

GOD IS: GRACIOUS

God is grace. He gives His good things to the undeserving. Being gracious is integral to His nature. Last time we saw: 1- God freely gives His grace for His own glory, 2- His grace redeems undeserving sinners, 3- His grace extends to whoever will receive Him. Here are three more ways God is gracious.

4- God's grace provides THE ONLY WAY to be saved, through Jesus Christ. The familiar acronym GRACE "God's Riches At Christ's Expense" is a mere introduction to the abounding grace of God. As SJ Lawson says, the oceans of God's grace come to us through the pipeline of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only pathway to God, and to receive His blessings. John 1:14 "*The Word became flesh, the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*"

Grace **multiplied** over and over. 1 John 5:11 "*This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life, whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" When you are born again from above by the Holy Spirit, you believe and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This new spiritual life is not only for eternity to come, but for here and now.

5- God's grace empowers the believer's TRANSFORMED LIFE in Christ. God changes you from sinner to saint, as you become more like Christ. That's the whole point of God's grace. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "*in Christ, you are a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come.*" Romans 5:20 "*grace abounds all the more so that grace reigns through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Sin no longer reigns in your life, and God's grace empowers you to live out His life through yours.

How? In all you are and have in every circumstance. **TRIALS:** 2 Corinthians 12:9 "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.*" 2 Timothy 2:1 "*be strengthened by the grace that is in Jesus Christ as you share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*" 2 Peter 2:20 "*This is a gracious thing in the sight of God, that you do good and suffer for it and endure, for to this you have been called.*" **HUMILITY:** James 4:6 "*He gives more grace. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.*" Hebrews 4:16 "*with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*" 1 Peter 5:10, He is "*the God of all grace.*"

GOOD WORDS: Colossians 4:6 "*let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so you may know how you ought to answer each person.*" 1 Peter 4:10 "*as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*" **GOOD WORKS:** 1 Peter 4:9 "*show hospitality to one another without grumbling*" and "*whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies.*" Titus 2:14 "*He redeemed us to be zealous for good works.*" Ephesians 4:7 "*grace was given to each one of us, for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ.*" 1 Corinthians 12:6 "*for it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*" 2 Thessalonians 2:16 "*now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work.*" And in **GIVING:** as you pass on to others, His grace given to you. Not to get saved, but because you have been saved.

6- God's grace multiplies as YOU are likewise gracious to others. God gives you all your talents, time and treasures. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says believers are to "*excel in the grace of giving*" because "*you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*" Unable to save ourselves, we need His riches of grace in salvation. Yet the apostle applies this to your stewardship of resources, "*so that your abundance at this present time should supply the needs of others.*" Your wallet is a spiritual test. Is it yours or God's? For your will or His will? Dollar signs always show how much you understand grace. Because it's not about what you get, but how it flows through. By His power and grace. Unexaggerated grace!

2 Corinthians 9:8 says "*God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that having ALL sufficiency in ALL things at ALL times, you may abound in EVERY good work.*" He supplies not just finances, but for every need. "*You will be enriched in EVERY way for all your generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God, because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!*" The undeserved gifts of the God of all grace! Pass it on!