

Grace in Ministry

Introduction and Review

- “Common grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not a part of salvation.” – WG
- Special (saving) grace is reserved for the elect or believer in salvation & sanctification (Eph. 2:1-10).
- Jesus was the full & complete revelation of grace that superseded the previous revelation of grace in the law of God (Jn. 1:16-17).
- The grace of God sets the believer free from slavery to sin & restrains the believer from a lifestyle of sinning (Rom. 5:20-6:4).
- Believers are given the motivation & exhortation to grow in the grace & knowledge of Jesus Christ (2Pe. 3:14-18).

I. Gifts of Grace (Rom. 12:6-8)

A. Grace gifts provide spiritual needs

Prophecy is immediate inspiration from the Holy Spirit to speak truth from God in order to edify, exhort & comfort – **HEART** (1Co. 14:3, 24-25). **Teaching** is the supernatural ability to interpret, explain & make application of the scriptures – **MIND** (Lk. 24:27, 32; Ac. 19:8). **Exhortation** is a supernatural ability to motivate people to obey God; encourage/comfort – **HEART** (2Co. 5:20). **Leading** is the supernatural ability to oversee, rule or manage matters in the Church (1Tim. 3:4). There are many others: word of wisdom, knowledge, distinguishing of spirits, tongues & interpretation, apostle, prophets, teachers, pastors, etc.

B. Grace gifts provide physical needs

Service (ministry) is a supernatural concern & ability to meet the practical needs of others in a specific way (2Tim. 4:11; Ac. 6:1-6). **Giving** (contributing) is the supernatural ability to sacrificially impart of oneself and possessions to others in need (Eph. 4:28). **Mercy** is the supernatural ability to discern when someone is in misery & provide comfort (Ac. 20:35). There are many others: faith, healing, miracles & helps.

Gifts of grace ensure that the needs of grace are met thru people who are saved & kept by grace (Phil 4:19).

II. Power of Grace (1Co. 15:10)

A. Victorious power over sinful memories (v. 10a)

Paul’s memories of his past sins caused great humility in his life – “least...” & “unworthy...” (v. 9); “blasphemer, persecutor & insolent opponent” (1Tim. 1:13); “save sinners, I am the foremost” (1Tim. 1:15). But Paul knew that by grace thru faith in Jesus, all past sins are forgiven.

Grace gives Jesus what we deserve & gives us God’s blessings in spite of our past sins (1Tim 1:14)!

APPL: Your past sins & your memories – how are you handling it? How is your past affecting your life & ministry? This is a serious issue for every believer.

B. Victorious power for present ministry (v. 10b)

The grace of God enables & empowers the believer to persevere in seemingly impossible situations (2Co. 11:23-28). Grace uniquely prepares the believer for the unique ministry to which God has called regardless of the level of difficulty (2Co. 12:9; Phil. 4:13)!

Some of you may wonder why I work so hard, persevere; endure hardships, slander, rejection, ungratefulness, complaints, misunderstandings... Because I too remember where I came from, my past sins & how much I have been forgiven. I know that I am not able to persevere on my own, but the grace of God is with me when I’m tired, lonely, hurt, isolated, confused...giving me victory over sin, Satan, the world & the flesh. Victory in Jesus...!!!

APPL: Even though the gifts of grace ensure that needs of God’s people are met & the power of grace enables us to do it, we cannot be effective without love (Rom. 12:9-10). Our love must be **genuine** (no pretense), **holy**, have **brotherly affection** (true feeling of family) & lead the way in **showing honor** (true humility).

CONCLUSION

My beloved brothers & sisters this is truly the way that grace is to work its way out in ministry. Every believer has been given special abilities to meet the spiritual and/or physical needs of other people (other believers in particular). Every believer has been given the power over the guilt of past sins & the power to persevere in ministry under any circumstances of life. Every believer should & can fulfill their ministry in the love of Christ. And all of these blessings are because of the grace of God – we did not earn it & we certainly do not deserve it, but God has done it for us because of His goodness! Therefore will you be steadfast, immovable...?

And if you are not a Christian, I am privileged to announce to you today that your past sins can be fully forgiven. You can be set free from the slavery, guilt, shame & punishment of your past sin. And it can happen today. But you must believe in Jesus...

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[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)