

Grace in Speaking

Introduction and Review

- **Grace in weakness.** Believers are tested in times of exaltation & humiliation to reveal human weakness (2Co. 11:29-12:7).
- God sometimes brings a painful circumstance that will last a lifetime & reveal human weakness in a believer (v. 7).
- God's grace is always sufficient for any circumstance of life & His power is magnified/exalted by human weakness (v. 8-9a).
- Knowing that a painful circumstance is in the will of God brings a believer **peace, encouragement**, power for **perseverance** and **contentment** (v. 9b-10).

I. Grace in Speaking to God (Heb. 4:16)

A. Prayer is a means of grace

Prayer is a means of personal communication with God. Believers did not earn & do not deserve this great privilege, it is a blessing of God's goodness – grace. Believers must be taught how to pray words of grace (Lk. 11:1; Mt. 6:9-13) – Father, give, forgive, lead... Prayer involves praise, thanksgiving, petitions, intercessions, confession, listening to & hearing from God (1Jn. 5:14; 1Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6).

B. The throne is a place of grace (Heb. 4:16)

The throne of God (place of God's presence) is not a place of terror, punishment or wrath. It is a place of grace & forgiveness for the people of God who have trusted in Christ; a place where prayers are not answered on the basis of merit, but on the basis of mercy. This is a place where needy people receive mercy & find grace.

C. Jesus is the Lord of grace (Heb. 4:15)

Because Jesus has already endured severe trials & suffering, He can sympathize with the needs of people in prayer. Jesus has in fact suffered for the very people that are coming to Him for help. He is ideally suited to respond to prayer with grace (2Co. 13:14a).

APPL: Prayer is words of grace spoken from people of grace to the God of grace at the place of grace!

II. Grace in Speaking to People (Col. 4:6)

A. Human conversation is a means of grace

*The ability to communicate with other people is a gift of grace from God (Gen. 1:27). Ungodly speech is not of grace (Eph. 4:25, 29, 31). A believer's conversation must be filled with words of grace (Col. 4:6) – **humility, persuasiveness, appropriate & powerful**. Words of grace accomplish the purposes of grace – speak truth (Eph. 4:15, 29; 1Pe. 3:15), affect change (2Tim. 3:16), express feelings (love, joy, anger...), establish relationships, character (Mt. 5:37), etc. Believers must carefully choose words for communication (Pr. 18:21; Mt. 12:36-37).*

B. People in conversation are recipients of grace

The words people use in conversation reveal the contents of their heart – thoughts, feelings, opinions (Mt. 15:18). Even unbelievers are recipients of God's common grace & should exercise more restraint with their words (Pr. 17:28). Believers have been given new hearts by grace for new & clean thoughts that affect our conversation (Ps. 19:14).

APPL: Godly conversation is words of grace spoken by people of grace to other people in grace to accomplish the purposes of grace.

CONCLUSION

Just as we must learn to love God before we can love each other biblically, we must also learn to speak to God before we can speak to each other biblically. Gracious speech is a true blessing given to a humble heart because our words reflect the content of our hearts. Our words reveal our relationship with God & our words reveal our relationship with each other. So the question is what do you say to & about God? How do you speak to & about God? Have you learned to ask, seek & knock; does your prayer include “have mercy, create, lead, teach, forgive, give...? What do you say to & about other people? Have you learned to fear God before you speak to other people? Have you learned humility because of your own failures & sins before you speak to other people? Have you considered the purpose & effects of your words before you speak? Will you take the time to choose the right & gracious words before you speak? It will benefit you in this life & in eternity!

And if you are not a Christian, I want you to think about your heart, thoughts & words today. Do you love Jesus with your heart, thoughts & words? You can have a clean heart, renewed mind, new vocabulary & have your sins forgiven. But you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [Grace in Speaking](#)

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