



Module : Understanding and Accessing GRACE

Session 3 : Grace and Glory

Focus : Glory is the Goal of Grace

We started off our salvation experience by a reception of GRACE and not through work-centred efforts on our part to merit or earn it. It was a GIFT of GRACE. This grace has a clearly stated objective, i.e. the revelation of the SON (Christ Jesus) within us (Gal. 1:16). The continued reception of 'grace upon grace' (John 1:16) as we grow spiritually through our hearing and obedience of God's Word, is the process by which we are to mature as sons in Christ. The SON is already in you! He must just be REVEALED - or unveiled - in all His fullness and power. The impartations of grace are meant to uncover what God already has given to and in you in Christ. Now, we must 'grow up INTO HIM in all things' (Eph. 2:15). He must increase, but we must decrease (John 3:30). **Grace is as much needed to MATURE you, as it was necessary to SAVE you.**

So then, we are **saved** by GRACE; we are able to even **believe in God** by grace; our **redemption** is by grace; we received the **forgiveness of our sins** and **justification** as an act of God's grace. Later we will demonstrate that our progressive **sanctification** is by grace. Our **glorification** as mature sons will also be by grace (Glorification meaning our ultimate maturity - standing in blamelessness as portrayed in Jude 1:24).

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.

The goal of GRACE is the display of God's GLORY before men.

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**.

Note verse 2 above: **"WE HOPE** in the **GLORY of GOD"**.

'Hope' refers to an expectation of something materialising. Having been introduced 'INTO THIS GRACE', we anticipate that because we have received it, God's glory will manifest. This grace has

as its hope, the revelation and manifestation of the glory of God, i.e. the substantive and exact nature, character and reputation of God being fully formed within you.

Grace's ultimate end is to reflect God's glory in His sons. For example **obedience** will be an indication of this.

Rom. 1:5 through whom we have received GRACE and apostleship to bring about the OBEDIENCE of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake.

❖ THE GLORIFICATION OF SONS OF GOD WILL BE BY GRACE

God's glory must be evident in His sons. For this to occur, His GLORY must be evident as it is exhibited within and through His sons. The term 'glory' is an extremely loaded term that warrants a separate study, but for the purposes of our present study, we will simply define it in terms of its quintessence.

The Old Testament Hebrew word for 'Glory'

Glory = 'Kabed' / Kabod
honor, glory, majesty, wealth;
great quantity; multitude; reputation ; splendour;
to be heavy' i.e. loaded, numerous, serious consideration, renowned,
to be honoured, honourable, esteemed, to show oneself great or mighty, to be wealthy.

The principal meaning here is **TO BE HEAVY**: e.g. heavy with goods, property, money, esteem, honour, etc.

The New Testament word for 'Glory'

Glory = **Doxa**
From dokéō - to think, recognise.
Thought or opinion
HENCE : reputation, praise, honour, splendour, light, perfection, rewards

Essentially, God's glory refers to an exact and accurate expression of His character and nature, one that is so substantively significant and notably obvious, it can be seen or recognised, and thus formulates an opinion in the mind of the observer. Hence God's reputation is gleaned from displays of His glory. By definition, glory must be seen or beheld.

EVERYTHING ‘APPARENT’ REQUIRES AN UNDERLYING FOUNDATIONAL REALITY

That which cannot be seen underpins everything that can be seen. The visible is upheld by the invisible. Skyscrapers are anchored on deep, strong, yet unseen foundations. Let us now illustrate that the GLORY of God is that dynamic of God that is overtly visible for men to behold, yet it must be stationed and established upon an invisible spirit dynamic of God called GRACE.

Heb. 1:3 And He (*i.e. Jesus the SON*) is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Consider the phrase, ‘RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY’ and the EXACT REPRESENTATION of His NATURE’:

- Jesus, the Son, is the radiance of His Father’s glory.
- This radiant glory is not His glory but that of His Father’s. He reflects His Father’s glory. No son has a glory independently of his Father’s glory, which is meant to be displayed.

Proverbs 17:6b ... And the glory of sons is their fathers.

