



Grace and Faith

What is God's Grace?

What is your definition of grace?

In Hebrew grace means favor and acceptance. In Greek it means good-will, favor and thanks. In scripture it means unmerited favor (gift), ability, strength and power.

Favor

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by **grace** you have been **saved, through faith**-and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** - ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ability

1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever **gift** you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of **God's grace** in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Strength and Power

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My **grace** is sufficient for you, for **my power** is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that **Christ's power** may rest on me.

2 Timothy 2:1

You then, my son, be **strong** in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus.

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Grace is not just the unmerited favor of God, but it is also His ability, strength, and power to do what you could not do in, by and through yourself.

Grace is not given so you can live as you please but to empower you to live a life that pleases God!

Grace is what God does for man while religion is what man does for God.

Romans 11:6

*And if by **grace**, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, **grace** would no longer be **grace**.*

Our proper response to God's grace is faith and obedience of faith.

Grace is God's part. Faith is man's part. Grace is set aside and made ineffective without faith.

Galatians 2:21

*I do not set aside the **grace of God**, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!*

1. Grace - God's Plan

What was God's plan for grace? What was He trying to do?

God wanted man to receive everything from Him by grace (freely) but man could only receive it through faith.

God originally gave man provision, protection, covenant, salvation, and the law.

God's Provision

God provided everything for man before he was created. Man was placed into a finished work. Man did not work for what God gave him. Man worked at protecting and cultivating what God gave him.

Genesis 2:8

Now the **Lord God had planted a garden** in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

We do not work for what God gives us. But we are called to protect and cultivate what God has given to us in salvation. We do not work for our salvation, but we are called to guard and cultivate it.

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**

God's Protection

God protected Adam and Eve after their fall. After knowing good and evil, God banished them from the Garden of Eden before they could eat from the tree of life. If they had eaten from the tree of life, they would have lived eternally in a fallen state. God plan of grace was to redeem them through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:22-24

²² And the Lord God said, "The **man has now become like one of us**, knowing good and evil. **He must not be allowed** to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever." ²³ So **the Lord God banished him** from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

God's Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3

¹The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land **I will** show you. ² "**I will** make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ **I will** bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you **I will** curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God gives repeated "I will's" in this passage. This is God's grace. God blessed Abraham not because he deserved it but because God is good.

The Abrahamic covenant revealed that God is a good God and that God blesses out of His grace, not human merit.

God gave his only Son and forsook Him so that the blessing of Abraham would flow to us through Jesus, even though we do not deserve it.

God's Salvation

God brought Israel out of Egypt by grace and treated them in grace all the way up to the point of giving the Law at Mt. Sinai.

God's Law

God did not give the Law to oppose His plan of grace, but to fulfill and reveal His plan of grace.

Galatians 3:21

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

The law was first given to Israel as a test case for humanity.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

Israel failed the test under the Law and so all of humanity was held guilty before God.

The Law was given to add the missing revelations that were missing in the Abrahamic Covenant.

Galatians 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

What purpose does the law serve?

These revelations were missing from the Abrahamic covenant.

- the revelations of God's holy nature and wrath against sin.
- the revelation of the true nature of man, which is a sinner needing salvation.
- the revelation, in picture form, of the coming Messiah and what he would need to do to save man, which would be a substitutionary sacrifice.

The Law showed that man was corrupt and could not save or redeem himself in God's sight.

2. Grace - God's Promise

God's grace is based upon promises to be believed. The Law is based upon commands to be performed.

The New Covenant of grace was promised in the Old Testament prophets.

The Law was given to show man that he had a wrong heart and that it could not be changed by outward behavioral changes. Only God can change the heart of man.

Ezekiel 18:31

Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?

God, through Ezekiel, was trying to show that the problem with man was not just their actions, but their hearts. God commanded men to do something that is impossible for them to do. They could not get a new heart and a new spirit. Only God could do this.

God promised to provide what man could not.

Ezekiel 11:19

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

²⁵ *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Four promises of the New Covenant

God uses five "I will's" in **Ezekiel 36:25-27** promising the New Covenant. "I will" is what God does for man. This is grace. Five is the number for grace in the Bible. God promised He would provide four new things.

Promise #1 – God provides a new purity

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean."

