

RECEIVING THE GRACE OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • February 4-5 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Jn. 1:17

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. God gave Moses the law as a way of dealing with man while Jesus Christ was coming and to show man his need for God's grace.

Gal. 3:23 "Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed."

- B. The law could not give life, on the contrary, it evidences the reality of sin and shows us that we cannot do without God. God does show himself as the God of mercy but also of justice.

Éx. 34:6-7a "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands,[a] forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty..."

- C. How could it be that God is absolutely just and at the same time overlook the sins of all of us and look at us with grace? The death of Christ made possible the grace through which God justifies those who believe in Christ, because on the cross the justice of God is satisfied.

Rom. 3:24-26 "and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"

- D. On the cross the reconciliation between the justice of God and the grace of God was accomplished. The law demands works but Christ gives grace. On the cross they found what seemed irreconcilable to make themselves available to us, just as this psalm describes.

Sal. 85:10-11 "Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky."

- E. Jesus Christ revealed the grace that is God's free favor to the undeserving. Grace has to do with the way God decides to look at us, it is as they have said: "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" and regarding grace this is completely true.

II. WHAT IS IT THAT BRINGS WITH IT THE GRACE OF GOD?

- A. Grace brings the presence of God into our very real form.

Nm. 6:25-26 "the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you [May the Lord extend his grace]; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

- a. When God raises His face there is light, that is, when God looks at us with grace, we are surrounded by a different atmosphere. It's like going in the car on a very hot day and we have air conditioning; while everyone else is hot and sweating, we are cool and rested. Grace is like a beautiful sunset that you haven't paid a penny for, you just stay there to enjoy it.
- b. For example, God looked at Noah with grace and his destiny changed and not only his but that of all humanity.

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

- c. The prodigal son is another example of grace. **Grace is that power of God that is available to take action when we can no longer.**

B. Grace brings peace.

- a. That was the common greeting among New Testament believers.

Rom. 1:7 "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- b. From grace comes peace; when there is grace there can also be peace.

2 Tim. 1:2 "To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

C. Grace produces a productive spiritual life:

1 Cor. 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

- a. Paul attributes his success in the ministry to the grace of God as accompanying him wherever he went and taking him beyond what he could do on his own.

D. Grace is compared to rain

Prov. 16:15 "In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor [grace] is like the clouds that bring the spring rain."

- a. God's favor is like that cloud that brings rain which is something the people of Israel look forward to. The spring rain is what brings the greatest fruitfulness, it is what guarantees the greatest harvest. **It is God's abundant provision for His people.**

E. Grace is that favor that protects us

Sal. 5:12 "For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield."

- a. **That something that protects us from the forces of evil.** Grace is what protects us from the devil's attacks because it is the presence and favor of God upon us. God surrounds us with that grace. When you go against the enemy there is that protection, like an invisible cover.

Rom. 16:20 "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

III. HOW TO FULLY OPEN OUR LIVES TO THE GRACE OF GOD

- A. **The first thing you should do is stop trying to earn it**, if you try to deserve it you can't receive it because if I gave it to you for your effort then you would have a way to boast and that's not how grace works.

Rom. 4:4-5 "Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in[a] him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."

- a. Then you only trust God because He justifies the wicked; and this is not so easy because we always want to make merits. When we live under grace, the credit goes to God. Houses of Light is a work of God's grace.

- B. **Grace comes by faith and always excludes works as the primary means of receiving what God has promised.** What comes by grace is not given away. Many things that happen in our lives and that prosper is because of grace. The Christian life begins and ends with grace.

Ef. 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.."

- C. **Once you stop trying to earn it, you just receive Christ and surrender to Him.**

Jn 1:17 "...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

- a. All grace is in Jesus, there is no other channel to receive it and when you receive Him, God's grace is at your disposal. **When we receive Christ, His grace is available to us..**

Jn. 1:12 y 14 " But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

- b. In Christ a profound transformation is experienced because He is full of grace and truth and all grace that corresponds to Christ is given to us. The emphasis is on receiving from Christ and surrendering, not trying to produce it independent of Him, rather giving yourself without reservation and the result is new life.

- c. If you have a problem with shyness, you surrender that to Christ and his grace gives you what you don't have. His grace fills our gaps. Do not focus on the negative surrender everything to the corresponding grace of Christ. Accept the grace of wisdom, of holiness, of power. You have problems with worry, just surrender it to Christ and the grace of his peace fill you with peace..

Jn. 1:16 "For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.."

Col. 2:9-10a "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him,..."

- D. **Be humble**

- a. Being humble also opens the way to receive grace. Humility is the decision we make to remove our pride and that no one can make for us.

Jas. 4:6 "Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us."

- b. The essence of humbling ourselves is recognizing that we need God's grace. This is what Mary the mother of Jesus experienced.

Lk. 1:28 y 46-48 "And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!... 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant."

- c. The Lord particularly chose her for her humility. Self-righteousness is what removes God's grace from our lives.

Lc. 18:10-14 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed[a] thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- d. So don't come to God on the basis of your own righteousness because you won't get anything. When we humble ourselves we understand that our resources and capacities have reached their limit and it is then that we can begin to experience the grace of God, that is what God told Paul.

2 Cor. 12:9 "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- e. Grace begins where you no longer can. The greater the impossibility, the more we see grace. That is why Paul rejoiced in his weaknesses because he could see the display of God's grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

- 1. Our Introduction to the House of Prayer Course begins this Monday at 7:00 p.m. You can register at the table outside or at nhop.la**
- 2. The Effective Parenting course begins on Wednesday, March 15. You can register on the website housesoflight.org**
- 3. Our in person membership class will be on Saturday, March 4 at 9 a.m. Baptisms will take place March 4 and 5 during our weekend services. You can sign up at the table outside.**
- 4. The preparation class for quinceañeras with the fathers and daughters will be on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 pm. Registration opens this week at housesoflight.org**