

GRACE PART TWO: DEFINING GRACE

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1. SUMMARY OF SESSION ONE

- We existed in God before creation - *Jer 1:5, Eph 1:4*
 - God brought us out from Himself into this physical world - *Eph 1:4*
 - We have been brought out as sons, designed to carry the image and likeness of our Heavenly Father - *Gen 1:26, Rom 8:29*
 - Our purpose is to bring God glory. Our lives are to reflect His character - *Eph 1:6*
 - In order to reflect glory, we need grace. Glory on the outside is the result of grace on the inside - *John 1:14*.
 - Grace needs to be understood, not just experienced - *Col 1:6*
 - Salvation grace is our introduction to grace - *Rom 5:2*
 - We are encouraged to grow in grace - *1 Pet 3:18*
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2. DEFINING GRACE

It is difficult to find a direct definition for Grace by solely examining the Greek and Hebrew definitions, as these speak primarily to the effects of Grace. We need to carefully examine the scriptures in order to uncover exactly what grace is, and thereafter look at its effects.

2.1 GOD IS SPIRIT

[John 4:24](#)

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- God is not a physical being, nor is He restricted by anything in the physical realm.
- We tend to think about physical things as being 'real', however the invisible, spiritual realm is just as 'real'.
- The invisibility of Spirit does not mean that it is insubstantial.

2.2 IT IS GOD'S GRACE

1 Peter 4:10bas good stewards of the manifold **grace of God**.

1 Peter 5:10b ...the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Zechariah 12:10a I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the **Spirit of grace** and of supplication,

Philippians 4:23 The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ** be with your spirit.

- Grace does not originate from the earthly, physical realm.
- All grace comes from God.
- The Father is the **God of all Grace**.
- The Son is full of Grace: the '**Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ...**'.
- The Spirit is referred to as the **Spirit of Grace**.

2.3 GOD IS FULL OF GRACE

John 1:16

*For of His **fullness** we have all received, and **grace upon grace**.*

- God, who is Spirit, is described as being full of grace.
- When we receive from God, we receive from His 'fullness' - i.e. what He is 'full of'.
- From His fullness, we receive regular impartations of grace.

2.4 DEFINITION

In light of the above, we can define grace as follows:

- Grace is the Divine substance by which God, as Spirit, is constituted.
- Grace is the compositional make-up of God as a Spirit being, that when imparted to His sons, enables and empowers us to put His glory on display.

As defined by Thamo Naidoo:

“Grace is that Divine invisible, immaterial property or substance in the Godhead that empowers you to function as a representation of God, and also resources you, thus enabling you to function in a particular way to get work done according to the plan of God.”

Word study:

OT: **Chên** = favour, acceptance

NT: **Charis** = That which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favour, acceptance, for a kindness granted or desired, a benefit, thanks, gratitude.

= The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life

Grace is a not just a SUBSTANCE, but a PERSON.

3. WHAT DOES GRACE DO?

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

Grace restores identity

- “I am what I am” - Grace configures our identity as the sons of God.
- Salvation grace restores us to the position of son.
- Thereafter, further impartations of grace gradually restore us practically and experientially in our sonship identity in Christ.
- **Grace configures us practically into what we’ve been restored to positionally.**

Grace empowers function

- Supernatural strength and wisdom will attend a restored identity.
- We are called to work, not in our own capacity, but being empowered by grace.
- Grace manifests as an enabling force.

[Galatians 1:15-16](#)

*But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to **reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles.***

- “Before grace empowers, grace prepares you by configuring your identity as a son of God” - Randolph Barnwell.
- Only a son can execute the will of the Father. Grace affirms and establishes sonship, which then becomes the authorisation and empowerment to function on God's behalf.
- Sonship is first a matter of BEING, then DOING.

THE FALSE SACRED/SECULAR DICHOTOMY

- We tend to see all activities related to 'church' as sacred, and things like business, work, and recreation as secular.
 - This division is a religious construct that ultimately confines the work of the Lord to 'sacred' spaces (serving in Sunday services, praying etc.), rendering many sons of God ineffective in our calling.
 - The Biblical, Jewish mindset saw everything as spiritual - Temple on Saturday, field on Monday, market on Tuesday - all to the glory of God. Likewise, everything we do - school, work, and social, should be underpinned by our purpose of putting God's nature on display.
 - Where we are placed, we are sent. Grace works in every area of life - it's not something that we should see through the lens of the erroneous sacred/secular dichotomy.
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4. RECEIVING GRACE

[Philippians 4:23](#)

*The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your **spirit.***

- Grace is received on the platform of our spirits.

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

- **SPIRIT** - Our spirits come directly from God. This is the platform through which God engages us. Our spirit is designed to lead our soul and body.
- **SOUL** - The soul - made up of the mind, will and emotions - allows us to comprehend, process, rationalise and intelligently engage the world around us. The soul is not evil, but needs to be renewed to its proper function - being in submission to the spirit. (Psalm 23:3)
- **BODY** - The body is a physical container that allows us to function in this physical world.

THE WORD OF HIS GRACE

Acts 20:32

*"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.*

- Grace is communicated and imparted to us through God's Word.

1 Peter 1:13

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, **fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

- When we sit under the Word of God, we ought to be fixed on the Grace that is brought to us in the Word.
- Revelation of Christ = wherever the Principles and Person of Christ are revealed.

John 6:63b

the Words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.

- God's Word emanates from SPIRIT.
- God's Word communicates the essence of Spirit - Grace.
- We receive this grace on the platform of our spirits.
- We bring the soul into obedience, putting on display the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
