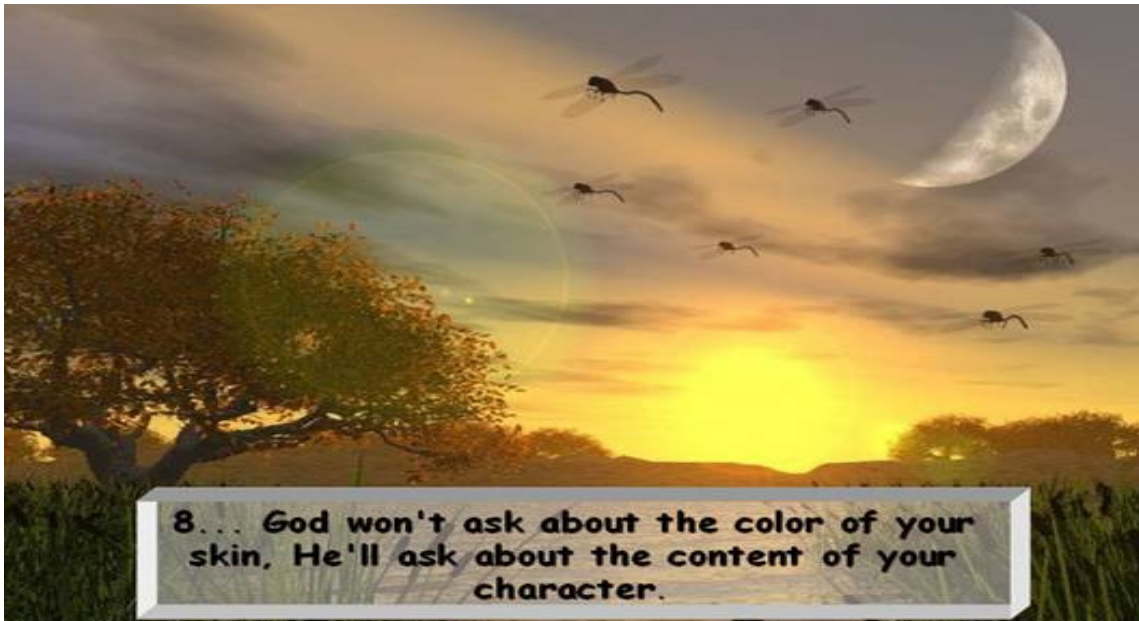


1 God's Grace Transforms, Sanctifies & Empowers



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Graham F. Watts, Sr.

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

13

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

19

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

25

26 PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY

27
28 This study teaches about the value of God's grace.

29 30 31 OBJECTIVES/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

32
33 At the end of this study, the serious Christians commits to deeper
34 cooperation with the grace of God.

35 36 37 SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT

38
39 The church of God is organized for service; its mission is to carry
40 the gospel to the world. Hence, **the church is the repository of the**
41 **riches of the grace of Christ.** **Through the church, God will reflect**
42 **to the world His fullness and His sufficiency** (Ephesians 3:10 in The
43 Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 9.1).

44 45 BACKGROUND CONTEXT

46
47 Grace, peace, righteousness and faith are divine gifts (John 1:17,
48 Romans 5:5 & 17 & 1 Timothy 1:14), which God gives the humble,
49 a.k.a., meek and lowly (Psalms 84:11, Proverbs 3:34 & James 4:6)!
50 For that reason, Noah "...found grace in the eyes of the Lord"
51 (Genesis 6:8). And Paul struggled with a physical disability, but
52 received hope through the sufficiency of God's grace (2 Corinthians
53 12:7-9). Thus, Paul could say, **"God.. [who has] loved us and [gave]**
54 **us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,** comfort your
55 hearts and establish you in every good word and work" (2
56 Thessalonians 2:16-17 in The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 267.1). This
57 background provided the impetus for the study question that follows.

58 59 STUDY QUESTION

60
61 How does grace help the Christian?

62 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

63

64 1. **Grace strengthened Jesus' spirit and filled Him with wisdom for**
 65 **fulfilling God's mission** (read Luke 2:40 & John 17:4). It will do
 66 the same for us as we carry out Matthew 28:19-20! What was Jesus'
 67 mission? "Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their
 68 synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** all
 69 manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people"
 70 (read Luke 4:18; 6:17-18, Matthew 4:23 & 9:35-36). What was the
 71 effect of grace on the mission of Jesus? "Whole multitudes sought
 72 to touch [Him because] ...virtue [went] out of Him and He healed
 73 [them] all" (Luke 6:19). **"His fame went throughout all Syria and**
 74 **they brought unto him all sick people that were [afflicted with**
 75 **different] diseases and torments** and those which were possessed
 76 with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the
 77 palsy; **and he healed them"** (Matthew 4:24 & Mark 1:34). The grace
 78 of God upon the life of Jesus culminated with "God anointing Jesus
 79 of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; [therefore], [He]
 80 went about doing good, [able to heal] all that were oppressed of
 81 the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). Understandably, not
 82 every disciples will have the gift of healing (1 Corinthians
 83 12:30), nevertheless, grace nourishes the spiritual gift of healing
 84 so that it abounds in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).

