



## Lesson 4

# The Grace of God

The grace of God feels like such a huge topic! We use the word *grace* so much in Christian settings that it can easily lose its significance and power. But grace is a big deal! Without God's grace, we would truly have no hope of eternal salvation. So, let's take some time to look deeper into what Scripture says about grace and discover the God of all grace.

As Tozer points out, grace is the good pleasure or favor of God that He freely lavishes on the undeserving. Grace depends on God's character, not mine. God calls Himself gracious and says that He is full of unending mercy. This attribute of God's graciousness is His unchanging character, eternal and without limit, and is not something that He just occasionally decides to express. All of His actions, words, and plans are full of grace by nature. And Tozer emphasizes that God is never reluctantly gracious. I love that truth! God lavishes grace freely. Grace cannot be earned; it is not a reward for good behavior or spiritual success. If grace could be earned, it would no longer be grace. Because it is a gift, receiving grace requires humble dependence on God.

*Grace is an attribute of His holy being. He can no more hide His grace than the sun can hide its brightness. —A. W. Tozer*

In our last lesson, we looked at the attribute of God’s holiness. Tozer links these two attributes (grace and holiness) because, as we consider them together, we get a more balanced, awe-filled picture of God. As we see the holiness of God, we recognize the problem and our need: God is utterly pure, perfectly holy, and without sin, and our sin and unrighteousness separate us from a perfect and holy God. Grace provides the way and meets the need that holiness exposes. Holiness reveals the chasm, and grace bridges the gap and brings us to God.

God’s grace is good news! We are sinful and unworthy of God’s acceptance and love, and yet, through His unearned, undeserved favor, God gives us the riches of His love, forgiveness, and mercy—that is grace! Grace is His very nature, and the channel through which His grace flows is the person of Jesus Christ.

*Grace indeed came by Jesus Christ, but it did not wait for His birth in the manger or His death on the cross before it became operative. Christ was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*  
—A. W. Tozer

Tozer points out that we sometimes believe that grace came only to believers from the time of the New Testament to the present, and that the Old Testament was a time without grace. We know that “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (see John 1:14, 17). But the truth is that grace made relationship with God possible, and God expressed His grace from the very beginning of time.

Without grace, Abraham could not have been called the friend of God. Without grace, Noah and his family would not have been saved from the flood. Without grace, David’s failure would have kept him from being called a man after God’s own heart. Samuel, Isaiah, Daniel, and every believer listed in the lineage of Christ and in Hebrews 11 (Hall of Faith) lived lives changed by the light and favor of God’s grace. The grace of God is highlighted by His work in the lives of sinful, finite people, like a diamond set against a backdrop of black velvet. The darker the background, the brighter and more brilliant the diamond’s facets will shine. The darker the story, the greater the beauty of God’s grace.

## Closing Thought and Prayer

The grace of God is who God is, but it is also a gift we receive from Him. God’s grace changes everything!

Lord, open our eyes to Your unchanging character. May we recognize the depth and extent of the grace You freely offer us, and may the beauty of Your grace transform our lives and bring You glory. May we find strength and provision for all that we need in and through You, the God of all grace!

*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. —1 Peter 5:10*

In each study, we will look at Scripture and pull it apart to learn what it says and what it means in our lives. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). So, we want to “hear” what He has to say to us. The following acronym is a helpful guide in our study of God’s Word.

## HEAR

### **H—Highlight**

Choose key words, verses, or phrases that stand out to you. Focus your attention and slow down to observe the text.

### **E—Explain**

Ask: What does this mean? Look at the context, original audience, and background to understand the passage.

### **A—Apply**

Ask: How does this apply to my life today? Make it personal. Think about actions, attitudes, or changes God might be speaking to you about.

### **R—Respond**

Talk to God about what you’ve learned. Pray, confess, thank, or make a commitment based on your study.

# STUDY

<sup>24</sup> “The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be **gracious** to you; <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”  
—Numbers 6:25-26, NKJV

1. What is your greatest takeaway from the summary that begins this lesson or from your reading of chapter 19 in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, “The Grace of God”?

2. What does the verse below reveal about the character of God?

<sup>5</sup> Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and **gracious**, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.”  
—Exodus 34:5–6

3. Read the following verses in the NKJV. Note and comment on how grace is displayed in the Godhead:

a. God

i. Psalm 84:11

ii. Psalm 145:8, 17

iii. Isaiah 30:18

b. Jesus

i. John 1:14

ii. Luke 2:40

- c. The Holy Spirit
    - i. Zechariah 12:10a
  
    - ii. Galatians 5:22–23
  
  - d. Which one of the above truths about God ministers to you most today? Why?
4. In the first chapter of Matthew, a genealogy of the lineage of Jesus Christ is given. Surprisingly, and contrary to custom, this lineage included five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. And yet, despite their flaws, all they suffered, and even before they did anything, God saw them and redeemed their stories for His kingdom purposes—to bring forth His Son as Savior of the world. As you reflect on the lives of these women, how do you see the grace of God revealed?
- a. Read Luke 1:26–30 to discover Mary’s encounter with God’s grace. How does God view Mary?
  
  - b. Did Mary do anything to deserve or earn this favor? Use Ephesians 2:8–10 to deepen your understanding of this truth.
  
  - c. In light of this truth, how do you think God views you?
5. Read Romans 5:20–21 and Titus 3:4–7. What do you learn about grace and how we are saved?

6. The Book of Ephesians explains great truths about God, His plan and provision for mankind, and highlights the theme of grace.
  - a. Read Ephesians 1:2 and note how Paul opens the letter. Why do you think he does that?
  - b. From Ephesians 1:6–8, what has grace done for the believer?
  - c. Read Ephesians 2:4–9. What stands out to you about God and His grace?
  - d. If time permits, read Ephesians 1–2 and make note of anything else that stands out to you about grace.
  
7. The grace of God had a profound impact on the life of the Apostle Paul. Grace doesn't promise a perfect and easy life, but it is a promise of God's provision and presence in it all. Read the following verses, and write what you learn about grace.
  - a. 1 Corinthians 15:10
  - b. 2 Corinthians 9:8
  - c. From 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, what does a life look like with the grace of God resting on it?
    - i. Where did Paul receive the strength and power in hardship to do things for God?
  - d. Where have you seen God's grace at work in your life in the past?

- e. Where do you need God's grace in your life today?
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- 8. What is your greatest takeaway from this lesson on the grace of God?

*The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us.*  
—Billy Graham