- Glory has a radiance - a brilliance - a brightness - a splendour - an effulgence - a shining forth - that attracts attention to it - it can be seen.
- This glory is further described as ‘exact representation of His nature’, i.e. the radiant seen glory is nothing more than an accurate representation or reflection of His Father’s inherent and quintessential NATURE.
- Thus we may conclude that His nature is the unseen reality that the glory seeks to make known. This underlying nature is God’s GRACE.

The KJV frames Heb.1:3a powerfully: ‘Who being the **brightness of his glory**, and the **express image of his person**’. Thus God’s essential nature – His GRACE – is HIS PERSON.

The Greek term ‘HUPOSTASIS’ translated as NATURE (nasb) or PERSON (kjb) is important for us to consider, because it directly describes THE GRACE OF GOD as we presented in session one in this series.

Nature = ‘hupostasis’ = ‘that which underlies the apparent, hence – reality, essence, substance; that which is the basis of something, hence, assurance, guarantee, confidence; substance, what really exists under any appearance, reality, essential nature’.

The definition of 'hupostasis' above is important. Note the following:

There is the appearance of attributes of God designed for men to see – these must be 'apparent' before men. These attributes are reflections of the weighted **glory** inherent within His person as God. There is something 'underneath' these attributes or characteristics that provide a foundational substructure to them. This is God's 'essential nature'. God's attributes are anchored within, and so emanate from this underlying substructure, nature or 'essence'. These apparent attributes require a core reality that gives rise to their manifestation. This 'essential nature', 'essence', 'substance' of God is His GRACE.

The substructure of God is His 'hupostasis' (nature) that underlies, upholds and provides a basis upon which everything that is designed to become 'apparent' or visible about Him is based or flows forth from. This 'hupostasis' is HIS GRACE, which is focused upon manifesting His glory exactly or accurately. Jesus, the Son, did this – He manifested His Father's glory. This is the preserve and responsibility of every son of God, including you and I.

Thamo Naidoo, a servant of Christ, offers this light on the Greek term 'hupostasis':

*"When the early church fathers tried to explain that Christianity has one God expressed in three persons, they said that God is a God of substance (hupostasis), i.e. He has a non-material substance. The three persons in the Godhead are co-equal in that they have the same substance – this is the **compositional make up** of God. Each of the parts of the Godhead has the same weight of substance; but the character of that substance may express itself differently. This is the basis upon which the image of God is expressed. **Inwardly we have to bear a divine substance that carries and communicates our character.** This is the basis upon which your life is founded. It **undergirds everything in my life that appears as the image of God.** This is the **immovable foundation** of your life. Faith is the substance hoped for. **Faith is the means of accessing the Divine substance, which is the essence of everything God is.**"*

Thus we may then conclude, that the goal of God's grace is the generation and manifestation of His glory. This is powerfully illustrated in Jesus' life in John 1.

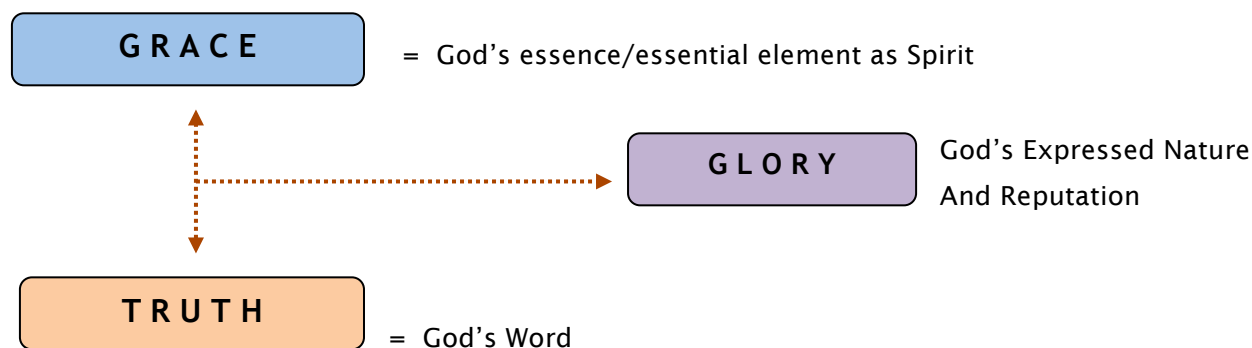
GRACE AND GLORY

[Read the entire chapter of John 1 and note the following verses]