85

86 2. **Grace provided great power to the apostles witness of the**
 87 **resurrection of the Lord Jesus** (read Acts 4:33). **"The hand of the**
 88 **Lord was with them and a great number believed and turned unto the**
 89 **Lord"** (Acts 11:21). "All that believed continued steadfastly in
 90 the apostles' doctrine and fellowship. They broke bread from house
 91 to house and continued in prayers and **great fear came upon every**
 92 **soul and the young church. They performed many signs and wonders**
 93 [according to the Scriptures: Matthew 10:1; Mark 16:17-18 & Luke
 94 9:1]! They were together [physically], in one accord [mentally,

95 and] had all things common [because the brethren] sold their
 96 possessions and goods and parted them to all men as every man had
 97 need. [They] ate their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
 98 praising God! Daily, the Lord added believers to the church such
 99 as should be saved, [which included] multitudes of men and women"
 100 (Acts 2:42-47 & 5:11-12 & 14) and removed deceivers like Ananias
 101 and Sapphira from the fellowship (Acts 5:1-10). Marvelous grace,
 102 no human work can supplant it lest anyone should boast (Ephesians
 103 2:9) or glory [except] in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...
 104 (Galatians 6:14).

105
 106 3. **Grace guided the people of God in the wilderness (Psalms 32:8)!**
 107 "Moses said to the Lord, 'You have been telling me, lead these
 108 people but you have not let me know whom you will send with me.
 109 You have said, I know you by name and you have found favor (i.e.,
 110 grace) with me'" (Exodus 33:12, NIV & KJV). "'...If I have found
 111 grace in [your] sight, **SHOW ME NOW THY WAY THAT I MAY KNOW [YOU]**
 112 **AND CONTINUE TO FIND [GRACE] WITH YOU'**" (Exodus 33:13, NIV & KJV).
 113 **"`[HOW] SHALL IT BE KNOWN... that I and thy people have found grace**
 114 **in thy sight unless You go with us? What else will distinguish...**
 115 **[us] from all the other people on the face of the earth'" (Exodus**
 116 **33:16, KJV & NIV)? **And the Lord said unto Moses, 'I will do...****
 117 **[what you say] for [you have] found grace in my sight and I know**
 118 **[you] by name' (Exodus 33:17). **"And the Lord went before them by****
 119 **day in a pillar of a cloud to lead the way; and by night in a**
 120 **pillar of fire, to give them light..." (Exodus 13:21). "And they**
 121 **will tell [it] to **the inhabitants of this land:** [for] they **have****
 122 **heard that [the] Lord [is] among this people,** that [you are] seen
 123 face to face, and [that] thy cloud stands over them, and ...goes
 124 before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and [by night
 125 time] in a pillar of fire" (Numbers 14:14). Recipients of grace
 126 can embrace the promise: "I will not leave you comfortless! I will

127 come to you" (John 14:18), "...I will never leave [you] nor forsake
128 [you]" (Hebrews 13:5).

129
130 4. **Grace empowered Gideon to accomplish a seemingly impossible task!**

131 "...The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and for seven
132 years He gave them into the hands of the Midianites" (Judges 6:1,
133 NIV). "Whenever the Israelites planted crops the Midianites,
134 Amalekites and other eastern people invaded the country... and
135 ruined [their] crops... Midian so impoverished the Israelites that
136 they cried out to the Lord for help" (Judges 6:3-4 & 6, NIV).
137 "[And God] sent a prophet, who said:

138 '...I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
139 I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of
140 all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave
141 you their land. **I said to you, I am the Lord your God; do not**
142 **worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.**

143 [Nevertheless], **you have not listened to Me** (Judges 6:8-10,
144 NIV).

145 [Therefore, for setting at naught God counsel, despising His
146 reproofs and rejecting the fear of God, the Israelites ate the
147 fruit of their own way as promised in Proverbs 1:25, 30, 29 and 31.
148 But God, who is rich in mercy subsequently sent] **"the angel of the**
149 **Lord, who** came and ...sat... in Ophrah... where... Gideon was
150 threshing wheat in a winepress... and **said [to him], 'THE LORD IS**
151 **WITH YOU, MIGHTY WARRIOR'**" (Judges 6:11-12, NIV). "...Gideon replied,
152 'if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where
153 are all His wonders that our fathers told us about when they said,
154 did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt? ...Now the Lord has
155 abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian'" (Judges 6:13,
156 NIV). **"The Lord turned to [Gideon] and said, 'GO IN THE STRENGTH YOU**
157 **HAVE AND SAVE ISRAEL OUT OF MIDIAN'S HAND. Am I not sending you'**" (Judges
158 6:14, NIV)? "But Lord, Gideon asked, **'How can I save Israel? My**
159 **clan is the weakest in Manasseh and I am the least in my family'**"

