



**BOOK 01 – CHAPTER 01 – STUDY 04**

**GRACE AND MERCY,  
WHAT GOD GIVES AND WHAT HE WITHOLDS**

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# Grace and Mercy

## Hope Through Christ

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).*

Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin separates us from Him, because He is holy and perfect. The payment for sin is death, not just physical death, but spiritual death: eternal separation from God (**Romans 6:23**).

This death entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned (**Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12, 14**). Their sin opened a gap between mankind and God that no human effort can ever repair. We cannot fix it by being good people, having good morals, saving lives, or being very religious. Only God Himself can bridge that gap.

That bridge is Christ. The hope we have is not built on our goodness, but on His resurrection. When Christ rose from the dead, He proved that sin and death no longer have the final word. Through Him, the broken relationship between God and man can be restored. This is not an empty hope or wishful thinking, but a living hope that transforms the heart and changes how we live.

## Grace and Mercy: Two Sides of the Same Coin

The Bible often uses the words grace and mercy together. They are like two sides of one coin:

- **Grace** gives us what we do not deserve.
- **Mercy** holds back what we do deserve.

Imagine a teacher who catches a student cheating on a test. Mercy is when the teacher does not fail the student, even though he deserves it. Grace is when the

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teacher not only forgives him but also gives him another chance and even helps him learn so he can pass.

That is how God deals with us.

Mercy spares us from judgment, and grace brings us into favor. Mercy removes the punishment, while grace gives the blessing. Together they reveal the character of God; just, yet compassionate; holy, yet patient; firm against sin, yet willing to forgive the repentant. Without grace and mercy, no one could stand before Him.

Through Christ, both grace and mercy meet perfectly. At the cross, justice and love were joined. Sin was judged, yet sinners were offered forgiveness. This is why the resurrection brings hope; it proves that God's mercy is greater than our failure and His grace stronger than our sin. Hope through Christ means that no matter how far a person has fallen, there is a way back to life, if they will repent and obey the truth.

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## Grace

Grace comes from the Greek word *charis*, meaning gift, favor, or kindness. It is God's unearned favor given to us. Grace pardons our sins when we repent and gives us the chance to live in a restored relationship with God.

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11).*

Grace is always a gift to the unworthy. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ" (Romans 3:23-24).*

The law, given by Moses, showed us how holy God is and how far we fall short. *"The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Romans 7:12).* But the law also magnified our sin, showing us we cannot reach God's standard on our own (**Romans 5:20**). That is why grace came through Christ. *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Christ" (John 1:17).*

Grace is stronger than sin. *"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20).*

There is also **common grace**, which God shows to all people in daily blessings like rain, food, and life itself. But there is also **saving grace**, which brings forgiveness and new life through Christ.

Grace does not ignore sin; it overcomes it. It teaches us to deny ungodliness and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Grace is not freedom to live as we please, but the power to live as we ought. It breaks the chains of sin and gives us strength to walk in obedience. Without grace, we could never be free.

When a person receives saving grace, they are not only forgiven, they are transformed. Grace changes the heart. It removes guilt, renews the mind, and restores fellowship with God. The same grace that saves us continues to work in us daily, shaping us into the image of Christ. It does not excuse failure, it empowers victory.

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This is why grace is central to the gospel. The law exposes sin, but grace provides the cure. The law commands righteousness, but grace produces it. The law shows what man must do, but grace shows what God has done. Every believer who walks faithfully with God does so because grace has made it possible.

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## Mercy

Mercy is God's compassion toward us even when we deserve judgment. Because of His mercy, He holds back the punishment we deserve. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ"* (**Ephesians 2:4-5**).

Mercy is deliverance from judgment. *"O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever"* (**Psalms 136:26**).

According to the Bible, all have sinned (**Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8**). Because of sin, all deserve death and eternal judgment (**Romans 6:23**). If God gave us what we deserve, we would already be condemned forever (**Revelation 20:12-15**). Every breath we take is proof of His mercy.

Mercy is not weakness. It is the strength of God's love shown to guilty sinners.

### **Examples of God's Grace and Mercy**

- **Paul:** once a persecutor of believers, yet shown grace to become an apostle (**Acts 9**).
- **Peter:** denied Christ, yet was restored and preached with power (**John 21, Acts 2**).
- **Thomas:** doubted, yet was shown mercy and sent to preach (**John 20**).
- **Mary Magdalene:** once possessed, yet given the gift of being the first to see the risen Christ (**John 20:16**).
- **The thief on the cross:** guilty and condemned, yet forgiven and promised paradise (**Luke 23:43**).

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One of the clearest lessons of mercy is found in Jonah. Jonah disobeyed God, but God spared his life and gave him another chance. Jonah preached to Nineveh, the people repented, and God showed mercy by sparing the city (**Jonah 3**). Jonah grew angry, but God reminded him that mercy is part of His character (**Jonah 4:11**).

These stories remind us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy. The same mercy that restored Paul, Peter, and Jonah is still available today. But it is only given to those who humble themselves and turn back to God. Mercy is not automatic; it responds to repentance. The proud resist it, but the broken receive it. The moment a heart truly surrenders, mercy meets them there.

Mercy is the proof that God still cares for His creation. Every second chance, every warning, every call to repentance is mercy in action. When we understand mercy, we stop taking life for granted and begin to thank God for every breath. His mercy endures forever, but it is meant to lead us to obedience and transformation.

Grace and mercy are not excuses to continue in sin. They are calls to repentance and worship. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (**Titus 3:5**).

Because God has shown us grace and mercy, our response should be humility, gratitude, and obedience. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (**Hebrews 4:16**).

It is like a guilty prisoner who is unexpectedly pardoned. His heart should not be proud or careless, but thankful and devoted to the one who set him free.

True repentance produces change. When a person truly understands what God has done, they cannot return to the same life of sin. The heart that was once rebellious becomes willing to obey. The mouth that once cursed now gives praise. The hands that once served sin now serve righteousness. Grace does not leave a person the same; it transforms them.

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Our response to grace is daily surrender. Every day we choose whom we will serve. The mercy that forgave us also teaches us to forgive others. The grace that saved us teaches us to live righteously in every situation. This is how we show that salvation is real; by living out the change God has worked in us.

The proper response to God's mercy is worship, and the proper response to His grace is obedience. The more we understand what He has done, the more we desire to please Him. Our lives become living testimonies of His goodness, our obedience becomes our worship, and our endurance becomes our gratitude. Grace and mercy were never meant to end with us; they are meant to shine through us, so that others may see God's character in the way we live.

You cannot earn God's grace. You cannot demand His mercy. Both are His gifts, offered freely in Christ. But you must receive them through faith, repentance, baptism, and obedience ([Acts 2:38](#)).

Christ has already paid the price. The question is: will you accept His grace and mercy today?

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