Hebrews 10:10

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

We are sanctified by God's grace through Christ.

Colossians 1:22

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

We have been made holy by God's grace through Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:11

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

You have been washed in the blood and by the Spirit.

Promise #2 – God provides a new person

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you."

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

We are new creations by God's grace.

Ephesians 4:22

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.*

We are a new man by God's grace.

Promise #3 – God provides new passion

"I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Hebrews 10:16

*"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will **put my laws in their hearts**, and I will write them on their minds."*

Philippians 2:13

*for it is God who works in you **to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose**.*

God works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Promise #4 – God will provide new power

"I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Luke 4:14

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the **power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Jesus came and walked in the power of the Spirit.

Acts 1:8

*But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Those who are born again and are baptized with the Spirit receive power.

Galatians 5:17,21

*¹⁷ For the **flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit**, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in a way we could not in the strength of our flesh and own effort.

New Covenant Based Upon Promises

Hebrews 8:6

*But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the **new covenant is established on better promises.***

God only promised blessing under the Law if you kept all the commands perfectly. However, the promises of the New Covenant are based upon Jesus' perfect and finished work for us.

Romans 15:8

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed

Jesus came to fulfill and confirm the promises made to the fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The New Covenant is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. Those who are in Christ by faith share in this New Covenant.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

If we believe and receive God's promises, we can participate in the life of God in every area of our life.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are **"Yes"** in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

God's answer to His promises is always yes! His answer is based upon the finished perfect work of Christ. We only need to add our "amen" so it is in our lives.

Hebrews 6:12

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

God's grace is not automatic. God's promises must be believed and held on to by patience. The enemy will fight against you to steal the promise from you. Through faith and patience, we inherit God's promises.

3. Grace - God's Provision

Jesus Has Provided God's Grace to Mankind

God provided something better

Hebrews 11:39-40

³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided **something better** for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Appeared to ALL men

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that brings salvation has **appeared to all men**,

God's grace has been provided to all mankind. However, grace must be received by faith.

Only provided through Jesus Christ

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men **by which we must be saved.**"

John 1:14

And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came **through Jesus Christ.**

God's Grace Is Merited by Jesus

Grace is all of God's provisions freely given to us. These provisions can only be given by God through righteousness. God does not violate justice to bless us.

Jesus is the only mediator

1 Timothy 2:5

*For there is one God and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

Jesus is the only one qualified to provide God's salvation for mankind because He was the only one born in sin and lived sinless.

At the cross, His righteousness was exchanged for our sins. He took our sins, and we took his righteousness.

Jesus fulfilled God's righteousness

Matthew 3:14-15

*¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us **to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he allowed Him.*

Jesus did this as our representative. He fulfilled every sacrifice of the law by bearing all our sins – past, present, and future – on the cross.

We are given the very righteousness of God

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness** of God in Him (Jesus).*

When we accept Christ, we are given the very righteousness of God that Jesus obtained through His perfect life as a man.

Righteousness is the base of operations

Romans 5:17

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of **righteousness will reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

Romans 5:21

*so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might **reign through righteousness to eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Righteousness is the base of operations and the opening in which God can legally and justly bless us with all His grace. Not from our works and merit, but by Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father.

Provision Has Been Made

God has already provided

Ephesians 2:8-9

*⁸ For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

2 Peter 1:3

*as His divine power **has** given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

God has provided all we need by grace through Christ. It is a gift. We do not need to work for or deserve God's provision. It is offered as a gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

We are blessed

Ephesians 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

God has already provided righteousness

Romans 5:1

*Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

God has already provided healing

1 Peter 2:24

*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes **you were healed**.*

God has already provided prosperity

2 Corinthians 8:9

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty **might become rich**.*

God has already provided victory

1 Corinthians 15:57

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

4. Grace - God's Power

The Two Sides of Grace

Grace is not just unmerited favor, but also God's strength, ability, and power to do what you could not do in your natural self.

There are two sides of grace.

- Cross – grace through the cross of Christ.
- Resurrection – grace through the resurrection of Jesus.

Cross Side of Grace

Comes through Jesus' substitutionary work on the cross. Jesus bore all our sins in His own body on cross.