160 (Judges 6:15, NIV)! **"The Lord answered, 'I WILL BE WITH YOU AND YOU**
 161 **WILL STRIKE DOWN ALL THE MIDIANITES TOGETHER'"** (Judges 6:16, NIV).
 162 **"Gideon replied, 'If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show**
 163 **me a sign that it is really you talking to me'"** (Judges 6:17, KJV,
 164 NIV). Gideon brought an offering and the Lord consume it,
 165 signifying that Gideon found grace in His sight (Judges 6:18-22).

166
 167 5. **Grace humbled the leaders of the Jerusalem church!** At the hand of
 168 Peter, Gentiles received the word of God and baptism of the Holy
 169 Spirit (Acts 11:1-15). Therefore, Peter fellowshiped with the
 170 Gentiles, but this action caused contention among circumcised
 171 Jewish brethren. Peter then described the vision of the great
 172 sheet holding all manner of beasts, reptiles and fowls and
 173 rehearsed the instructions he received, "Rise Peter, kill and eat"
 174 (Acts 10:9-13). Peter recounted his encounter with Cornelius (Acts
 175 10:24), rehearsed his understanding "...that God is no respecter of
 176 persons" (Acts 10:34) and admitted that "in every nation, [anyone
 177 who] fears [God] and works righteousness is accepted [by] Him"
 178 (Acts 10:35). Therefore, Peter grasped God's message that Jewish
 179 nationalism [/ethnocentrism] that operated under the guise of
 180 religious exclusivity (Acts 10:28) was ungodly. Upon hearing this,
 181 the Jerusalem church held their peace, glorified God, recognized
 182 that God had communicated repentance unto life to the Gentiles and
 183 ...sent ...Barnabas... [on Pastoral visits] as far as Antioch (Acts
 184 11:18 & 22). **"[And]...when [Barnabas] came and [saw] the grace of**
 185 **God [among the Gentile converts (Acts 11:20-21)], [he] was glad and**
 186 **exhorted them that with purpose of heart... [to] cleave unto the**
 187 **Lord"** (Acts 11:23). Clearly ...if any person abides in-Christ new,
 188 holy ways replace the old, sinful practices (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 189
 190 6. **Grace gave Paul and Barnabas holy boldness in the face of**
 191 **oppositions!** At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas preached to Jewish and
 192 Grecian believers (Acts 14:1), but the **unbelieving Jews [of the synagogue]**

193 stirred up the Gentiles and made their minds evil against Paul and
 194 Barnabas (Acts 14:2). “But **none of these things moved me, neither**
 195 **count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course**
 196 **with joy and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus,**
 197 **to testify [of] the gospel of the grace of God”** (Acts 20:24).

198 [“Therefore, Paul and Barnabas abode at Iconium for a long time and
 199 spoke] boldly in the Lord, [who] **gave testimony unto the word of**
 200 **his grace and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands”**
 201 (Acts 14:3). “[From Iconium, Paul and Barnabas] sailed to Antioch,
 202 from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the
 203 work which they fulfilled” (Acts 14:26). From Paul’s experience we
 204 may infer that recipients of God’s grace should not expect a life
 205 of ease.

206
 207 7. **Grace made Paul and his colleagues feel secure amid oppositions!**

208 On one Sabbath, Paul and colleagues preached in Antioch of Pisidia
 209 and the rulers of the synagogue invited them to speak. Paul
 210 addressed the congregation, recounting Israel’s history, tracing a
 211 path from Egypt unto the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He made the
 212 case that all who believe in Jesus Christ are justified (Acts
 213 13:13-39, i.e., have received eternal life as God had promised
 214 (John 3:16 & 17:2, NIV). “Now when the Jews were gone out of the
 215 synagogue, the Gentiles requested Paul repeat the sermon the
 216 following Sabbath (Acts 13:42). When the congregation
 217 disassembled, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed
 218 Paul and Barnabas [and] ...persuaded them to **continue in the grace**
 219 **of God”** (Acts 13:43). “The next Sabbath day came almost the whole
 220 city together to hear the word of God” (Acts 13:44). This
 221 overwhelming response did not squelch nationalism, envy,
 222 contradictions and blasphemy that arose among some of the Jews
 223 (read Acts 13:45 & 10:28); however, **Paul and Barnabas boldly**
 224 **declared their mission of ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46-47).**
 225 **The word of the Lord was published throughout the entire region**

226 **(Acts 13:49), which soon excited persecution and expulsion of Paul**
 227 **and Barnabas, who were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit** (Acts
 228 13:50-52). The power of God's grace coupled with preaching drew
 229 large audiences but also stirred up jealousy and excited religious
 230 persecution. But amid these varied experiences, Paul said, "By the
 231 *grace of God I am what I am and His grace, which was bestowed upon*
 232 **me was not in vain;** [therefore] I labored more abundantly than they
 233 all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1
 234 Corinthians 15:10).

