



# MULTIPLYING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## Study Notes by Thomas Hale

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This document is a compilation of personal thoughts and selected quotations from biblical and theological books, dictionaries, commentaries, and articles. Its goal is to accelerate and enrich the personal studies of others through a structured guide.

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## “GRACE AND FAITH”

8 For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

9 Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.] *The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Eph 2:8–9.*

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon.*

## (G)od's (R)iches (A)t (C)hrist's (E)xpense

**GRACE** Undeserved acceptance and love received from another. Although the biblical words for “grace” are used in a variety of ways, the most characteristic use is to refer to an undeserved favor granted by a superior to an inferior. When used of divine grace toward mankind, it refers to the undeserved favor of God in providing salvation for those deserving condemnation. In the more specific Christian sense it speaks of the saving activity of God which is manifested in the gift of His Son to die in the place of sinners.

The NT word for “grace” is the Greek *charis*. It is used approximately 150 times in the NT. The word had a long history in secular Greek before NT times. Originally it referred to something delightful or beautiful in a person, thing, or act which brought pleasure to others. From this came the idea of a

favor or gift that brought pleasure to another. From the recipient's standpoint it came to mean "thanks" or "thankfulness."

*Millikin, Jimmy A. "Grace." Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, edited by Chad Brand et al., Holman Bible Publishers, 2003, pp. 678–79.*

**Ephesians 2:8–9.** These verses explain "the incomparable riches of His grace" (v. 7), **It is by grace you have been saved**, and adding that the means of this salvation is **through faith**. Hence the basis is grace and the means is faith alone (cf. Rom. 3:22, 25; Gal. 2:16; 1 Peter 1:5). Faith is not a "work." It does not merit salvation; it is only the means by which one accepts God's free salvation. *Hoehner, Harold W. "Ephesians."*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2, Victor Books, 1985, p. 624.*

## FAITH

**FAITH** Throughout the Scriptures faith is the trustful human response to God's self-revelation via His words and His actions. God initiates the relationship between Himself and human beings. He expects people to trust Him; failure to trust Him was in essence the first sin (Gen. 3:1–7).

**New Testament Amplification.** The dominant NT term for faith is the Koine Greek word *pistis*, usually translated "faith." It conveys the idea of trust, a firm internal conviction regarding the truthfulness of someone or some claim. The verb form, *pisteuo*, is usually translated, "I believe" or "I trust."

In the NT faith toward God responds to that which God has revealed verbally and actively in Jesus Christ.

*Parks, D. Mark. "Faith, Faithfulness." Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, edited by Chad Brand et al., Holman Bible Publishers, 2003, p. 547, 549.*

The two words that say it all are **grace** and **faith**. If you will notice in this well-known verse of scripture, grace comes before faith. Grace is God's hand reaching out to you, filled with "...all the things that pertain to life and godliness..." (2 Peter 1:3). Faith is our empty hand reaching out to **receive** what God is giving us in grace. Faith only **receives** what God gives in grace. Grace is the major part, the hard part, and God's part. God is responsible for grace. Faith is the minor part, the easy part, and our part. God leaves the easy part to us.

Only God can create our salvation, healing, or the meeting of any of our needs. God does the impossible thing! All we do with faith is receive what God generously offers to us.

*Bob Yandian, "The Grace of Healing."*

## THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH

**Unanswered prayers stand between the individual and the faith life.** If we should ask the average Christian what he/she believes to be their greatest difficulty in the Christian walk, most often the answer is, "I do not have enough faith. I know it's not God's fault. I know the promises are there in the Word. I have simply failed to get faith. I have prayed for it; I have fasted for it; but I don't know how to get it."

*E.W.Kenyon, "Two Kinds of Faith."*

### **GREAT TRUTH #1: FAITH COMES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD.**

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982, p. Ro 10:17.*

If you wish faith to grow and become robust and strong, soak in the Word, feed on it, and meditate on it until you become one with it. Find out what you are in Christ, what your privileges are, what He thinks of you, and what He says of you!

*E.W.Kenyon, "Two Kinds of Faith."*

### **GREAT TRUTH #2: SEEING (SENSE KNOWLEDGE) IS NOT BELIEVING, BELIEVING (REVELATION KNOWLEDGE) IS SEEING.**

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, <sup>o</sup>the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. *The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Heb 11:1.*

<sup>o</sup> *James Moulton and George Milligan, The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament.*

Sense Knowledge faith says, "When I see it, when I feel it, I will know I have it." Real faith (Revelation Knowledge) in the Word says, "If God says it is true, it is. If He says that 'By His stripes I am healed', I am. If He says that God shall supply every need of mine, He will do it. If God says He is the strength of my life, He is. So I go about doing my work because He is what He says He is, and I am what He says I am." Faith is the result of the Word dwelling in us.

Sense Knowledge will fight every step of the way to hold us in the realm of things seen, felt and heard, but we persistently drive ourselves into the Word until the Word is a part of our being, the Word is real.

E.W.Kenyon, "Two Kinds of Faith."

24 For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe** (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. *The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Mk 11:24.*

50 But Jesus, on hearing this, answered him, Do not be seized with alarm or struck with fear; simply believe [<sup>z</sup>in Me as able to do this], and she shall be made well. *The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Lk 8:50.*

<sup>z</sup> Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon.*