

Embrace the Grace

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 - ⁴ I thank my God always concerning you **for the grace of God** which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵ that you were **enriched in everything** by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that **you come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Introduction: For some time now we have been studying Life in the Holy Spirit and how his power manifest in and through us in the form of gifts or manifestations. In this study one thing should have become crystal clear to you – all of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit are **supernatural**.

But how is this possible? How is it possible for someone as frail as you and I, someone so imperfect, someone so limited, to become naturally supernatural?

Well, the answer is **Grace**. Now here is the dilemma... when I ask people to define “grace” I get a thousand different answers. People don’t know what it is! They decide the results of grace but cannot define the word itself.

- What is grace?
- What did “grace” mean in the New Testament time period?
- How did the Apostle Paul use the word?

The word “grace” appears 129 times in the New Testament and is one of Paul’s favorite words.

Grace was not a Christian term – it was a secular source, often from a pagan source... How was this word used by “pagans” in Paul’s day?

Grace in Greek = Charis

Charis in the pagan world was used to describe = **The touch of the Gods**

- They believed that when a God touched you it bestowed a magical, supernatural ability and favor upon your life.
- Endowing you with special abilities that was previously impossible to you.

“Grace” always produced a visible manifestation!

The Apostles:

Acts 4:33 - ³³ And with **great power** the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Barnabas in Antioch:

Acts 11:23 - ²³ When he came and had **seen the grace of God**, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

Paul to Romans

Romans 12:6 - ⁶ Having then gifts differing **according to the grace** that is given to us, *let us use them...*

Paul’s Ministry

1 Corinthians 3:10 - ¹⁰ **According to the grace of God** which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

- Grace gave him the ability to build the Church
- One Translation: **“Being dominated by the touch of God...”**

Grace changes you

1 Corinthians 15:10 - ¹⁰ But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me*.

- Better translation: **“Because of the grace of God I am not who I was...”**

Grace is abounding

2 Corinthians 9:8 - ⁸ And God *is* able to make **all grace abound** toward you, that you, always having **all sufficiency in all things**, may have an abundance for every good work.

- There is no lack in grace.
- Before you were insufficient, but now grace make you sufficient.

Grace and humility

James 4:6 - ⁶ But **He gives more grace**. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Peter's view of Grace

1 Peter 4:10 - ¹⁰ As each one has received a **gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God**.

Four important truths about grace:

1. **Galatians 2:21** (KJV) - ²¹ I do not **frustrate the grace of God**: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
2. **2 Corinthians 6:1** (KJV) - We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye **receive not the grace of God in vain**.
 - NLT = As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and **then ignore it**.
3. **Galatians 5:4** - ⁴ Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**.
 - What does it mean to fall from grace?
 - **Galatians 3:3** (NLT) - ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?
4. **Hebrews 12:15** - ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone **fall short of the grace of God**; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled...
 - "fall short" – living beneath the privilege of grace

Conclusion:

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We have the touch of The God – not a god