1 Peter 2:24

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Jesus became a curse for us, being hung on a tree. We are redeemed and forgiven of all sins – past, present, and future. We have been justified by Jesus' blood. Justified means declared just as if we had not sinned? Sin does not separate us from God any longer. God blesses us in our life because of Jesus' perfect finished work and not because of our flawed performance.

This is the vertical side of our salvation. We have a stable, firm, unmovable position with the Father because of the perfect and finished work of Christ for us. God sees us holy and without blame before Him because of the blood of Jesus!

Ephesians 1:4

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love.

Resurrection Side of Grace

Receive New Life

We have been given new life through the resurrection of Jesus.

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Ephesians 2:5

made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Colossians 2:13

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you *alive with Christ*. He forgave us all our sins,*

Receive Power

We receive power through the resurrection of Christ.

Philippians 3:10

*I want to know Christ—yes, to *know the power* of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

We have received the power of grace to strengthen us to do anything and all things God has called us to do. This power enables us to do what we could never do in our own strength!

2 Corinthians 12:9

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that *Christ's power may rest on me*.*

Philippians 4:13

*I can do all this through him *who gives me strength*.*

Receive Horizontal Relationship

We have resurrection grace to love others, serve others, forgive others, minister to others, and be Jesus to everyone around us. This can only be done by the resurrection power of Christ within us.

Receive Power to Walk Free from sin.

God gave us grace to empower us to a supernatural walk that pleases God and fulfills His purposes in the earth!

Romans 6:14

For sin shall no longer be your master because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Some Christians live in sin but boast that they are “under grace.” They are deceived! If you are “under grace,” then sin will not have dominion over you!

Grace is God’s ability, strength, and power to walk free from sin!

Romans 5:20

*The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But **where sin increased, grace increased all the more,***

This does not mean that when sin abounds in our life, that God’s forgiveness increases more. This verse means that if we trust in God’s power, where sin once abound in us, the resurrection grace of God will abound even more to free us from that sin!

Receive Ability to Bear Fruit and Live Holy

John 15:5

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, **you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.***

Galatians 5:22-23

*²² But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.*

We have been given resurrection grace to walk in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This resurrection grace is in our spirit. The power is released in us when we verbally acknowledge it and act upon it by faith.

2 Corinthians 1:12

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.

Receive Ability to Accomplish God’s Plan

Resurrection grace will lead you to be active and productive in accomplishing God’s plan and purposes for your life and His kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

5. Faith - Man's Response

Definition of Faith

Faith according to original language

Hebrew – emunah – firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness

Greek – pistis – firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing

Faith according to scripture

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

*Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the ^(b)evidence of things not seen.*

Substance – thing put under, substructure, foundation.

Faith is the foundation for what we hope for.

Faith brings what is in existence in the spirit realm into a physical existence in natural world.

Faith is assurance we have something although it is unseen.

Faith is Man's Proper Response to God's Grace

Faith is biblical way to respond to God's grace

Hebrews 11:6

*And **without faith it is impossible to please God** because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

His grace must be received by faith

Ephesians 2:8

*For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith** - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God*

We are not saved by grace. We are saved by grace through faith.

Teaching you can be saved by God's grace apart from faith is called "universalism".

Romans 4:16

*Therefore, the promise comes **by faith, so that it may be by grace** and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*

Romans 5:2

*through whom we have gained access **by faith into this grace** in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

Grace is not automatic

Grace is not automatically given apart from faith. If this was the case then everyone would be equally manifesting the same health, prosperity, and wholeness all the time.

Faith is from God

Romans 10:17

*Consequently, **faith comes from hearing** the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Ephesians 2:8

*For it **is by grace you have been saved, through faith** - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God*

Romans 10:17

*Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message,** and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Believing is putting faith into action.

God gives us faith but does not do our believing. Until we believe, God's grace will not be manifested in our life.

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 20:28

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are **those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"*

Believing – The Release of Faith

Faith must be released

James 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith must be released for it to impact our lives.

Faith is released in two ways

Speaking

2 Corinthians 4:13

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken" Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,

James 3:3-5

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

Our tongue can change our actions.

Acting

Acts 14:8-10

⁸ In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

Speaking and acting to effect natural.

Faith is NOW!

Faith is now, Hope is future expectation.

