



**Module** : Understanding and Accessing GRACE

**Session 2** : Saved By Grace

**Focus** : Our Entrance into the Economy of Grace

❖ **GRACE HAS MANY FORMS**

In our previous session, we sought to offer a definition of grace, not so much in terms of its effect (what it does), but in terms of its essence (what it is). Essentially, God's grace is the substance and property by which God, as a Spirit being, is constituted. Thus grace alludes more to the person of God than to the performance of God in a particular respect. Having said this though, no doubt, you and I will be privileged to receive, engage and benefit from His grace in very powerful ways. Our experience of this constituent element within God called grace is multiple, simply because His grace is variegated.

**1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God**. (Nasb)

**NIV** : Each one ... **God's grace in its various forms**.

**ESV** : As each ... as good stewards of God's **varied grace**

**AMP** : As each of you ... good trustees of **God's many-sided grace**

Ephesians 2:7 describes the richness or abundance of God's grace as 'immeasurable' or 'surpassing'. God's grace is not one-sided, but many-sided. Each 'side' of His multi-faceted grace accomplishes specific results. That is why grace cannot be defined in terms of any one specific 'side' or dimension that it manifests at a particular point in time.

The various forms or expressions of grace will be manifested at different times. From the time we come into relationship with God through our acceptance of Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and by this becoming sons of God, until we progressively grow up into a mature son of God, the many-sided grace of God is constantly at work. Grace will present all the way through. We start the race by grace, continue in grace and culminate the race, reaching the finish, through grace. In this session we give primary focus to our first and initial encounter with the GOD of ALL GRACE, specifically, how we are SAVED BY GRACE. Our translation out from the domain of darkness and into the Kingdom of His Son is by an INTRODUCTION into the grace. Grace was at work granting us legitimate access or entry into the Kingdom of our Father.

**Col. 1:13** For He **rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## ❖ OUR INTRODUCTION (Access/Entrance) INTO GRACE

Your life in God starts with and is maintained in and by grace. Life in God is life IN His Grace.

### 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 obtained our INTRODUCTION by faith INTO THIS GRACE in which WE STAND; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Salvation by grace (as unmerited favour) is only your INTRODUCTION or ACCESS (*see KJV*) into grace. Access into THIS GRACE is BY FAITH in CHRIST JESUS, by whom we are justified and therefore enjoy peace with God. The text above describes the entire state of being justified by faith and enjoying peace with God through Jesus Christ as 'THIS GRACE', into which we are *INTRODUCED* or have access.

**Introduction / Access =**

- **prosagoge** = access, **approach**
- From the root, 'proságo', meaning '**to bring near**'
- The term was commonly used for the right of approach granted to someone by high officials and monarchs.

Esther 5:2 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor (i.e. *GRACE – my insertion*) in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

We are saved by grace - we are BROUGHT NEAR to God and can have boldness in our approach to Him.

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Typically, the introduction to anything is not the fullness or totality of the thing. The introduction of a book paints a brief description of what the book is all about. Your introduction to GRACE by the initial act of being justified is only an ACCESS point into an entire estate in God, in which we are to become His mature son, His heir and joint-heir along with His eternal Son, Christ Jesus. Sadly, many only understand grace as an entrance or access to salvation, without venturing further into the ultimate intent for which you are saved. You are not saved to escape hell so that you can go to Heaven. You are saved to be God's HEIR and to represent HIM accurately in nature/character as His son, stewarding the entire creative order on His behalf and in accordance with His will.

The term **“THIS”** in the phrase **‘this grace’** implies GRACE is a state of being or a state of life/existence into which we are assimilated and within which we are designed to function. Grace is an economy that one enters into. It is an economy intended to preserve, protect and provide for every conceivable need relative to God’s will for our lives as His sons.

Romans 5:2 exhorts us, after having entered THIS GRACE, to **STAND in it**, i.e. be firmly established, set or placed in it. Your entrance or introduction to life in God is by grace; and you must ‘stand’ – be anchored and be secured in your relationship with Him by grace.

**1 Pet. 5:12** Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that **this is the TRUE GRACE OF GOD. STAND FIRM IN IT!**

### ❖ **SAVING GRACE - GRACE FOR SALVATION**

**We are Saved By Grace** : Grace in terms of God’s unmerited favour given to us is essential for salvation and our specific calling. We are not saved by self-righteous works but by grace. We do not merit His salvation based on personal righteousness or good works. Grace for salvation is freely bestowed upon us. This is what many call ‘salvation grace’ or ‘saving grace’, which is ‘FREELY bestowed on us’.

**Ephesians 2:6** to the praise of the glory of **His grace**, which **He FREELY bestowed** on us in the Beloved.

#### **Ephesians 2:4-8**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**),  
 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
 7 so that in the ages to come **He might show the surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
 8 For **by grace you have been saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift** of God; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

‘Works’ is the reference to human endeavour or effort to attain salvation through good works. We are saved through faith by grace, so that no one can boast on their personal righteousness or part in the salvation process. Religion is given to externalities and attempts to work outwardly to receive right standing with God. But grace simply accepts the love, mercy and forgiveness of God. In the early church, some taught that gentile Christians must be circumcised in order to be saved. The apostles and elders met at Jerusalem to discuss the matter and resolved that circumcision was

not essential for salvation, for this would negate the place and work of God's grace in saving us through faith and not by works (See Acts 15).

**Titus 3:5-7**

- 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

**Acts 15:10,11**

- 10 "Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?
- 11 "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

We are saved by grace ALONE, through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Grace, the constituent element of God as spirit, comes into our hearts at the time we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus Christ. This God-nature, called grace, is given to us and re-natures our spirits, regenerating it by the power and work of the Holy Spirit, through the new birth, as we are ushered out from the domain of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of His dear Son. Salvation is really the reception of a 'new' spirit and heart given to us by God Himself. This process is through faith - BY grace and THROUGH faith. Faith in Jesus activates the process. When we hear the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom, faith comes into our hearts, it too being a God-induced capacity to believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour.

