

The Grace Within

Grace is one of the greatest gifts in the bible. It appears throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is God's goodness to the undeserving. It is revealed in many ways. For example, through grace we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life, daily provision, protection, and direction, and a home in heaven.

However, in this study we are looking at one aspect of grace, which is the grace gift we've been given to bless, empower and serve others.

1 Pet. 4: 10 – As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

There are several things to understand about this grace:

- a. Everyone has received a grace gift
- b. It is not for our own benefit, but to serve others
- c. We don't own it. We are stewards of it. God expects us to use it
- d. It expresses itself in many different ways.

God has so designed it so that the more we give ours away, the more we receive back from others in return. The less we give, the less we receive.

1. This grace within gives power.

Eph. 3: 20 – Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Eph. 3: 7 – ...of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Paul understood that all that he was able to accomplish was due to this grace working in him, energized by the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 9: 8 – And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

When this grace is abounding it provides everything we need to fulfill itself. Notice that it manifests itself in good works.

2. We must activate it.

I Cor. 15: 10 – But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Paul also understood that we have to do our part. It doesn't work by itself. We must put it to work. When we work, it works, as long as we're doing what God wants us to do.

3. It can multiply.

2 Pet. 1: 2-3 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

Notice that it multiplies through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. Also, see again here that it gives us everything we need for life and godliness. In this passage God's grace is His divine power, and we can receive more of it.

James 4: 6 – But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

We must never walk in pride with our grace gifts. We must humble ourselves, see it as a loan, and use it to give God a return on His investment. When we need more, we should humbly ask Him for it.