235
 236 8. **Grace brought salvation to lost humanity.** We are justified and
 237 saved freely by God's grace (Romans 3:24 NIV, Ephesians 2:5-9 NIV &
 238 Acts 15:11 NIV). The Church of Jesus Christ, whether past, present
 239 or future, to the sanctified in Jesus Christ, to those who have
 240 received precious faith and have accepted the call to holiness,
 241 i.e., to be a saint, grace and peace from God our Father and from
 242 the Lord, Jesus Christ (Romans 1:7 NIV, 1 Corinthians 1:2-3 NIV, 2
 243 Corinthians 1:1-2 NIV, Ephesians 1:1-2 NIV, Philippians 1:1-2 NIV,
 244 2 Thessalonians 1:2 NIV, Philemon 1:1-3 NIV, 2 Peter 1:1-2 NIV,
 245 Revelation 1:4 NIV). The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ must
 246 abide with our spirit (Galatians 6:18 NIV & Philippians 4:23), for
 247 it is through grace that God "Equips [us] with everything good for
 248 doing His will and... [for working] in us what is pleasing to Him,
 249 through Jesus Christ..." (Hebrews 13:21 NIV). God's abundant grace
 250 in NOT license for the people of God to continue in sin (read
 251 Romans 6:1) from which they have been saved (read Matthew 1:21).

252
 253 As you may have already concluded, the Bible is not silent on the
 254 subject of grace. We have a lot to learn, to practice and to teach
 255 about the grace of God. Are you part of God's "...remnant according to
 256 the election of grace" (Romans 11:5)? In the next section, we turn
 257 to sacred writings for continued exposition on grace.

258

259 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS:**

260

261 We are pursuing answers to the question: How does grace help the
 262 Christian? More answers follow!

263

264 1. **Grace allows us to boasts in God all day long** (Psalms 44:8)! We
 265 have been saved by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 266 The favor or grace God shows the repentant sinner is unearned and
 267 substitutionary; hence, we say: "Grace is unmerited favor,
 268 [meaning] the believer is justified, [i.e., reconciled to God (read
 269 Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)] without any [self] merit...
 270 [or] claim to offer to God. ...[Justification, i.e., reconciliation
 271 comes] through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands
 272 in the courts of heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety (read
 273 Isaiah 53:4-6, Hebrews 2:9-10 & 14-15; 10:1-14). [**Because**] **...Christ**
 274 **is the great depositary of justifying righteousness and sanctifying**
 275 **grace** (Selected Messages Book 1, {SM} 398.1), "I keep asking that
 276 the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you
 277 the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him
 278 better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened
 279 in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the
 280 riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints and the
 281 incomparably great power for us who believe..." (Ephesians 1:17-19,
 282 NIV).

283

284 2. **Grace enables development of moral and spiritual perfection!** "[It]
 285 is an attribute of God... [sent out in search of] undeserving human
 286 beings" (The Faith I Live By {FLB} 94.2). "[Grace is] ...The great
 287 element of saving power; without [which] all human effort is
 288 unavailing" (FLB 94.3). "Without the grace of God, men love to do
 289 evil! '[...Out of men's hearts come evil thoughts, sexual
 290 immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit,
 291 lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. **All these evils come**

292 from [within] and make [the] man [of Genesis 5:2]..., ' "[walk]
 293 according to the course of this world, [led by] ...the prince of the
 294 power of the air..." (Mark 7:21-23 & Ephesians 2:2-3). [Hence,
 295 people] walk in darkness and do not possess the power of self-
 296 control. [Not surprisingly], they give loose reins to their
 297 passions and appetites until all the finer feelings are lost and
 298 only the animal [as in brute] passions are manifested" (Testimonies
 299 for the Church, Vol. One {1T} 362.2). **But "...The Christian is to despair of**
 300 **nothing.** [We must 'put **NO** confidence in the flesh...' (Philippians
 301 3:3) and follow God's counsel to buy eye salve (Revelation 3:18),
 302 which represents **"...WISDOM AND GRACE,** which enables us to discern
 303 between evil and good, and to detect sin under any guise" (Rom 6:1-
 304 2 in 4T 88.2). Thus, we can attain] **Moral and spiritual**
 305 **perfection, through the grace and power of Christ,** [that] **is**
 306 **promised to all.** Jesus is the source of power, the fountain of
 307 life. He brings us to His word and from the tree of life presents
 308 to us leaves for the healing of sin-sick souls. He leads us to the
 309 throne of God and puts into our mouth a prayer through which we are
 310 brought into close contact with Him. In our behalf, He sets in
 311 operation the all-powerful agencies of heaven. At every step we
 312 touch His living power" (The Acts of the Apostles {AA} 478.2) and
 313 can say with the apostle Paul—"In all... things we are more than
 314 conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