Faith says I have it now before I can see it with my eyes.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Mark 11:23-24

²³ "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Jesus has already provided all things for you. They are part of your inheritance. You obtain your inheritance by faith and patience. You must claim what belongs to you as your present possessions before you see them.

Hebrews 6:12

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

6. Faith - Man's Rest

Our Vertical Position with the Father

We Can Enter the Rest

The Law was given for mankind to prove to themselves that they could not become righteous before God by their works.

Man could not work hard enough or good enough to satisfy God's demands, which was perfection.

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Jesus came and performed all God's will in perfection. He did this for us and as us.

On the cross Jesus cried out, IT IS FINISHED! He bore all our sins and paid for them. In exchange, He gave us His very own righteousness.

We no longer must strive to satisfy God's demands to be righteous and earn His blessings. They have been earned by Jesus for us! Jesus's call to every person today is to come to him and find rest.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Hebrews 4:3

Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So, I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world.

We are Seated with Christ

After Jesus died and rose again, He ascended to His Father and sat down at His right hand. He did this because His redemptive work in our behalf was completed. Jesus is resting at the Father's right hand now.

Hebrews 10:12

But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

When we accept Christ, we are seated also with Christ at the right hand of God. The right hand is the place of favor, authority, and power. This position comes by God's grace, not our works or merit.

Ephesians 2:6

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

God has called us to rest in God's favor and righteous position by what Jesus has done for us. Bible faith is rest in Jesus! Jesus has done all there needs to be done to earn God's favor and blessing. We need to rest in what Jesus has done and cease from our works of self-righteousness.

Our Horizontal Call to the World

In our vertical relationship towards God, we are called to rest. But God did not take us physically to heaven when we were saved. He left us here to work for God and for His Kingdom.

We are called to works of faith not to justify ourselves or earn merit with God. We are called to witness to all around us and to serve others with the grace we received.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

*We remember before our God and Father **your work produced by faith**, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that **by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.***

We are called to rest with God but work in the world to establish His kingdom. All horizontal kingdom work proceeds from our vertical rest with the Father.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*** ²⁹ ***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest*** for your souls. ³⁰ ***For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

First, we come to Jesus and find rest. Then we take His yoke used for work. But the yoke comes with Jesus and His power to do supernatural work.

Many Christians think of grace as only rest. This leads to passivity and even falling asleep.

Romans 13:11

*And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to **wake up from your slumber**, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

Our vertical relationship with God is governed by grace and faith.
Our horizontal relationship with the world is governed by sowing and reaping.

Sowing and reaping involves work.
But if we work from our rest in God, it will be empowered by His resurrection grace working in and through us.
We have grace to sow.

Genesis 26:12

*Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a **hundredfold**, because the LORD blessed him.*

Entering into Rest

Hebrews 4:11 (KJV)

*Let us **labour** therefore **to enter into that rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

There are enemies to resting in Christ.

- The flesh
- The world
- The devil

Hebrews 4:10 (KJV)

*For he that is **entered into his rest**, he also hath **ceased from his own works**, as God did from his.*

We need to labor in prayer, study, and meditation of the Word of God.
Faith comes from the revelation of the Word of God.

7. Faith - Man's Responsibility

Faith – Our Responsibility

Our only response to God's grace is faith.

This does not mean we have no responsibility in the Christian life. We are given responsibility to **steward** the grace God has given to us. To minister and witness to others horizontally around us in the world.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

God has given us His grace, His gifts, and His ministry. We are to be good stewards over the gifts God has given to us.

Responsibility is "response" to His "ability".

1 Corinthians 4:2

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

What is required in a steward?

That they be faithful. One that is full of faith. Faithful people are those who trust God and stand on His Word despite how they feel or what they see in the natural.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 28:20

A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Our Responsibility to the Lost

What is our responsibility?

We have been given the Great Commission. We are to preach the gospel as we respond to His ability working in us to do it.

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

God will not preach the gospel for us. It is our responsibility.

Romans 10:13-14

¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."^[a]

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

People need to hear the gospel before they can call upon the Lord to be saved and they do that by believing upon Jesus.

This is our responsibility, to preach or speak the gospel.

Our Responsibility to Serve and Witness

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Our good works glorify God and bear witness to His goodness.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We are saved by good works, but we are saved to good works. We are to walk in good works as a witness and blessing to others.

