

Fueling Station 6: Key to Grace



What is Grace in all its fullness?

Key Introduction:

The topic of grace has been another controversial discussion in the church. The debate lies heavily one sided with the thrust of the semantics on God unmerited favor on mankind. Because of this, the Apostle Paul, in-particularly has to address this multiple times with the called out believers:

“What shall we say then? Are we to **continue** in sin that **grace** may abound?

By no means! How can we who died to sin **still live** in it?”

Romans 6:1-2 ESV

Although the Greek word for grace is properly translated “divine favor”, one must again rightly divide the context to determine what type of favor God is giving or offering. The hope of this article is that by the end of it the reader will have determined that the meaning of grace takes on at least 3 forms: divine favor of a free gift called justification, divine favor of Holy Spirits power, and divine favor of merited rewards.

Key Unlocked:

The athletic analogy of a race should suffice to lay the evidential groundwork for the fullness of grace. Once the coach accepts you onto his team the real work begins. He must provide you with everything you need to train and grow as a member who will contribute to the teams success. The training is rigorous but you have been given all the power you need, actually beyond what you can even ask or think, to finish the mission set before you. You do have the choice to endure the training or give up, to ride the bench or even be cut from the team. You also have the choice to persevere and endure the rigors of the training and receive the promised “inheritance of grace” at the end of the season.

Ephesians 2:8

“It is by grace that you have been saved, not of works lest anyone boast.”

*This grace was determined only by the finished work of Jesus on our behalf. The divine favor provided by the Father through the work of His only begotten Son is of course the critical foundation of grace in all its fullness. The understanding that “yet while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” is essential to the offer of the gospel of grace. That no matter what we have done in our lives, the offer of new life in Christ exists!

Romans 5:2

“**Through** him we have **also** obtained **access** by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in **hope** of the **glory** of God.”

*We now after receiving the work of Christ have access to this “divine favor” to race for the “hope” of the glory of God.

Romans 5:18

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness(context:first work of grace) leads to **justification** and **life** for all men.”

*Jesus performed “one act” of righteousness that offered justification to men by grace through faith. Then the offer is “life” for all men!

*These verses have mainly focused on the past tense understanding of what Jesus has already done for us.

*It is important to now move into the definition of present tense grace. Also called “the abundance of grace”

Romans 5:17

“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will **those** who **receive** the **abundance of grace** and the free gift of righteousness reign in life **through** the one man Jesus Christ.”

*Again, after receiving the “free gift” of righteousness if we receive also the remaining “abundance” of grace, we will reign in life.

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say then? Shall **we continue** in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall **we** who died to sin **live any longer** in it?”

*The point Paul is making is that the grace that was given was the very thing that offers a life pleasing to God and not a life of the death of slavery to sin.

Romans 6:15-16

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under **grace**? Certainly not! Do **you** not **know** that to whom you **present** yourselves **slaves to obey**, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, **whether** of sin **leading** to death, or of obedience **leading** to righteousness?”

*We obviously as recipients of the initial gift of grace can not live by its power and still present ourselves as slaves to sin leading to death.

The power of grace was meant to train us and prepare us for the masters return:

Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **waiting** for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us **to redeem us from all lawlessness** and **to purify** for himself **a people for his own possession** who are **zealous for good works.**”

*This present tense grace is training us as we see in Titus 2:11 to continue in our sanctification process and it is the power of grace that we are able to live Godly lives and please the Lord. To persevere and endure in this grace to the end is the key to receiving the promised glory of the inheritance!

**Notice the word race in the word Grace!!

Jude 1:4

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who **pervert** the grace of our God **into** sensuality and deny our only **Master** and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Jude 1:4 ESV

*In his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders, the apostle Paul declared, “I commend you to God and to the Word of His **grace**, which **is able** to build you up and **give you** an inheritance among all **those** who are **sanctified**” (Acts 20:32). It is this grace that builds up and motivates us to run a faithful race!

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

*It is interesting to note that the word “mercy” should also be understood differently. It should most often be translated as “covenant loyalty”. God was loyal to His covenant given through the blood of Jesus and so we also should be loyal to His covenant of grace and live a life pleasing to Him!

* 1656 *éleos* (translating OT 2617 /*kataisxýnō*, "covenant-loyalty, covenant-love" in the OT-LXX over 170 times) – properly, "mercy" as it is **defined by loyalty to God's covenant**.

9:31 AM Mon Mar 6

Strong's Greek: 1656. ἔλεος (*eleos*) -- mercy, pity, compassion

Bible Hub

Enter Reference or Keyword

Greek

Summary NASEC Thayer's Strong's Englishman's

Greek Hebrew Interlinear

Bible > Strong's > Greek > 1656

eBibles • Free Downloads • Audio

◀ 1656. *eleos* ▶

Strong's Concordance

eleos: mercy, pity, compassion
Original Word: ἔλεος, οὐς, τό
Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine; Noun, Neuter
Transliteration: *eleos*
Phonetic Spelling: (el'-eh-os)
Definition: mercy, pity, compassion
Usage: pity, mercy, compassion.

HELPS Word-studies

1656 *éleos* (translating OT 2617 /*kataisxýnō*, "covenant-loyalty, covenant-love" in the OT-LXX over 170 times) – properly, "mercy" as it is defined by *loyalty to God's covenant*.

