

# WHAT IS "GRACE"?

We are Saved by Grace! Halleluyah! But there is more to this than you might realise.

I'm sure you are familiar with this piece of scripture, a favorite of many christian doctrines:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

<sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast."

But why don't we often have the next verse mentioned?

<sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Yeshua Messiah unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

-Eph 2:8-10

Huh, so we are saved by grace, not of works but we are to do good works and walk in them?

Let's unpack this.

You might have learnt that "grace" is unmerited favor or something akin to that. Take a look at the Strong's concordance definition below.

STRONG'S #

**G5485** (Strong)

χάρις

charis

khar'-ece

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From **G5463**; *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including *gratitude*): - acceptable, benefit, favour, g<sup>o</sup>, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, <sup>o</sup>orthy).

Total KJV occurrences: 156

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Here we can see that the original translation for grace in many instances in the bible is “divine influence on the heart” i.e the conviction of God!

Ok so let's do a little exercise. We'll take a verse from scripture that originally used the word Grace, replace it with divine influence/conviction and see if it makes better sense than unmerited favor.

2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our lord and saviour Yeshua Messiah...”

So we can definitely increase in or grow in knowledge. But how can we grow in unmerited favour (grace)? This doesn't really make much sense. I'll give an example: You are an employee, your boss favors you. You make a mistake at work, the boss shows you favor and there is no punishment/consequence.

You keep making mistakes or slacking off, the boss shows you more and more favor. There's no drive to get on your game or amend your mistakes because your boss has no consequences for doing wrong. He just is nice to you no matter what.

Does this behaviour from your boss push you to do better at work or continue in the way you are going? There's no issue if you make a mistake so you stay complacent right?

Now you can think of "Grace" in the same way.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

-Tit 2:11-12

Alright, so if God gives everyone favor so there would be no drive to repent, to turn from sin and obey God because he favors you no matter what. This idea lines up very well with the over-reaching Once-saved-always-saved doctrine of most churches today.

Heb 10:26-29 We can do despite the spirit of grace. So if God favors you and there's nothing you can do to lose favor (as many churches teach) then how can you lose it?

Grace is a spirit (Zech 12:10, Heb 10:29). Favor is not.

You can frustrate the spirit of grace if you don't listen to the spirit of conviction (Gal 2:21). If God favors you, how could you frustrate the favor he has given to you?

How can grace be in vain if it us favor? This would mean it was no longer unmerited/given freely.

-2 cor 6:1

We can fall from grace! (Note the law mentioned here is the sacrificial law - see other attached document *Letter to the churches* for further understanding).

-Gal 5:4

Matt 12:43-45 is an important scripture to know on this subject. If we have the holy spirit of truth (John 14:15-17) and do despise Yah's spirit of conviction (grace) too much and do not listen to it to obey Yah it will be taken away. Your vessel will not be left empty once the spirit of grace/holy spirit of truth departs from you. 7 worse spirits will come into you as described in Proverbs 6:16 & 16:5

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked imaginations
5. Feet that are swift to mischief
6. A false witness that speaks lies
7. Those that are proud in heart (this is an abomination to Yah, mentioned twice!)

We are told to speak with grace, seasoned with salt! This is showing us that salt is an idiom for grace! We need to speak with conviction!

-Coll 4:6

People can have a form of godliness (professing a belief in God/self professing “christians”) but deny the power thereof. The spirit of grace (conviction) moves us to act and we can choose either to obey or do despite unto the spirit of grace. Favor doesn’t convict us to change anything. Our “conscience” is God’s conviction on our heart letting us know when we are going against Him and His instruction. We deny the power of God’s conviction if we say grace is “unmerited favor”. This is not a good thing to do, to say *the burden of the lord!*

-2 tim 3:5, Jer 23:33

“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only God Yahovah and our Messiah Yeshua.” i.e. Making keeping the commandments (the light burden easy Yoke of Yeshua - 1 John 5:3, Matt 11:30) a dirty or negative thing. Maybe you questioned a pastor about keeping the commandments as the bible clearly instructs and they told you *that's for the jews* or *that's the old testament, we're under grace (unmerited favor) now!* Yikes.

-Jude verse 4

STRONG'S #

**G766** (Strong)

ἀσέλγεια

aselgeia

as-elg'-i-a

From a compound of [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and a presumed [σελήγης selgēs](#) (of uncertain derivation, but apparently meaning *continent*); *licentiousness* (sometimes including other vices): - filthy, lasciviousness, wantonness.

**Total KJV occurrences: 9**

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You need to listen to and act on Yah's conviction in your heart. He is speaking to you in this way, guiding you. Now go be salty! No time to win friends but to find the lost sheep!

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

-Mat 5:13

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