

THE POWER OF GRACE

➤ **Grace** is defined as “*unmerited favor*”

- **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**

➤ **Grace** and **faith** are intricately linked

- “*For by **grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

➤ **Grace** and **Power** are also intricately linked

- “*My **grace** is sufficient for you, for My **power** is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s **power** may rest on me... For when I am **weak**, then I am **strong**.*” (2Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV)

➤ The Greek word used here for power is “dunamis” (e.g. dynamite)

➤ Grace, then, is the *supernatural power* that comes only from God

- **Power for what? To do God’s will**

➤ “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which **God prepared beforehand** that we should **walk in them**.*” (Ephesians 2:10)

➤ “*According to the **grace of God** which was **given to me**, as a **wise master builder** I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. ¹¹But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” (1Corinthians 3:10-11)

- We are also told to “**grow in grace**” (2Peter 3:18), and that **grace** can be **increased**
 - “*And of His fullness we have all received, and **grace for grace**.* (John 1:16)
- So how do we **grow in grace**?
 - By **using** (i.e. **exercising**) the **grace** we already have
 - And, **like love**, **grace** can only be used and exercised by **giving it away**
- What prevents the **power of grace** from working in our lives?
 - “***Pursue peace** with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone **fall short of** (miss, NIV) the **grace of God**; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this many become **defiled**.*” (Heb. 12:14-15)
 - “*Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition or conceit**, but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the **interests of others**.*” (Philippians 2:3-4)
- Here’s where many people “**miss grace**”
 - They allow the “**thorns of the flesh**” (2Cor. 12:7) to prevent them from moving into the **power of grace** and **doing God’s will**
- Only when we **obediently pursue and do God’s will** and **extend His grace** do we **grow in grace and power**
 - “*Through Him we have received **grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith**.*” (Romans 1:5)