315
 316 3. **Grace works in unison with the Holy Spirit for our spiritual**
 317 **development!** "[We first] receive grace... and as [we] reveal grace
 318 in [our] words, in [our] spirit and [our] actions, God pours upon
 319 [us] a larger measure of grace. **IN PROPORTION AS [WE] SURRENDER**
 320 **[OURSELVES] TO THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT [WE] ARE SUPPLIED**
 321 **WITH HEAVENLY GRACE.** [We] are molded and fashioned a vessel unto
 322 honor, and become a channel through which God makes manifest His
 323 grace to the world (That I May Know Him, {TMK} 276.5). By this

324 means, "Everyone who loves God... [can testify] of the preciousness
325 of His grace and truth" (God's Amazing Grace, {AG} 184.2).

326

327 4. **Grace implants enmity in the human heart against the principles of**
328 **Satan** (Genesis 3:15 in The Desire of Ages, {DA} 407.1). [Thus],
329 the soul... through divine power resists temptation [and] reveals to
330 the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace
331 of Christ" (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 117 in
332 Colporteur Ministry, {CM} 67.2). "Through personal effort joined
333 with the prayer of faith the soul is trained. [And] day by day the
334 character grows into the likeness of Christ. It may cost a severe
335 conflict to overcome habits which have been long indulged, but we
336 may triumph through the grace of Christ (My Life Today {ML} 99.4).
337 **If we are true to the promptings of the Spirit of God, we shall go on from grace to grace and**
338 **from glory to glory until we shall receive the finishing touch of immortality** (ML 99.5).
339 [And] *God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith He*
340 *loved us, even when we were dead in sins, quickened us together*
341 *with Christ and raised us up... [to] sit together in heavenly places*
342 *in Christ Jesus that in the ages to come He might show the*
343 *exceeding riches of his grace in His kindness toward us through*
344 *Christ Jesus"* (read Ephesians 2:1, 4-7 & 11-13 in ML 100.1). "We
345 would never have learned the meaning of... grace had we not fallen"
346 (ML 100.2).

347

348 5. **Grace gives power for the constant climb of the ladder of**
349 **advancement in progress toward perfection of a Christ-like**
350 **character.** *Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience,*
351 *godliness, brotherly kindness and love are the rounds of*
352 *the ladder* (2 Peter 1:5-8). [**Faith is {only} the first**
353 **round...; ...it is impossible to please God without it (Hebrews**
354 **11:6). But many stop on this round... ..Faith is essential**
355 **[but not sufficient], [hence the call to], 'Add to your**
356 **faith, virtue'**" (ML 96.4). "After receiving the faith of



357 the gospel, our first work is to... add virtuous and pure principles
358 [to] cleanse the mind and heart for the reception of true
359 knowledge" (ML 96.2). "Every moment of our lives is... charged with
360 solemn responsibilities, [hence], ignorance [is] no excuse for lack
361 of spiritual understanding; [therefore] ...we... add to virtue,
362 knowledge. [For that reason], The uncultured fishermen became men
363 of refinement and ability and the lessons... [are on record]for our
364 admonition... [that like them, we can] become learners in the school
365 of Christ" (ML 96.5). [The climb continues as we add] "To
366 knowledge, temperance... On every side there is indulgence and
367 dissipation, and the result is degeneration and corruption.
368 ...Appetite, passion and love of display are [carried to] **...excesses**
369 **and extravagance**. The people of God must... take up the warfare
370 against **these sinful practices...** **...Search the Scriptures and bring**
371 **[your] habits into harmony with the... Bible"** (ML 97.2). [Seek no
372 ease special forces soldier of the cross]! "...To temperance, [add]
373 patience..." (ML 97.3). How is this accomplished? "Glory in
374 tribulations, knowing that tribulations [produces] patience" (read
375 Romans 5:3-5). **...Patience pours the balm of peace and love into the**
376 **experiences of the home life ...seeks for unity in the church... and**
377 **the community"** (ML 97.5). [This is vitally important at a time
378 when] **"Many are nearly destitute of love"** (Counsels on Health, {CH}
379 **402.3)** and God calls for His people to "[...Follow after
380 righteousness, godliness... [and] love..." (1 Timothy 6:11 in ML 98.1).
381 But to do so, "[They] must have... intimate connection with heaven...
382 (ML 98.2). **How can this be done?** ...By remembering God and following
383 His counsel [like Enoch did, we are] ...transformed in character and
384 [become] godly [people]... **[Then** we will] ...add to godliness,
385 brotherly kindness [and possess] ...that love for others that Christ
386 has for us..." (ML 98.3). "All these successive steps are not to be
387 kept before the mind's eye and counted as you start; but fixing the
388 eye upon Jesus, with an eye single to the glory of God, you will
389 make advancement" (ML 95.3). By taking one step after another, the

