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GRACE AND MERCY

**Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry**

New-non-believers



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Grace and Mercy

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**Grace and Mercy**



## Grace and Mercy

**1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)** 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,

Sin is any act that displeases God, as sin separates us from God, who is perfect, such that the payment we are to pay for sin is spiritual death -- permanent separation from God.

**Romans 6:23 (KJV)** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Spiritual Death entered into the world when Adam and Eve sinned.  
**(Genesis 2:17, Romans 5:12, Romans 5:14).**

Because of this sin, the direct contact that was with God was damaged and a BIG gap was made, a gap that no human can never restore alone. We cannot fix that gap. No matter if we are good people, have good morals or save millions of people from physical death, it doesn't even matter if we are the most religious person in the world.

**Hebrews 4:16 KJV)** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Ephesians 2:3-5 (KJV)** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 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, (by grace ye are saved;)

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We can find the words grace and mercy used in the same context and sometimes in the same sentence in the Bible. God's grace and mercy can be viewed as two sides of the same coin. Grace on one side gives us what we do not deserve; mercy on the other does not give us what we deserve.

### **Grace:**

Although mercy is certainly an aspect of God's grace, grace is a broader, more extensive concept than mercy. Grace comes from the Greek word charis, which has multiple meanings, including gift, favor, and kindness. It refers to the unearned favor of God that is extended to us to pardon our sins upon repentance and to enable us to have a healthy, happy relationship with our Creator. Our sins being forgiven by God's grace leads to salvation.

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

Grace carries the idea of bestowing a gift or favor. Grace, often defined as unmerited favor, is offered freely by God "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus". Grace is always the extending of a blessing to the unworthy.

**Romans 3:23-24 (KJV)** 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:

Grace is offered to us only through faith in Christ so that we may clearly understand that it is not obtainable by any adherence to the law. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Christ Jesus".

**John 1:17 (KJV)** For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The law is holy, just, and good, but unfortunately it magnifies our sin and shows us how far we are from reaching the perfect standard of our holy and righteous Creator. Thankfully God's amazing grace overpowers our magnified sin, as it "superabounds" above our transgressions. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound".

**Romans 7:12 (KJV)** Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

**Romans 5:20 (KJV)** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

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Common grace refers to the blessings that God bestows on all of mankind regardless of their spiritual standing before Him, while saving grace is that special blessing whereby God sovereignly bestows unmerited divine assistance upon His elect for their sanctification and conversion.

### **Mercy:**

God is also rich in His mercy toward us, as He extends His loving compassion to us despite our sinful condition. Our salvation is rooted in God's mercy, as He "hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".

**Ephesians 2:4 (KJV)** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

**1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)** 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,

Mercy has to do with forbearance, kindness, and compassion; it is often spoken of in the context of God's not punishing us as our sins deserve. In particular, mercy usually involves kindness shown at a time when a severe penalty is expected. Mercy is one of God's traits, shown often toward mankind.

It may help to view mercy as a subset of grace. In Scripture, mercy is often equated with a deliverance from judgment.

**Psalms 136:26 (KJV)** O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever.

According to the Bible, we have all sinned, **For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Ecclesiastes 7:20 (KJV)**

**Romans 3:23 (KJV)** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**1 John 1:8 (KJV)** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

As a result of that sin, we all deserve death and eternal judgment in the lake of fire. Given what we deserve, every day we live is an act of God's mercy. If God gave us all what we deserve, we would all be, right now, condemned for eternity.

**Romans 6:23 (KJV)** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**Revelation 20:12-15** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Grace and mercy are glorious gifts from God that should take us to our knees in worship and adoration. We can bring absolutely nothing to God except a humble and thankful heart as we trust not in our works, but solely in the finished work of Christ Jesus at Calvary. **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 (KJV)**

The story of Jonah being swallowed by a great fish, being delivered, and giving God's message to the city of Nineveh is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. What is sometimes lost in the telling of this story is one of the great lessons we can learn from it: God is a God of mercy, and He desires to see that same trait in us.

After Jonah's effort to run away from what God commissioned him to do, Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and eventually was deposited on the shores near Nineveh (**Jonah 1 and 2**). After preaching to the people of Nineveh about the need to repent, something happened that Jonah wasn't expecting: The people of Nineveh repented, and God spared them (**Jonah 3**).

Jonah's reaction (**Jonah 4**) was to sit outside the city and wait to see the destruction that never came. God had prepared a plant to shield Jonah from the heat of the sun, and then destroyed the plant (**verses 6-8**). When Jonah became angry about the loss of the plant, God told Jonah (**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 also much cattle?" This was one of God's lesson of mercy.

Our response to the mercy and grace of God should be to fall on our knees in worship and thanksgiving. God declares in **Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)** "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

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## **Some examples of God's grace and mercy in the New Testament:**

\*Saul was a persecutor of believers, yet God converted him to become Paul, the apostle of Christ, the author of nearly half of the New Testament.

\*Peter was temperamental and denied Jesus, yet God used him to preach and about 3,000 believed.

\*Thomas was a doubter, yet God used him to preach the Gospel in India and possibly Indonesia (according to traditions),

\*Mary Magdalene was demon-possessed, yet God graciously gave her a wonderful chance of being the first witness of the risen Christ.

\*Martha was restless, yet God also allowed her to be among the first witnesses of the resurrection of Christ (and of Lazarus, her brother).

\*Barabbas was a criminal, yet God allowed him to be set free in exchange for Jesus.

\*The repentant thief was forgiven on the cross and promised to be in Paradise with Christ.

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