John 1:1,4,9-18

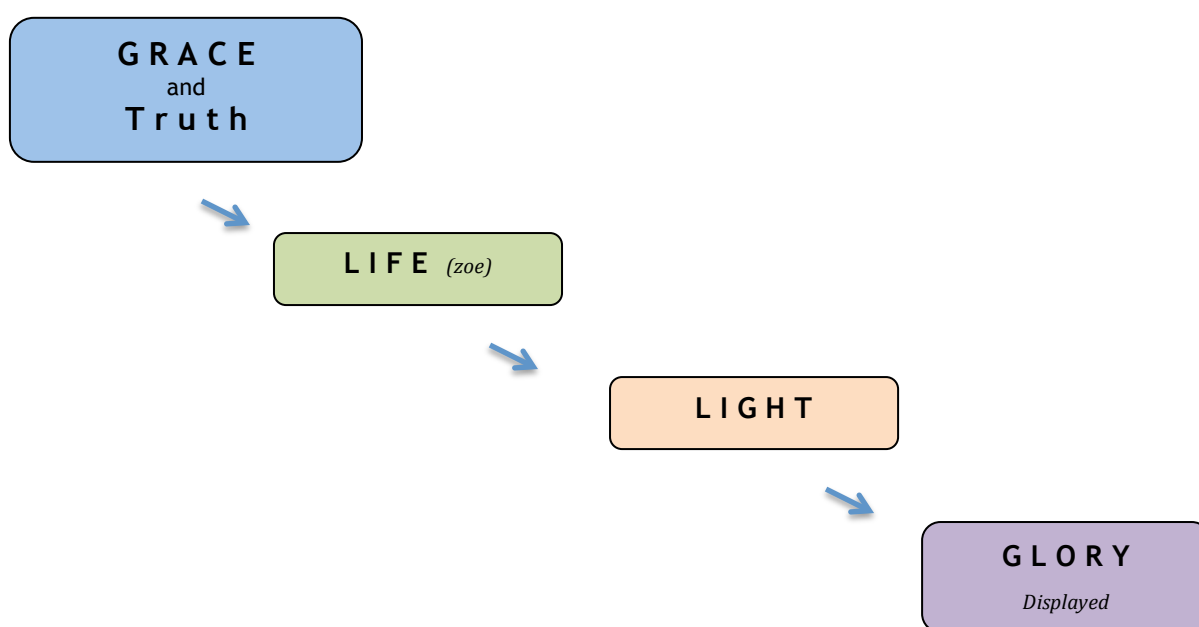
- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- 5 The **Light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness did not comprehend (*overpowers*) it.
- 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.
- 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

Note 'HIS Glory' is FULL of GRACE and TRUTH (v.14).



God's grace in us is meant to display His Glory. Glory is to be beheld by an observer. It is something exhibited outward as an expression of an abiding inward state. The inward state is GRACE which rests on TRUTH (His Word). We will demonstrate in a later session how that GRACE is primarily communicated and thus rests upon TRUTH, which is a descriptor of GOD's WORD. The resultant manifestation of grace coming in via the truth of the Word, is GLORY! It is impossible to showcase God's glory without being saturated inwardly with His GRACE, built on His Truth (Word). Grace and Glory belong together. Glory is the result of grace. Grace is packaged in God's Word.

Our LIVES, like Jesus's was, are to be the LIGHT of the world (John 8:12; 9:5; Matt.5:14). Light (glory of God) is to be displayed in LIFE (our behaviour, attitudes, etc. – see Phil. 2:15). Note that IN Jesus, was LIFE, which is the LIGHT of men (John 1:4). But it also indicates that in HIM was GRACE – for of 'His FULLNESS we have received grace upon grace' (John 1:16). Thus we conclude that the GRACE in God is the LIFE of God Himself, which when incarnated in human form, will offer both LIFE and LIGHT to the world. This life, which is light, when manifested, will be God's glory displayed in His son to all of creation.



