

Grace Upon Grace

May 4, 2025

Today, I'd like to share some things I've come to understand about grace. I call this teaching, "**Grace Upon Grace.**" I'm pretty sure we'll only scratch the surface — but it's my hope that it blesses your life like it has mine! In **Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 8** it states: "***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***"

Grace is so magnificent, so magnanimous, so incredibly vast and beyond the limits of our finite minds, that it **had** to be freely given. God **had** to make it free. We couldn't possibly come up with enough gold, silver, cash — or all the wealth in the world — to pay for it. It had to be free, because It's infinitely colossal!

And honestly, I feel completely inadequate to explain it. There's no way I could fully define grace — not here on earth. Grace is something we'll that will take all eternity understand completely. But I believe we can begin looking at it and truly learn to enjoy more and more. But let's give it our most earnest effort and try to grasp what we can, today.

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for [upon] grace.

E.W. Bullinger describes this as: "*grace in place of grace; new grace, continuous and unintermittent. Ever fresh grace according to the need.*"

Does grace cancel grace? Not at all. Because we serve an infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God, grace simply continues — without end. It was grace before, and it is still grace now.

By God's grace, He restored the heavens and the earth to a beautiful, habitable world for mankind to enjoy. When He placed Adam and Eve in the garden, that too was by His grace.

Grace, like God Himself, begins with the Infinite and continues eternally. His grace is so generous, so noble, so perfect and tender — so vastly beyond anything we could ever rise to in this life — but we can begin to scratch the surface of what it truly is grace, while we are here upon earth.

Ephesians 1:2 Grace [Gr. *charis*] **be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We've all heard the definition of grace as God's **unmerited divine favor** — and it truly is that! But to reduce our understanding of grace to only that definition doesn't do justice to the greatness of God and His love. It deserves our search — our diligent study of God's Word — to gain a fuller understanding.

I'm barely qualified, if at all, to tackle the greatness of grace. Yet, God promises that if we are diligent to study, in order to rightly divide His Word, He will continue to build our understanding and give us wisdom in the knowledge of His grace.

We live in the age of grace. Grace upon grace — and it is truly grace upon grace... *ad infinitum*. And with even a simple awareness of this age, this time, this Administration of Grace, we need to look at the book of **Ephesians**, which holds the greatest revelation regarding the Great Mystery, and this age of grace. **Ephesians** is the apex — the summit, the high point and crown of God's grace. It bears to have our scrutiny of diligently studying it. Digging deep. Exploring its **breadth which is boundless**; its **length which is endless**; and its **depth which is fathomless and exhaustless**, and its **height which is measureless**.

Ephesians 1:3 — **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.**

All of this was done because it pleased God to do these things for those who would believe. He chose us in Him before the foundation — the *setting up again* — of the world after Adam's sin. With Adam's sin came death. But for God to set things right, He had to plan far in advance — to a time when people would believe what He told them about what He had done for them through Christ.

God knew we would one day believe. Therefore, He could predestinate us.

Verse 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption [sonship] of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. **7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Wow! According to verse 5, by His loving hand, God determined beforehand that we would have sonship with Him. **God** determined this — not us. Not our good works. Not our religious practices. Not the churches we attend, or the number of Sundays we'd show up. Not our political affiliations. **None of that.**

He did it through Jesus Christ — in full agreement with the **good pleasure of His will**. He wanted to do it. It brought Him pleasure to do it. This is grace upon grace.

Verse 6 goes on to say that all of this was planned so that we might be **to the praise of the glory of His grace** — His unmerited divine favor — by which He has **highly favored us** in the beloved Jesus Christ.

The word “**grace**” appears in the book of Ephesians **12 times** — more than any other book in the New Testament. God is really tries to get His point across!

Ephesians 2:4 – But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8** – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** – Not of works, lest any man should boast. **10** – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

God so loved the world — which includes us — that even when we were *deader than a doornail*, He made us alive together with Christ. Imagine dying without ever knowing Jesus Christ. The end result would be that you'd be dead for all eternity. Just picture it: lying in the ground, stone cold, decaying — and then someone named Jesus Christ comes along and raises you from the dead. Would you be happy about that? Would you be thankful? Would you do everything in your power to show your appreciation to Him? Of course you would! That would be the kindest act ever done for you — but it's only possible because God raised Jesus from the dead first.

It is by grace that we are saved — not because of anything we did to deserve it, and not because of anything we could ever accomplish on our own. It's by God's grace alone.

Natural man, in all his pride, thinks he's got life figured out. He believes he doesn't need God. He thinks he can work it all out by himself. Well, God knows how natural man ticks!

Psalms 49:6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;
7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him.

There's not a blessed thing they can do that will work out for them. **1 Timothy 2:6** says that Jesus Christ “...gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” An unbeliever doesn't see any grace in his life — he only sees the consequence of his own intellectual stupidity and foolishness.

Psalm 49:8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

9 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. **10** For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. **11** Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. **12** Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. **13** This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

The Psalmist says in verse 15 that “God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.” It was true in the times of David, as he looked forward to the resurrection of the just, and it is true for us today who look forward to the gathering together.

All the ugliness of sin, and consequences of sin — from Adam until now — have plagued mankind. But God, through Christ, redeemed us from all of it. Grace upon grace.

I Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;* **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **20** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

These verses stand in complete contrast to the mindset of mankind we saw in **Psalm 49**. Here, it clearly states that we were **not** redeemed with corruptible things like gold and silver. That’s powerful — because human beings view precious metals like gold and silver as lasting forever. They don’t rust or fade. People watched them pass from generation to generation, and in their minds — then and now — natural man thinks these things are eternal. **Not true.**

Verse 19 gives us the contrast: *we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.*

That’s grace!

Of all the things mankind could ever offer to God as a ransom, **nothing** could come close to this. Every drop of blood Jesus bled as He was tortured by the Romans, every trail of blood on the ground as He was dragged toward Calvary, every drop that fell as He hung on the cross — **all of it** was precious. It was not stained with Adam’s sin. It was sinless blood — the purest thing on the face of the earth at that time.

Of all the precious metals and gemstones in the world, **Christ’s blood** was the most valuable thing in the universe! And Jesus Christ willingly allowed His own blood to be poured out for all of mankind. Yet, not all would believe on Him. But we do. And as a result, by God’s infinite grace, we have received the benefits of what God has now made available, including the ransom needed to pay for our sins.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

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Now, let’s read these two verses from the **Working Translation**:

19 “On the other hand, do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the holy spirit that is in you, which you have from God? Moreover, you are not your own, **20** for you were purchased with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.”

We have been bought and paid for — for all eternity. There is nothing more we can do to earn this wonderful, everlasting life. Jesus Christ paid for it all. **That is grace upon grace.**

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Once again, no amount of gold, silver, rubies, sapphires, diamonds — or any earthly treasure — can bring about salvation. They can’t produce justification. They cannot offer redemption to a single soul. They never have, and they never will.

However, it is by God’s grace that we have been justified, sanctified, and redeemed — through Christ. **2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**

Let’s close in Hebrews:

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession [what we confess].

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The English word “boldly” comes from the Greek *parrhēsia*, meaning freedom or frankness of speech, outspokenness, and a confident boldness — especially in speaking.

The word “throne” refers to a seat of kingly power, authority, and royalty. It is from this throne that grace flows.

When we go to God in prayer, we can expect things to happen. It is from this seat of power that God gave us power — by His wonderful grace.

It is, truly, grace upon grace. That is the best I can do for now. Thank you for your love and patience.

God bless you.