

# Amazing Grace

Grace is one the most significant and powerful concepts in the Bible. It is the basis of God's work in our lives. Without it, we cannot be forgiven, saved; we cannot change or overcome sin; we cannot fulfill our God-given destiny. It is the core of God's power in action in our lives.

There is no greater life than to live than a life in the grace of God.

Grace has been made available to us through Jesus Christ and faith in Him.

**John 1:16–17 (ESV) — 16** And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Following is a summary of several Biblical principles of Grace.

## Grace Defined

The word *grace* comes from the Greek word *charis* meaning, “an expression of favour, a good turn, a benefit; a gracious favour or benefit bestowed.” (Dictionary of New Testament Theology)

It finds its basis in the Hebrew word *hen*, meaning, “The stronger coming to the help of the weaker who stands in need of help by reason of his circumstances or natural weakness. The compassionate response of one who is able to help another person in need.” (Dictionary of New Testament Theology)

It paints a picture of God, the stronger, coming to help of us, the weaker, who stand in need of help because of our condition and inability. This applies to several facets of life as shown below.

### 1) Grace provides salvation — the forgiveness of sins, being declared righteous by God.

**Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV84) — 8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Romans 3:21–24 — 21** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

### 2) Grace makes us into a new person; destroying the power of our sinful nature and making us heavenly citizens.

Romans 6:1-7

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV84) — 17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Philippians 3:20 (NIV84) — 20** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

### 3) Grace produces in us the power to live a new kind of life that is righteous and holy.

Romans 6:11–14

**Romans 7:6 (NIV84) — 6** But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

**Titus 2:11–12 (NIV84)** — **11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. **12** It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

#### **4) Grace is only accessible through faith.**

**Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV84)** — **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Romans 5:1–2 (NIV84)** — **1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

#### **5) Grace still involves decision and work on our part.**

**Philippians 2:12–13 (NLT)** — **12** Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. **13** For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

#### **6) Grace is a process**

**2 Peter 3:18 (NIV84)** — **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

#### **7) Grace is also God’s power working through you in good works and spiritual gifts**

**1 Peter 4:10–11 (NIV84)** — **10** Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 4:7 (NIV84)** — **7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

(Ephesians 2:10, I Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 12:6-8)

#### **8) Grace results in a spiritual form of rest called the Sabbath Rest**

**Hebrews 4:9–10 (NIV84)** — **9** There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; **10** for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

**Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV84)** — **28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

#### **9) Grace is also God’s work in our weak places, not by removing every challenge but giving the strength to persevere in it.**

II Corinthians 11:30-12:10

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV84)** — **9** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.