romans 11:6

# A. Grace is within God's <u>nature</u>...

1. Grace: (In Christian belief) the free and unmerited <u>favor</u> of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

"For sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17

- 2. God's grace is evident by our <u>sin</u>. "God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant." Romans 5:21
  - 3. God's grace is <u>fully</u> undeserved.

"It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace- his undeserved kindness in choosing them." Romans 11:5

4. God's grace <u>transforms</u> us.

"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time- to show us his grace through Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:9

### B. Grace saves us...

1. God's grace is <u>all</u> that saves us.

"We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus." Acts 15:11

- 2. God's grace appears when you believe.
- "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God." Ephesians 2:8
  - 3. God's grace brings <u>life</u> from death.
- "that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)" Ephesians 2:5
  - 4. God's grace brings us <u>eternal</u> life.

"Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life." Titus 3:7

## C. Grace is all that keeps us...

1. God's grace brings <u>freedom</u>.

"Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." Romans 6:14

2. God's grace is the <u>power</u> working in us to do His will.

"But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me- and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace." 1 Corinthians 15:10

- 3. God's grace works through our <u>weakness</u>. "Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." 2 Corinthians 12:9
- 4. God's grace grows as you grow in grace. "May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2 "Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18a

### D. Grace equips us...

1. God's grace comes when we <u>need</u> it.

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." Hebrews 4:16

- 2. God's grace is what gives us <u>strength</u>. "So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them." Hebrews 13:9
- 3. God's grace comes to the <u>humble</u>. "And he give grace generously. As the Scriptures say, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6
- 4. God's grace comes as we stand <u>firm</u>.

  "...My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace." 1 Peter 5:12

## E. Grace is difficult for us to grasp...

1. So, always be <u>aware</u> of anything that might hinder God's grace in your life.

"Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." Hebrews 12:15

2. Remember that God's grace does not give freedom to live <u>immorally</u>.

"I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:4

- 3. Keep focused on the <u>riches</u> of God's grace. "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." Ephesians 1:7
  - 4. Always give thanks for the glorious grace of God.

"So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." Ephesians 1:6