

Chapter 21

What is Grace?

In my journey I have found that grace is all what we are experiencing and so much more we have yet to experience. One of the more direct interpretations of the etymology of grace is that it is directly tied to all the divine attributes of godliness! Hence Christ received “grace for grace” [D&C 93: 11-14] or in other words, he developed one godly attribute upon another godly attribute until he received a fullness of the Father’s divine attributes; developing the same divine character as his Father. Grace is not something we lack or get from a Deity, but what we already have within us potentially... we just need to embrace it and become one with it so that we may become like Christ and our Father in Heaven.

When we receive the “grace of God” we are “developing” within ourselves the attributes of godliness. “My grace is sufficient for thee” [2 Corinthians 12:9] ... in other words “my divine nature is sufficient for thee.” And “it is by grace that we are saved after all we can do” ... in other words, “it is through divine nature that we are saved after all we can do.” This is what grace really is!

“For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace [divine nature] that we are saved, after all we can do” (Book of Mormon | 2 Nephi 25:23).

We may “do” many things [“wonderful works” (Matt. 7: 21-23)] here in mortality or the world of spirits, but if we never strive to develop the attributes of godliness in our thoughts, words, and deeds then we have missed the purpose for which we are here in this moment, and Christ will say to us: “Ye never knew me” [JST Matthew 7: 32-33]. To become like Christ and Father, we must truly know them, by becoming like them in attribute and character, there is no other way!

Scriptural perspective of “grace:”

“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the **grace of God** [the attributes of godliness] was upon him” [manifest in his character].

(New Testament | Luke 2:40)

“Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the **grace of God** [continue in the attributes of God/godliness]. (New Testament | Acts 13:43)

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the **grace of God** [the gospel of divine nature, of godliness and holiness]. (New Testament | Acts 20:24)

“But by the **grace of God** [divine nature] I am what I am: and his grace [divine nature] which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the **grace of God** [divine nature] which was with me.” (New Testament | 1 Corinthians 15:10)

“And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding **grace of God** [divine nature of God] in you.” (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 9:14)

“I do not frustrate the **grace of God** [the divine nature of God]: for if righteousness *come* by the law [outward letter of the law], then Christ is dead in vain.” (New Testament | Galatians 2:21)

“For the **grace of God** [the divine nature of God/godliness] that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (New Testament | Titus 2:11 - 12)

“Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: **15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the **grace of God** [the divine nature of God/godliness] (New Testament | Hebrews 12:14 - 15).

“And now, I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the **grace of God** [the divine nature of God] the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be and abide in you forever. Amen.” (Book of Mormon | Ether 12:41)

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace [divine nature] sufficient for you, that by his grace [divine nature] ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace [divine nature] of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

33 And again, if ye by the grace [divine nature] of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace [divine nature] of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.” (Book of Mormon | Moroni 10:32 - 33)

Grace is a sublime word which defines who Father and Christ really are and if we learn to understand grace and become a manifestation of it, it will fill our spirit, mind and body with unspeakable joy and peace, and we will experience the “holy embrace” “face to face” with our Creator:

“And the LORD spake unto Moses **face to face**, as a man speaketh unto his friend.” (Old Testament | Exodus 33:11)

“And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew **face to face**,” (Old Testament | Deuteronomy 34:10)

“And then shall ye know that I have seen Jesus, and that he hath talked with me **face to face**, and that he told me in plain humility, even as a man telleth another in mine own language, concerning these things;” (Book of Mormon | Ether 12:39)

“Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, **face to face**, as one man talketh with another; and he told me of the works which his hands had made; (Pearl of Great Price | Abraham 3:11)

“And ***seek the face of the Lord always***, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life.” (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 101:38)

This essay is for informational purposes only and is the opinion of the author.

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