



GRACE
THROUGH
FAITH

C H A R L E S C A P P S

GRACE THROUGH FAITH

One of the keys to understanding the truths of the New Covenant is having a revelation of the gift of grace. The apostle Paul gives us clear insight in this matter in Romans, Chapters 4-6. Romans 4:13 says, *“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”* Verse 16, *“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.”* Here Paul indicates the way we enter into grace is **through faith**.

We have all heard that grace is unmerited favor. Well, that is true, but it is much more than that. Grace is **God’s willingness to use His power and His ability on your behalf, even though you don’t deserve it.** This definition of grace

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will challenge you to study the Scriptures concerning grace. Paul tells us that it is through faith that we are able to enter into grace.

Romans 5:1-2: *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand...”* In other words, the only way that we have **access** into God’s grace (His willingness) is through faith in His Word and the blood of Jesus His Son.

We cannot merit favor with God through good works as they did under the Old Covenant. They were under the law and they had to keep the whole law, or the curses came on them, and no one could keep the law to the letter. But under the New Covenant it is no more the works of the law, but it is of faith that we might enter into the promises through grace. Under the New Covenant (the days of grace), it is through mercy and grace that we are justified by faith. We are not justified by what we have done, or what we haven’t done. We are justified by faith in the blood of Jesus. It is through faith that we access the grace

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of God for the remission of sins.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference ... Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. (Romans 3:19-22, 28)

You will notice in every letter that the Apostle Paul wrote, he says, “*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus.*” You find that it is usually in the first two or three verses, but no further than the seventh verse. Paul wanted us to receive God’s willingness toward us. That is where many people miss it today. They have

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trouble receiving God's willingness; oh they believe God is able, but they are not sure He is willing. They need a revelation of the gift of grace.

Peter also refers to grace in the beginning of each of his epistles, giving us more insight in this matter. He says, "*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.*" (II Peter 1:2) Grace being God's willingness, is multiplied through the knowledge of God. The more you know about what God will do, the more willing He is to do it because that knowledge produces faith. God is already willing but God's willingness is multiplied when you know what God will do on your behalf.

In Ephesians 2:8 we find a very interesting statement, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*" What gift is Paul referring to here? Many believe it is the gift of faith that Paul mentioned in I Corinthians 12:9, but I am convinced that he is referring to the gift of grace. In the third chapter of Ephesians, verse 2, we find some strong evidence. "*If ye have heard of... the*

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grace of God which is given me to you-ward.” Then in verse seven, *“Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”* It seems rather obvious that the gift he has referred to in Ephesians 2:8 is the gift of grace. (see Ephesians 3:2)

Then in Ephesians 4:7 Paul says, *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”* I believe we make a mistake when we say that the Scripture in Ephesians 2:8 is referring to the gift of faith. The gift of faith is a special gift and is listed as one of the nine Gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12:9.

MORE EVIDENCE

The death of Jesus ushered in the dispensation of grace. In John 1:14 we see that *“... the Word was made 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.”* Jesus was full of grace. He was filled with God’s willingness. Verses 16-17 say, *“And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the*

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law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Acts 14:3 speaks of the Word of God as the Word of Grace. Acts 14:2-3, *“But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”* Here it speaks of the Word of God as being the Word of Grace.

Now let's put it together. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us—full of grace and truth. The Bible is the Word of God's willingness toward us.

II Corinthians 8:9 says, *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.”* It was through God's willingness that Jesus became poor that we might be made rich. That includes financially,

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spiritually, physically, and every way.

Now lets look at II Timothy 2:1 where Paul admonishes Timothy to “... *be strong in grace.*” That is why so many Christians are in trouble; **they are not strong in grace.** They are strong in knowing that God is able, but so many are not strong in God’s willingness to do it for them.

I Peter 3:18 tells us to “... *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...*” Grow in grace—don’t stay where you are, as far as God’s willingness for you is concerned. As you grow in the grace of God, you will realize that God wants you to have the things that He has given you. Peter said:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be

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partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (II Peter 1:2-4)

“But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6) The reason it is impossible to please God without faith is because God is not pleased when you don't have faith to enter into the grace that He has already given through the exceeding great and precious promises.

I believe Hebrews 4:16 brings the whole thing into focus by saying: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, (don't come begging, hoping to God that something will happen, but come BOLDLY) that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* We shouldn't try to come on our merits. We certainly don't want what we deserve. It is through faith that we can **come boldly to the throne of grace** and obtain.

Under the Old Law they were under a law of works. In Galatians 3:10-11

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Paul said: “*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*” Under the New Covenant, we are not justified by works (we receive reward because of works) but we are **justified by faith**. Justified means just as if I had not sinned. Therefore, you can come boldly to God’s throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace (God’s willingness) to help in time of need.

In Galatians 3:21-29 Paul asks a question and answers it:

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterward be

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revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster ... For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The conclusion of the matter can be found in Romans 5:20-21: *“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”* So where sin did abound, grace does much more abound. In other words, grace swallowed all our sins. Where sin once did reign, now grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. *“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;*

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much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)

You can allow sin to reign or you can allow grace (God's willingness) to reign in your life through righteousness unto eternal life. The choice is yours and time is short. Enter into His grace through faith and trust Him and His Promises today.

MARANATHA!

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