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GRACE AND MERCY

**Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry**

New-non-believers



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(918) 814-1593



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## Grace and Mercy

### Hope Through Christ

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus 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.

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

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That is how God deals with us.

## 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 Jesus" (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 Jesus 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.

## 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" (Psalm 136:26).*

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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).

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).

### Our Response

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).

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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.

## **The Call**

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?

## **Recap for Understanding**

- **Sin:** separates us from God and brings death.
- **Grace:** God giving us what we do not deserve, His favor and forgiveness through Christ.
- **Mercy:** God not giving us what we deserve, His compassion sparing us from judgment.
- **The Call:** Grace and mercy are offered in Christ, but they must be received by faith, repentance, baptism, and obedience.

Hold this truth: *Grace and mercy meet at the cross. Grace offers us life, mercy spares us from death, and both come only through Christ.*

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