

# Grace and Faith Work Together

Aug 26, 2018

Eph 2:4-9 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## Hebrews 11 study - Introduction (Oct 22, 2017)

This chapter is known as God's great Hall of Fame. Those mentioned in this chapter became great through a life of faith in God. The key to any of us being great in the eyes of God is faith. Therefore, we need to understand what faith is!

### Grace and faith work together (Eph 2:4-9)

Grace = God's hand of mercy extended to mankind

Faith = our hand embraces (God's invitation of mercy).

### Grace is one of the key attributes of God.

"The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth" (Ex 34:6).

**Without grace**, those mentioned in Hebrews 11 couldn't respond to God in faith.

## Definition

**Grace** = favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and despite what that person deserves (The Lexham Bible Dictionary)

**Bible Dictionaries** defines grace as the **unmerited favor** of God toward men.

### This does not do justice to the richness of the biblical use of the term.

Grace is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, patience; it involves other topics, such as forgiveness, salvation, regeneration, repentance and God's love.

There are 'grace-words' which do not contain the word 'grace' (Moffatt).

In Ex 34 we see God's grace:

God proclaims his name as the one who has saved Israel (Ex 34:14), who now makes a covenant (Ex 34:1). He shows graciousness to His people's distress and abounds in love and faithfulness (Ex 34:6). He is loyal to His covenant, forgiving people's iniquity, rebellion, and sin, even to a thousand generation.

Lam 3:22-23 The LORD'S loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

**Grace in the New Testament** is the unmerited favor of God shown to men because Christ died for them (Rom 4:4; 11:1-6; 12:6; Eph. 2:8-9; 1Ti 1:12-15; 2Ti 1:9).

This definition doesn't do justice to the richness of the biblical use of the term, which appears over 150 times in the New Testament. Grace is described as:

Great (Ac 4:33); Greater than the power of sin and death (Rom 5:21); Rich (Eph 1:7; 2:7);

Surpassing (2Co 9:14); Manifold (1Pt 4:10); Sufficient and abundant in our weaknesses (2Co 12:9); Greater than sin's power, wherever sin is found grace increases all the more (Rom 5:20);

Gives us the ability to reign in life (Ro 5:17); Glorious (Eph 1:6, 14)

## **The Lord shows grace towards His people in the Old Testament; Examples of God's grace in the Old Testament:**

### **Adam and Eve**

We see God's grace in His dealings with Adam and Eve after the fall. He responds to their condition with the promise of redemption (Gen 3:15) and care (Gen 3:21) rather than with abandonment, retribution or annihilation.

### **Noah**

Gen 6:8 But Noah "found in the eyes of the Lord."

### **Abraham**

The call to Abraham was an extension of grace, not only to him individually, but also through him to his descendants (Israel), and to all the families of the earth (Gen 12:2-3). This finds fulfillment on the basis of grace, not of race, so that it would become applicable to all Abraham's offspring - not only to Jewish believers, his racial descendants, but also to his spiritual descendants, believers from all nations who profess faith like Abraham (Rom 4:16).

### **Jacob**

Hos 12:3-4 In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God.  
4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor ...

### **Israel - in the wilderness**

In the Old Testament, the supreme example of grace was the redemption of the Hebrew people from Egypt and their establishment in the Promised Land. This did not happen because of any merit on their part, but despite their unrighteousness (Dt 7:7-8; 9:5-6).

### **Gideon**

Jdg 6:17 Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign ...

**Samuel** grew in favor with the Lord (1Sam 2:26)

**David** found favor with God when he is reunited with the ark of God in Jerusalem

2Sam 15:25 The king said to Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the LORD, then He will bring me back again and show me both it and His habitation.

### **Israel – returning from Babylon**

Ezra 9:8 "But now for a brief moment grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage." (Jer 31:2)

### **Foretold by the prophets**

1Pt 1:10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

**Zechariah** foretold of a time when the Lord would "pour out a spirit of grace"

Zec 4:6-7 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. 7 'What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

Zec 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

**Grace was a major theme in Israel's worship.** Psalms are filled with praise to God for grace.  
Ps 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness. (Ps 30:5, 7; 51:18; 84:11; 85:1; 86:15; 89:17; 90:17; 106:4; 111:4; 112:4; 116:5; 145:8)

## **The grace of God is the foundation for every covenant**

### **1. The Edenic Covenant**

This covenant is the Covenant God made with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before the entrance of sin (Gen 1:26-29).

### **2. The Adamic Covenant**

This covenant is the Covenant God made with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after the entrance of sin (Gen 3:7, 21-24).

### **3. The Noahic Covenant**

This covenant is the Covenant God made with Noah after the Flood involving all creatures and all future generations of mankind (Gen 6:8).

### **4. The Abrahamic Covenant**

This covenant is the covenant God made with Abraham, his descendants, and all believers of all nations (Rom 4:1-5).

### **5. The Mosaic Covenant**

This covenant was made with the chosen nation, Israel, after the Exodus and at Mount Sinai.  
Ps 44:3 For by their own sword they did not possess the land, and their own arm did not save them, but Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, for You favored them.

### **6. The Davidic Covenant**

This covenant was made with David and his seed, both naturally and spiritually (Rom 4:4-8).

### **7. The New Covenant**

This covenant was made with all mankind through the blood of Jesus Christ (Rom 3:21-25).

### **8. The Everlasting Covenant**

This covenant was made in eternity, before time began in the counsels of the eternal Godhead, between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was made before the creation of man and the entrance of sin into the human race. It embodies, as an all-encompassing Covenant, God's complete plan involving creation and redemption. It is the heavenly foundational Covenant in eternity for all Covenants revealed in time (Jn 1:14, 17).

## **Human favor and graciousness**

A common way of describing human graciousness toward another person is "to find favor in [their] eyes." In the OT, many individuals' hope was to find favor (grace) with a more powerful person:

Jacob found favor with Esau (Gen 33:8, 10).

Joseph found favor with Potiphar (Gen 39:4).

The people of Egypt found favor with Joseph, who saved their lives (Gen 47:25).

Hannah found favor with Eli, he sends her away with a blessing (1Sam 1:18).

Ruth found favor with Boaz as Naomi had prayed (Ruth 2:2, 10)

David found favor with Saul, playing his instrument to soothe him (1Sam 16:22).

David found favor with Jonathan the son of Saul, who sought to kill David. (1Sam 20:3, 29).

Esther found favor with King Ahasuerus, who made her queen of the Persian Empire (Es 2:17).

Daniel found favor with the Babylonian officials (Dan 1:9).