390 highest ascent may be climbed and the summit of the mount... reached
 391 at last. ...You are not required to do it all at once. ...Make
 392 advancement up the ladder of progress step by step. ...Live but one
 393 day at a time..." (ML 95.4), [remembering, however, that] we are
 394 saved by climbing round after round... to the height of Christ's
 395 ideal for us until [Christ] is made unto us wisdom, righteousness,
 396 sanctification and redemption" (ML 95.2). Hence, the counsel to
 397 **"...BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE..."** (Revelation 3:18), which
 398 "...Represents faith and love" (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4,
 399 {4T} 558.4) summarizes movement from the first to the last round of
 400 the **ladder of advancement in progress toward perfection of a**
 401 **Christ-like character.**

402
 403 6. **Grace makes us living channels through which God communicates to**
 404 **the world the unsearchable riches of Christ** (Reflecting Christ,
 405 {RC} 134.2). "The Sun of Righteousness has 'healing in his wings'"
 406 (Malachi 4:2). So from every true disciple is to be diffused an
 407 influence for life, courage, helpfulness and true healing" (RC
 408 134.5). **"The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of**
 409 **sin; it means taking away our sins and filling the vacuum with the**
 410 **graces of the Holy Spirit.** It means divine illumination, rejoicing
 411 in God. It means a heart emptied of self and blessed with the
 412 abiding presence of Christ. When Christ reigns in the soul, there
 413 is purity [and] freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the
 414 completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. The
 415 acceptance of the Savior brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect
 416 love [and] perfect assurance. **The beauty and fragrance of the**
 417 **character of Christ revealed in the life testifies that God has**
 418 **indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Savior"** (RC 134.6).
 419 "As difficulties thicken about His people amid the perils of the
 420 last days, [God] sends His angels to walk all the way by our side,
 421 drawing us closer and still closer to... Jesus" (Our High Calling,

422 {OHC} 317.3). “...The God of hope fills [us] with all joy and peace... that [we] may
 423 **abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost**” (Romans 15:13).

424
 425 7. **Grace enables us to put self aside and release the boundless**
 426 **resources of omnipotence in our experience.** “Through the grace
 427 given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous
 428 and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness
 429 of faith, have seemed impossible” (AG 208.5). With grace,
 430 “Everything is possible to [them] who believes” (Mark 9:23),
 431 demonstrating that “...There is nothing too hard for [the Lord]”
 432 (Jeremiah 32:17 & Genesis 18:14). Not surprisingly, we are
 433 reminded that **“UNLESS DIVINE POWER... [COMES] INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF**
 434 **THE PEOPLE OF GOD, FALSE THEORIES AND IDEAS WILL TAKE MINDS**
 435 **CAPTIVE; CHRIST AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BE DROPPED OUT OF THE**
 436 **EXPERIENCE OF MANY AND THEIR FAITH WILL BE WITHOUT POWER OR LIFE**
 437 (Gospel Workers, {GW} 161.3). This will occur if our Christian
 438 experience lacks the grace and power of God (read 2 Peter 1:3).

439
 440 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: In this study, we examined how grace helps or
 441 benefits the Christian. Through our study, we discovered that God’s
 442 grace makes all the difference in the Christian life. Without it, we
 443 lack the spirit of unity, strength, power, wisdom, protection,
 444 endurance, inner-peace and the assurance of salvation. It is grace
 445 that enables us to boasts in God all day long; to develop moral and
 446 spiritual perfection; to enrich our lives that we become productive;
 447 to enable us to climb the ladder of advancement in progress toward
 448 perfection of a Christ-like character; to render us living channels
 449 through which God communicates to the world the unsearchable riches
 450 of Christ and to put self aside for releasing the boundless resources
 451 of omnipotence in our experience. Marvelous grace! Because it is of
 452 little redeeming value to engage in Bible Study merely for
 453 information, subsequent paragraphs follow that may kindle your
 454 interest.

455 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

456
 457 Fellow Christian, you may keep on "doing church," as in faithfully
 458 attending service each week, even participating in religious
 459 activities until you burnout, but be careful that you discover after
 460 all **YOUR** efforts that you are not saved. Scary huh! Yes! With so
 461 much emphasis on education, church attendance and faith, who would
 462 think that it is possible to be ever learning but never able to come
 463 to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:7)? Who would think that
 464 it is possible to support an external veneer of holiness that shields
 465 subsurface weaknesses, helplessness, misery, poverty and spiritually
 466 blindness (Revelation 3:17)? Should you not make the grace of God
 467 your own and have a transformed, experimental faith that is alive
 468 rather than dead? Jesus challenged us to have such a faith when He
 469 said: "...If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say
 470 unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove
 471 and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20). Are your
 472 lips anointed with grace (Psalms 45:2) so that you can speak with
 473 faith or are you among "Those who cling to worthless idols [and]
 474 forfeit the grace that could be [yours]" (Jonah 2:8, NIV)? Let it
 475 not be said of us: "Though grace is shown the wicked, they do not
 476 learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing
 477 evil and regard not the majesty of the Lord" (Isaiah 26:10, NIV).

