

⁷And lest I <Apostle Paul> should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations <see verse 4>, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh <a physical handicap>, the messenger of Satan to buffet <bother, harass> me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice <three times>, that it might depart from me <that I might be healed>. ⁹And he <God> said unto me, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities <handicaps, weaknesses>, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches <insults>, in necessities <hardships>, in persecutions, in distresses <calamities> for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

I. Introduction

A. We need the grace of God

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

B. Human side of Paul (vs 1)

1. Boast of visions
2. Boast of revelations from God

C. Christian needs God's grace in distresses

D. In any family or ministry, God's grace needed

Have not I <God> commanded thee <Joshua>? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed <frightened>: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest <wherever you go>. (Joshua 1:9)

II. What is God's Grace?

A. God's Grace is Sufficient (just enough for what is needed)

1. Grace always available
2. Grace always fits life's situation
3. Grace always unearned
4. Grace always a gift from God

²⁰Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound <that people can understand how they offend God with their sin>. But where sin abounded

<increased>, grace did much more abound ²¹ that as sin hath reigned unto <has resulted in> death, even so might grace reign through <grace result in> righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus hrist our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21)

B. God's Grace is Strong

1. Grace offered but not always accepted
2. Sermon on Dr Law & Dr Grace (by pastor Lester Roloff)

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant <was overflowing to me> with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1:14)

C. God's Grace Specific

1. For the work

¹¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. (Titus 2:11-12)

2. For the time

- a. Grace limited by yesterday & tomorrow

Take therefore no thought <no worry> for the morrow <for tomorrow>: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself <for you can work on tomorrow's problems when tomorrow comes>. Sufficient unto the day is the evil <trouble> thereof. (Matthew 6:34)

- b. Grace given for NOW

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.) (2 Cor 6:2)

- c. Grace given at specific time & place
- d. Grace given when needed at correct time

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; ⁹and that not of yourselves <that is not something you could do for yourself>: it is the gift of God ⁹not of works <of your own effort>, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. How Do You Get God's Grace?

*The Grace Formula: Honesty + Helplessness = Humility

A. Humility is correct view of yourself

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. (1Pe 4:7)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1Pe 5:8 KJV)

B. Trust God & the grace that He gives

But he <God> giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble". (James 4:6)

Likewise, ye younger <you Christians who are younger>, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

IV. Why Does God Give Grace?

A. His Glory – to prevent human boasting

²⁹That no flesh <person> should glory in his <God's> presence. ³⁰But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us <Christ Jesus, in whom we understand God's> wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption ³¹that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:29-31)

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works <efforts, behavior>, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. (2 Timothy 1:9)

B. All praise (thank you & appreciation) to God alone

C. Every Christian goes to heave for same reason – by God's grace alone

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (Titus 2:11)

D. Your Good – God's gift given for human good

But ye are not in the flesh <not controlled by your pre-salvation behaviors>, but in the Spirit <but controlled by the Holy spirit>, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his <he is not saved, he does not belong to Christ>. (Romans 8:9)

V. Conclusion

- A. God gives you ability to live even in difficult times
- B. God gives you grace ability freely because Christians lack ability to do good completely
- C. God's grace is free
 - 1. God's favor given without limit
 - 2. God does not enable human boasting
 - 3. God wants Christian thanks & appreciation for His gifts