God's Spirit is also called a Spirit of Grace (Heb.10:29; Zech. 12:10). The Spirit of Grace is a life-giving Spirit. Our spirits receive grace through impartation from the Word of God. So too then, we become 'LIFE-GIVING' spirits. In your world, wherever you function, you are meant to GIVE LIFE and LIGHT to people through your exact representation of God's glory, a glory full of grace based on truth (Word).

You must be thoroughly conscious of this. You have the LIFE of God within you. This LIFE is His GRACE, the basis upon which His glory will shine forth as a LIGHT. All of this is administrated within us from our spirits, which should be full of grace, so that we are able to affect our environment wherever we are with the LIFE ('zoe' in the Greek) of God Himself. You do this by your exemplary behaviour reflecting Christ in every way. You give life to men by being an ambassador of the Kingdom, reconciling them to God and offering them the forgiveness of their sins. Where there is sickness, you can heal the sick in the authority of Jesus' name. Where any condition prevails that is contrary to God's will in any respect you have the power to assert LIFE over it, and to dispel darkness. This is the power of the grace of God within you. It affects and infects your sphere. With your words, authoritatively speak life from the strong impregnation and disposition of grace within your spirit, and put the manifest glory of Father on display in your world. Men will see this, marvel and be turned towards Him.

Consider also that Peter describes grace as the '**GRACE of LIFE**' in 1 Pet. 3:7. Specifically, he indicates that we are **HEIRS of the grace of life**.

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a **fellow heir of the grace of life**, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Thus, if we are to be 'life-giving spirits', our spirits must be GRACE-saturated, for in grace is life, which is light (glory).

Note the following additional Scriptures linking grace and glory:

Grace has a 'glory'. We as sons, not only give praise to God, but we are to BE to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Ephesians 1:5,6 He predestined us to **adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **to the praise of the GLORY of His GRACE**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

God, who calls us to His eternal **GLORY**, is a God of **ALL GRACE**.

1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, **the God of ALL GRACE**, who called you to **His eternal GLORY in Christ**, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

To become like Christ requires us to have a revelation of Christ. As we see Him when He is revealed to us, so are we transformed to become like Him (2 Cor. 3:18). How is He revealed to us? Through the expounding of, hearing, meditation on, and obedience to His Word (John 14:22-25).

{These processes are dealt extensively in two of my teaching series, viz. 'The Primacy of the Word', and 'Meditation', both of which are freely downloadable in pdf and audio formats from my website¹.}

Every revelation of Christ **brings** Grace which **results** in Glory.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, **keep sober in spirit**, fix **your hope** completely on the **GRACE to be brought** to you at the **REVELATION of Jesus Christ**

Col. 3: 4 **When Christ**, who is our life, **is REVEALED**, then you also will be revealed with Him **in GLORY**.

Psalms 84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord **gives GRACE AND GLORY**; No good thing does He withhold from **those who walk uprightly**.

Manifesting God's glory is akin to Him being glorified in us and us in Him. This will happen ACCORDING to (i.e. 'in keeping with') His grace.

2 Thessalonians 1:9-12

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
 10 when He comes **to be GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS** on that day, and **to be marveled at among** all who have believed - for our testimony to you was believed.
 11 To this end **also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling**, and **fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power**,
 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will **BE GLORIFIED IN YOU**, and **you in Him**, **ACCORDING TO THE GRACE** of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note that He is to be glorified within His saints and to be marveled at (v.10). This is our calling, which we are to be counted worthy of (v.11). If it is our focussed objective, God will, with power, fulfill every associated 'desire for goodness' and expression of obedient faith in reference to

¹ www.randolphbarnwell.com

performing His will in some respect. Verse 12 indicates that ALL OF THIS occurs so that the nature (name) of the Lord Jesus will be GLORIFIED in us and we in Him. This glory is in direct proportion to which GRACE IS RECEIVED.

When you STAND in GRACE, into which you have obtained ACCESS, your next pursuit must be to 'hope in the GLORY of God' (Rom.5:1-2). Grace by which, or rather 'through whom', you are saved, will, by your continuance and growth in it, be the grace through which God's glory will be displayed in you. The LIFE of God and the LIGHT of God will be known to men as they see it reflected in and through you.

1 Pet. 1:2b May **GRACE** and **peace** be yours in the **FULLEST MEASURE**.

With love in Christ,
Randolph Barnwell

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