Copyright © 2021 by Discovery Bible.
[Click For Videos And Learn To See What's Lost In Translation](#)

Englishman's Concordance

Matthew 9:13 N-ANS
GRK: τί ἐστίν "Ἐλεος θέλω καί
NAS: I DESIRE *COMPASSION*, AND NOT SACRIFICE;
KJV: I will *have mercy*, and
INT: what is *Mercy* I desire and

Matthew 12:7 N-ANS
GRK: τί ἐστίν "Ἐλεος θέλω καί
NAS: I DESIRE *COMPASSION*, AND NOT A SACRIFICE;
KJV: I will have *mercy*, and
INT: what is *Mercy* I desire and

Matthew 23:23 N-ANS
GRK: καί τὸ ἔλεος καὶ τὴν
NAS: justice *and mercy* and faithfulness;
KJV: judgment, *mercy*, and faith:
INT: and *mercy* and

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

RATION

Grace is our strength!

2 Cor.6:1

“So we beseech you, as helpers, that the grace of God which you have received **may not be in vain** among you.”

2 Corinthians 12

“My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power** is made perfect in weakness.”

“You then, my child, be **strengthened** by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,”

2 Timothy 2:1 ESV

Hebrews 12:28

“Wherefore, a kingdom that cannot be shaken receiving, may we have **grace**, through which we may **serve** God well-**pleasingly**, with **reverence** and religious **fear**; for also our God [is] a consuming fire.”

*Once again these three verses show our responsibility to live by the power or strength that Gods grace provides. Because God has provided us with such grace, we should live in Godly fear if we neglect to use it, because He is a consuming fire!

The grace gifts of the Spirit are for the express purpose of “building up”:

“Having **gifts** that differ according to **the grace** given to us, let us **use** them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:6-8 ESV

“Now concerning spiritual **gifts**, brothers, I do not want you to be **uninformed**. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who **empowers** them **all in everyone**. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**.”

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7 ESV

Acts 20:32

“ so now, brethren, I commend you to God into the word of his **grace**, which he is able to **build you up and give you an inheritance** among all those who are **sanctified**.”

*One of the greatest motivations we have of enduring the rigors of the race is to receive the future inheritance. It is the privilege and responsibility of every called out believer to build one another up using these gifts and help one another run a faithful race!

“Put false ways far from me and **graciously teach me your law!**”

Psalms 119:29 ESV

*It is important to note all the uses of grace in the old covenant also.

*Grace is the key to being a disciple and making disciples:

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the **grace of God**. Pay **careful attention to yourselves** and to **all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and

from among your own selves will arise men speaking **twisted** things, to **draw away** the disciples after them. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his **grace**, which is able to **build** you **up** and to give you the **inheritance** among all **those** who are **sanctified**.”

Acts 20:24, 28-30, 32 ESV

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Acts 14:21-22 ESV

Grace is a future inheritance to the obedient:

“For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— just as you did partially understand us—that **on the day** of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of **grace**. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

2 Corinthians 1:13-15, 20 ESV

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the **grace** that **will be** brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:13 ESV

*The hope of grace is to receive the inheritance!

Grace is the key to living the Kingdom life and receiving the kingdom:

“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God **opposes** the proud but gives **grace** to the **humble**.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the **proper time** he may exalt you, And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all **grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and **establish** you. To him be the **dominion** forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 5:5-6, 10-11 ESV

Additional Scripture/Resources:

2 Corinthians 4:15

1 Corinthians 12

Ephesians 4

Greek Research:

Strong's Concordance

charis: **grace**, kindness

Original Word: χάρις, ἰτος, ἦ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: charis

Phonetic Spelling: (khar'-ece)

Definition: grace, kindness

Usage: (a) grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, (b) favor, (c) gratitude, thanks, (d) a favor, kindness.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 5485 χάρις (another feminine noun from xar-, "favor, disposed to, inclined, favorable towards, **leaning towards to share benefit**") – properly, grace. 5485 (xáris) is preeminently used of the Lord's favor – freely extended to give Himself away to people (because He is "always leaning toward them").

5485 /xáris ("grace") answers directly to the Hebrew (OT) term 2580 /Kaná ("grace, extension-toward"). Both refer to God freely extending Himself (His favor, grace), **reaching (inclining) to people because He is disposed to bless (be near) them.**

[5485 (xáris) is sometimes rendered "thanks" but the core-idea is "favor, grace" ("extension towards").]

*Note that because of Christ's victory, we have access into this favored relationship where He is disposed to bless us with everything we need. We are without excuse!

Application/Contemplation:

1. Have you every contemplated how cruel it would have been for God to give us commands to follow but not the power to fulfill them? Explain.
2. Does this in any way negate our responsibility to exercise this power volitionally?
3. How does this understanding encourage accountability in the church of God?
4. Did you know that you don't have to ask for this divine favor but only claim it by faith in the finished work of Christ? What are the implications of this for our lives?
5. Is this the name it and claim it gospel of our western pulpits or is this grace promised to empower us only to do the "works" of Christ?
6. What are the future implications of this grace when Christ our master returns?

Challenge: Connect Ephesians 1:19 to Ephesians 2:7-8; Ephesians 3:2 and 3:7.

This will help us understand that grace is the power that Christ has given us to be in fellowship with Him.

The call to use His power in order to become Holy and blameless and receive the inheritance!

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