478
 479 "The apostle's words of warning to the Corinthian church are
 480 applicable to all time and are especially adapted to our day. By
 481 idolatry he meant not only the worship of idols, but self-serving,
 482 love of ease, the gratification of appetite and passion. **A mere**
 483 **profession of faith in Christ, a boastful knowledge of the truth,**
 484 **does not make a [person] a Christian.** A religion that seeks only to
 485 gratify the eye, the ear and the taste or that sanctions self-
 486 indulgence is not the religion of Christ" (The Acts of the Apostles,
 487 {AA} 317.1). "No matter how high the profession, [a person] whose

488 heart is not filled with love for God and... men [and women] is not a
 489 true disciple of Christ. [Indeed, "By this shall all know that you
 490 are my disciples if you have love one to another" (John 13:35)].
 491 Though [s/he] should possess great faith and have powers even to work
 492 miracles, yet without love, faith would be worthless. [S/He] might
 493 display great liberality; but should [s/he], from some other motive
 494 than genuine love, bestow all his [/her] goods to feed the poor, the
 495 act would not commend him [/her] to the favor of God. In his [/her]
 496 zeal [s/he] might even meet a martyr's death, yet if not actuated by
 497 love, [s/he] would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an
 498 ambitious hypocrite" (AA 318.2). God's grace sets the pinnacle of
 499 the ladder of advancement in progress toward development of a Christ
 500 like character at the level of love (2 Peter 1:5-7, Romans 5:5 & 1
 501 Corinthians 13:1-3 & 13).

502

503

504 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

505

506 We should exercise more faith in God's word. If we do, [Jesus will]
 507 grant "...a **ccess ...into ...grace** wherein we **stand and rejoice in the**
 508 **hope of the glory of God"** (Romans 5:2 & Ephesians 1:6). [God has
 509 ordained it this way that] "...In the ages to come, [He will] show
 510 the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us through
 511 Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7). By the grace of god, "...The religion
 512 of Christ... [in the soul will transform and will empower those who
 513 have it to use this] ... **life, with all its capabilities, ...to promote...**
 514 **[the] glory [of God]"** (Testimonies for the Church, Volume Four, {4T
 515 494.2), who "...makes ...grace abound... that [we will] always have all
 516 sufficiency in all things..." (2 Corinthians 9:8).

517

518 "The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all..." (Titus
 519 2:11), teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we
 520 should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world"

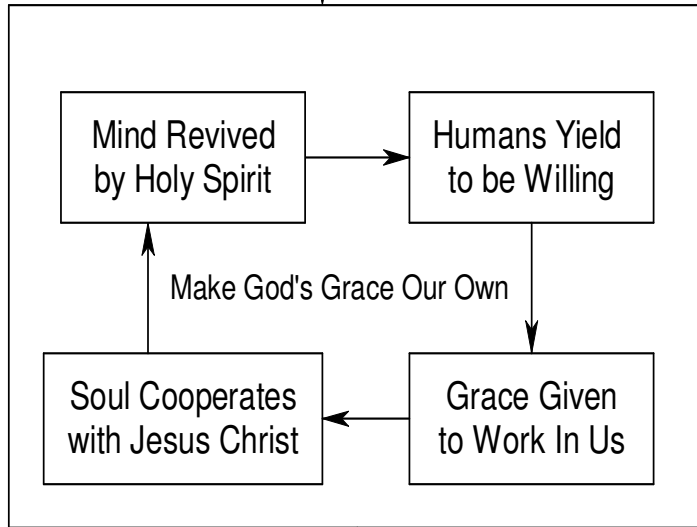
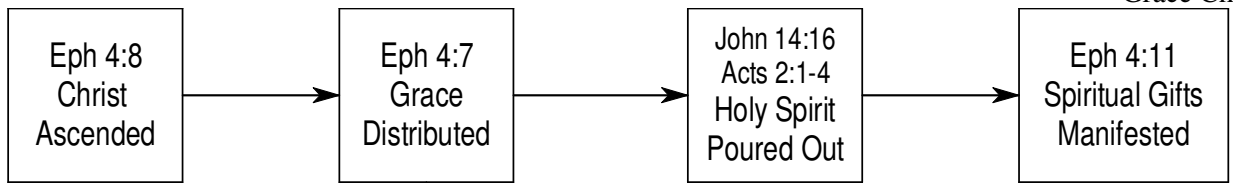
521 (Titus 2:12). Hence, let us "...Receive not the grace of God in
 522 vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1). Instead, let us "Grow in grace and in the
 523 knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).
 524 "...As [we] abound in... faith, utterance [and] knowledge..., [let us
 525 also] ...abound in ...grace..." (2 Corinthians 8:7). "Be strong in the
 526 grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

