



Sunday, July 24, 2022



Main Text: James 4:6-10—(6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. (9) Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Introduction: Someone once asked, “Why does God use imperfect people to do His will? The answer is because those are the only kind of people he can find! Thankfully, throughout history, God used imperfect people in His perfect plan. How was that possible? Instead of casting people aside when they failed, God simply gave them more grace! If there is anything human beings need today, it is more of God’s grace. But unlike God’s initial grace which all human beings received through Jesus’ death on the cross, only the humble receive more grace when they need it. While God’s extended grace is not a license to sin, we can rest assured that if we walk with God in humility, when we fall, He will lift us up, and cover our sins with more His divine grace.

What is grace? The Greek word for grace is “Charis,” (Kare-wis) which means the state of kindness and favor toward someone, often with a focus on a benefit given to the object; by extension: gift or benefit. A benefit is not something entitled or owed. It is a gift. Grace is God’s gift of unmerited or undeserved favor toward human beings.

How Have You Responded to the Grace You Already Received? John 3:16, Eph. 2:8-9, Heb. 10:29, 2 Thess. 2:14, Rom. 3:20

John 3:16—(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.

Eph. 2:8-9—(8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Heb. 10:29—(28) He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: (29) Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

2 Thess. 2:14—(14) Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 3:20—Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Note: Before we discuss more grace, we must ask, “How have we responded to God’s initial grace?” Through the death of Jesus Christ, every human being received the grace of God toward salvation. God gave His only begotten Son so that those who believe on would not be lost, but be reconciled to God! But simply believing in Jesus’ death is not enough! We are saved by God’s grace through our faith only when we obey the plan of salvation Jesus first revealed to Nicodemus (John 3:1-8) and was preached of the apostles (Acts 2:38-42, 2 Thess. 2:14). Before we can receive more grace from God, our faith must cause us to act on the grace He has already provided!

Why Do We Need More of God’s Grace?

- **We Cannot Do Anything Without God: John 15:5**—“I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” **Jeremiah 10:23**—I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. **Mal. 3:6**—For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. **Jonah 4:11**—And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *a/so* much cattle?

Note: The first step toward humility is to recognize our helplessness without God. The Bible teaches that we are completely dependent upon God! Jesus said, we can do nothing without Him! Jeremiah said, human beings do not have the moral ability to direct our own steps as we should. Without God’s mercy, our sins would bring about the wrath of God and our destruction. Just as the Ninevites did not know their left hand from their right, neither do human beings today. That is why we need more of God’s grace.

- **All Have Sinned: Rom. 3:10-12, 23**—(10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **Rom. 5:20**—Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Note: Simply put, we need more of God’s grace because of our propensity to sin. Often we sin without realizing it. For example, we sometimes presume something is okay when it is against God’s word. We may even sin when we think we are doing the right things because we are relying on feelings or our knowledge instead of God’s word. The Bible teaches that no one can boast of being righteous before God! It is only by the grace of God that God counts our obedient faith as righteousness. Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. This does not mean we cannot help but sin, but it does mean we are likely to sin if we do not walk close to God. Therefore, we need more of God’s grace to cover our transgressions should we sin.

Good News—God Desires to Give Us More Grace! James 4:6, Psalms 78:39

James 4:6—But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Psa. 78:39—For he remembered that they *were but* flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

Note: Fortunately, God is not trying to limit His grace toward us! He is not standing with a fly swatter to crush us in judgment when we fall! In fact, God wants to give us more grace! He knows that we are mere flesh, and that we struggle with the temptations and the evil forces of this world. Like the wind, we are here one moment and gone the next. Without God's continued grace we could never please Him.

God Withholds Grace from the Proud: James 4:6, Psa. 10:4

James 4:6—But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Psa. 10:4—The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Note: The apostle James said that our pride prohibits God from extending more grace to us when we need it. The one thing that causes God to withhold grace from us is our pride! The Greek word for pride is "Typhoomai" which means *to be or become conceited, implying foolishness; high-minded, lifted up with pride*. The word conceit means arrogant, superior, snobbish. God resists those who are proud. The wicked are proud and will not seek God. God is not in all their thoughts. If we want more grace from God, we must rid our hearts of pride.

How to Receive More Grace: James 4:6-9, Mic. 6:8, Psa. 18:27

James 4:6-9—(6) Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Micah 6:8—He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Psa. 18:27—For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Note: One of things that demonstrates God's love for humanity, is that He never identifies a problem in us without providing a remedy! Humility is the key to receiving more grace from God. The word humble means lowly, downcast, timid or of low degree, base. It means modest or ordinary. The David wrote that God saves the afflicted. What David meant was that God saves the humble! There are examples in the Bible where God extended His grace toward human beings because they humbled themselves. One example is King Ahab, whom God promised to punish for his sins, and for causing the Israelites to sin. But when the prophet Elijah told Ahab about God's impending wrath, he fasted, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went about softly. In other words, he humbled himself! When God saw Ahab's humility, He (God) extended His grace by delaying the judgment until Ahab's son took the throne. If God will give more grace to a wicked king who humbles himself, he will do the same for those who obey His word.

How to Develop Humility:

- **Submit to God and Resist the Devil: James 4:7**—Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Note: The first thing James said to do to humble ourselves is to submit to God and resist the devil! To submit is to surrender. What are we surrendering? We surrender our will to God's will. To

surrender our will to God is to resist the devil. We cannot submit to God and to the devil at the same time. The way we live determines who we are submitting to and who we are resisting.

- **Draw Closer to God: James 4:8**—Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **1 Pet. 1:16**—because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” **Heb. 12:14**—(14) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Note: How do we draw closer to God? Since God is holy by nature, He commands those who follow Christ to be holy. Just as sin separates us from God, a life of holiness draws us closer to Him. The more we walk in holiness, the more we become like Christ, and the closer we get to God. You may remember that Christ humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death! To draw closer to God is to become more like Christ.

- **Cleanse your hands and Purify the Heart: James 4:8-9**—(8) Cleanse your hands...purify your hearts, ye double minded. (9) Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

Note: Cleansing your hands, purifying the heart, being afflicted, and mourning are all acts of repentance! The road to humility always leads to a prayer of repentance that causes us to cry to God for a clean heart, as David did. See Psalms 51. A truly repentant prayer creates brokenness before God, and we mourn with heavy hearts because we realize our pitiful, sinful, and dependent condition. When God sees a repentant heart and the humility that follows, He softens His position toward us, and instead of metering out the judgment we deserve, He gives us more grace.

Summary: Grace is God’s unmerited favor, which means we have not done anything to deserve it. More of God's grace translates into more of God's favor when we fail. Because human beings are imperfect, we are prone to failure and sin. That is why we need more of God’s grace. Thankfully, God wants to give us more grace, but He withhold His grace from the proud and extends it to those who are humble. To develop a life of humility we must submit to God and resist the devil. We must draw closer to God with a life of holiness, and repent of our sins in broken-hearted prayer. When God sees our humility, He gives us more of the grace we need instead of the judgment we deserve.