

Grace

What's so amazing about Grace?

This is:

Eph 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

9 not by works, so that no-one can boast.

(NIV)

Meanings of grace: Grace at meal times, "Your Grace" (form of address to a dignitary), "good grace" (willingly), Say the Grace, Graceful (pleasing movement, delicate), etc.

Gr. *Charis* grace: what gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness, good will, loving-kindness, favour;

- Unmerited favour of God towards us: an attribute of God, freely given, not as a result of anything that we do (Eph. 2:8-9)
- God's generosity
- God's Riches At Christ's Expense: forgiveness, salvation, heaven, children, heirs, relationship, family, kingdom, purpose in life, etc. The cross

Mercy: Not getting what we deserve

Grace: Getting what we don't deserve

Qu. How have you experienced grace in your life and how have you received it recently?

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The Prodigal Son / Gracious Father – Luke 15:11-32

1. The son's demands (arrogant, selfish, disrespectful). What would any parent feel? The father's response – unusual? God may let us have our own way...
2. Middle of story - what was father doing? Watching, waiting, loving. Son was unaware of the father's love.
3. Son comes to his senses – vital – lead to repentance, sorrow, confession and ultimately, forgiveness. (Sometimes, we need to be broken before we get there). Son hoped against hope for mercy: he received much more -

extravagant grace. How well did he know his father? How well do we know God?

4. Father knew the son – his walk, his demeanour and his repentance, even before he spoke! Forgiveness on confession. As we draw near to God, he will draw near to us. Son's restoration – cf. Gen 41:42

Gen 41:42

42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. (NIV)

5. Not all was well though...some dissenting voices. We may have to bear the consequences of our sins, eg. David.

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Grace needs to be received and accepted: how? By faith.

Eph. 2:8 The importance of **faith** – believe and act as reality (cf. "Freedom in Christ" course). Commit life to God's promises. Everyone lives by faith everyday of their lives: sitting on chairs, etc. A gift must be received.

- Commit to God
- Return to God
- Trust in God

Prayer