527
 528 "Christians must be like Christ. They should have the same spirit,
 529 exert the same influence and have the same moral excellence that He
 530 possessed. The idolatrous and corrupt in heart must repent and turn
 531 to God. Those who are proud and self-righteous must abase self and
 532 become penitent, meek and lowly in heart. The worldly-minded must
 533 have the tendrils of the heart removed from the rubbish of the world
 534 ... and become spiritually minded. The dishonest and untruthful must
 535 become just and true. The ambitious and covetous must be hid in
 536 Jesus and seek His glory, not their own. They must despise their own
 537 holiness and lay up their treasure above. The prayer less must feel
 538 the need of both secret and family prayer and must make their
 539 supplications to God with great earnestness (5T 249.2). The soul who
 540 ...appreciates the saving power of His grace will feel ...a drawing
 541 near to Christ that... will ...not let Satan control [the] spirit...
 542 (Fundamentals of Christian Education, {FE} 264.1).

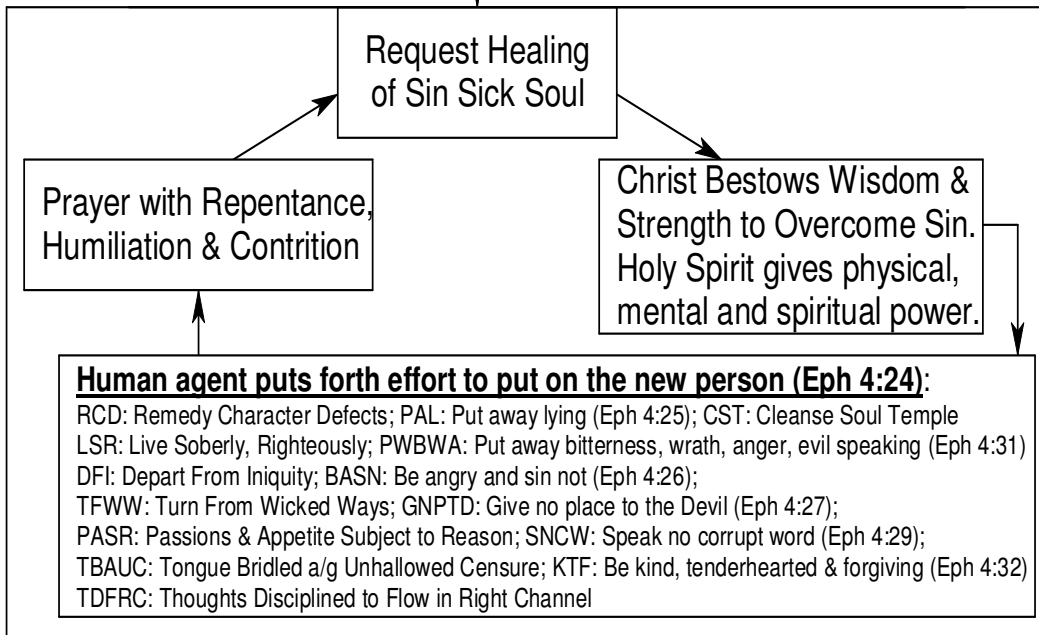
543
 544 When ...tempted to place our affections on earthly objects that
 545 ...absorb our love, ...seek grace to turn from it and not allow it to
 546 come between us and our God" (Lift Him Up, {LHU} 360.2). "Sing with
 547 grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). [Even] "**Let**
 548 **your speech [be] always with grace...**" (Colossians 4:6). "Unto every
 549 one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of
 550 Christ" (Ephesians 4:7) [that] "**We grow in grace by improving through**
 551 **the grace we already have**" (Faith and Works, {FW} 48.3); hence; ...we
 552 [can] serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews
 553 12:28).

554 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO!**

555
556 "...Make God's grace [your] own...; [this is] **...our part**" (MYP 147.2).
557 **"The Lord does not... perform for us either the willing or the doing;**
558 **this is our proper work and as soon as we earnestly enter upon [this]**
559 **work, God [gives] grace... to work in us to will and to do, but never**
560 **as a substitute for our effort"** (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel
561 Workers, {TM} 240.2). The diagram that follows summarizes how God's
562 grace helps the Christian.
563



"It is the grace of God that you need in order that your thoughts may be disciplined to flow in the right channel, that the words you utter may be right words, and that your passions and appetites may be subject to the control of reason and the tongue bridled against levity and unhallowed censure and faultfinding" (4T 235.1).



"The grace of God that brings salvation... teaches us that... we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world Titus 2:11-12).

564
565