1 Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

God wants us to be rich in finances but also in good works.

Titus 2:7

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

We are called to be a example for others to follow.

Titus 2:14

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

God redeems us to be zealous about doing good and blessing others.

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Good works are profitable to men to bless them and lead them to Christ.

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

We are to do good works from resurrection grace that is inside us.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

Good works must be stirred up. We tend to rest in our vertical relationship with God and neglect our horizontal responsibility toward others.

1 Peter 2:12

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Our good works are a witness to others.

Our Responsibility to Our Family

Responsibility in marriage

Ephesians 5:22

Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

God is asking us to do what does not come naturally.

For wives to submit to husbands and husbands to love their wives.

This mutual humbling keeps us open to the Spirit directed works of God.

Responsibility with our children

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Our Responsibility at Work

Colossians 3:22

Slaves obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Work as unto the Lord – not as an eye-pleaser.

Titus 2:9-10

⁹ *Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

Not purloining.

Proverbs 12:24

Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.

Proverbs 13:4

A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

The blessing of being diligent.

Our Responsibility to Use Our Gifts

Matthew 25:14-15

¹⁴ *"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

The servants were given stewardship over money. The master gave according to their ability. Two used money to gain more.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Romans 12:1-7

¹ Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

We are to server others with our gifts. This sacrifice is holy and acceptable to God.

8. Faith - Man's Reward

Our Reward

God rewards the use of our faith and our works of faith. He does this out of His grace. God rewards our faith and use of faith in His grace.

Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those** who earnestly seek him.*

Hebrews 10:35

*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be **richly rewarded**.*

God's rewards are given in this life and in the next.

Matthew 25:21

*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a **few things**; I will put you in charge of **many things**. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Being faithful in stewarding a few things, we will be rewarded by stewarding many things.

Matthew 6:3-4

*³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, **will reward you**.*

God rewards openly.

Proverbs 11:18

*A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a **sure reward**.*

We sow righteousness by works of faith. This will receive a sure reward from God.

Matthew 10:42

*And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, **that person will certainly not lose their reward**."*

Colossians 2:18

*Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels **disqualify you**. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.*

Our reward can be gained or lost.

Colossians 3:24

*since you know that **you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward**. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Part of our inheritance in Christ is a reward for serving Him faithfully.

2 John 1:8

*Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be **rewarded fully**.*

We can receive a full reward and partial reward.

Revelation 22:12

*"Look, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me**, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.*

Jesus is bringing our reward with Him.

Psalms 58:11

*Then people will say, "Surely **the righteous still are rewarded**; surely there is a God who judges the earth."*

Rewarded for Trusting God Amid Persecution

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when **people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me**. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your **reward** in heaven, for in the same way they **persecuted** the prophets who were before you.*

Luke 6:22-23

²² *Blessed are you **when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man**. ²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is **your reward** in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.*

Hebrews 11:26

*He regarded **disgrace** for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt because he was looking ahead **to his reward**.*

Those Rewarded by God

Genesis 15:1

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

*"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your **very great reward.**"*

Abraham was rewarded by God for trusting Him.

Ruth 2:12

*May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be **richly rewarded** by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."*

Ruth was rewarded for her faithfulness to Naomi.

Rewarded for our Work and Labor

Numbers 18:31

*You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, **for it is your wages for your work** at the tent of meeting.*

2 Chronicles 15:7

*But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for **your work will be rewarded.**"*

1 Corinthians 3:8

*The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be **rewarded according to their own labor.***

Ecclesiastes 4:9

*Two are better than one, because they have a **good return for their labor:***

Isaiah 49:4

*But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and **my reward** is with my God."*

Job 34:11 (NKJV)

*For He repays man according to his work and makes man to find a **reward according to his way.***

Jeremiah 31:16

*This is what the LORD says: "**Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,**" declares the LORD. "They will return from the land of the enemy.*

Judgement Seat of Christ – Judgment of Works

There will be a judgment seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

The judgement seat of Christ is only for believers who will be saved.
The Great White Throne Judgement after the Millennium is for unbelievers.

Judgement seat of Christ will not be for the judgement of our sins but of our works.

The judgment seat of Christ is a place where we will receive our reward.

Revelation 20:11-13

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.