At this initial point of our salvation experience, the grace of God that we receive in UNMERITED, being based only in an act of mercy and kindness on God's part toward us. Thus we speak of the grace granted to us in order that we are able to repent. To repent in itself, whilst it occurs within us and is an act of our own will, is really only possible because of the kindness of God that actually leads us to do it in the first place.

**Rom. 2:4** Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance.

**We Believe Through Grace:** Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is an essential pre-requisite for salvation (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9,10). This capacity to believe itself is only made possible as a result of the bestowal of grace on the person.

**Acts 18:27** And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace.

### **Forgiveness of Sins and Redemption Received Through His Grace**

#### **Ephesians 1:5-7**

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,  
 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Grace forgives our sin; mercy acts to relieve us of the consequences of sin. Mercy triumphs over judgement and takes away the penalty for sin once sin is confessed and forgiven. Mercy is the first expression of the grace of God to us; it is the initial application of grace.

### **We Are Justified By Grace**

Justification relates to being without guilt and condemnation before God as a result of the forgiveness of our sins by God when we repent.

**Rom. 3:24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

**Titus 3:7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

### **We Are 'Called' Through Grace :**

We are 'called' to God as an act of His grace.

**Gal. 1:6** I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel.

The phrase here, 'called ... by the grace' should be read 'called IN the grace' (Greek term - 'EN'). God calls us into His GRACE when we begin our relationship with Him as His sons. Later in verse 15, Paul would say that God called him THROUGH His grace (Greek term 'DIA'), i.e. once you enter into the economy of the grace of God, you must continue through it.

**Gal. 1:15-16a** But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me.

Not just your initial calling by God to be His son is THROUGH grace, but GRACE will literally be the CONDUIT or MEANS THROUGH which all exchanges between God and yourself will occur. The ultimate objective of your calling through grace is to 'REVEAL THE SON IN YOU'. Our calling through and INTO His grace is for the specific intent of REVEALING HIS SON IN US.

You become a son of God by an act of the bestowal of grace into you, reconfiguring and reconnecting your spirit back to God, who is Spirit. Then, you will be progressively MATURED into a fully-grown son of God by your continued accessing and reception of grace.

When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, we are born again into the family of God and adopted as His sons. God sends the Spirit of His Son into our heart, transforming our spirits and reconnecting it back to God the Father, and hence we have the legal right to cry out to God, 'Abba Father'.

**Galatians 4:6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

**Rom 8:14-17** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which WE CRY out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

This is our initial salvation experience and it is BY GRACE. The very constituent element that comprises God as a spirit being, viz. GRACE, comes into our spirits. Our spirit, which initially came from God, was alienated from His life because of sin. At the reception of saving grace, our spirit is so radically transformed, Scriptures describe it as a **new birth** and we become a **new creation in Christ, all things becoming new**. This is what it means to BE SAVED BY GRACE. This phrase does not simply mean that God was kind and merciful to us in forgiving our sins and that we are not saved by works. It most certainly includes this, but means so much more than that. **Being saved by grace literally implies that there was an impartation of grace – the essence of the nature of God Himself into our being.**

**Ezekiel 36:26,27** Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Having received the 'Spirit of His SON' into our spirits, we received the Holy Spirit as a seal of our salvation and sonship and as a guarantee – a deposit or down-payment that the fullness of the godhead will come to vest in us. In Paul's language, it is God's intent to 'REVEAL HIS SON IN ME'.

Here are a few Scriptures describing the Holy Spirit given as a pledge or guarantee of our total inheritance in Christ.

**Eph. 1:13-14**

- 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—  
having ***also believed***, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,  
14 who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory

**Pledge = *arrabón*** = Something which stands for part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction.

**2 Cor. 1:21,22**

Now He who establishes us with you **in Christ** and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and **gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge**.

Part of the final consummation in our sonship in God is immortality, where death's power over us is forever conquered. This also represents a heightened level of maturity in sonship. For this purpose too, the Spirit is given as a guarantee, not only that this would be attained, but that also He the Spirit in us is focussed toward this end.

**2 Cor. 5:4,5**

- 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.  
5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us **the Spirit as a pledge**.

**Rom. 8:22,23**

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having **the first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body**.

The Holy Spirit is the firstfruit within us indicating that Father, Son and Spirit will come to abide within us. Grace will be necessary for this to happen – for grace is imparted primarily through the WORD OF GOD, your obedience to which determines how the Father and Son come to make you their home.

**John 14:20-23**

"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. "He who **has My commandments and keeps them** is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and will disclose Myself to him**." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are

going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and WE WILL COME TO HIM and make Our abode with him.

**Now that you are saved by grace, you must proceed onward toward maturity in Christ in your sonship.** You must grow up. This is simple language for saying 'you must come to reflect the glory of God in your person'. To do this, continued reception of grace is vital. This will be the focus of our discussion in the next session.

Take a moment now, like Paul, to offer GRATITUDE and PRAISE to our KING for saving you by His grace with abundant mercy. Use the text below as a framework for this.

### **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

- 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,  
 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was SHOWN MERCY because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;  
 14 and THE GRACE of our Lord was more than ABUNDANT, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.  
 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.**  
 16 Yet for this reason I FOUND MERCY, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.  
 17 **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*But You, O Lord, are a God **MERCIFUL** and **GRACIOUS**, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. Turn to me, and ***be gracious to me*** ...*

### **Psalms 86:15,16a**

With love in Christ, Randolph.

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