

# Grace and glory

If you are facing a difficult time, then rest assured that the Lord gives grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly. He scoffs at the scoffers, yet He gives grace to the afflicted. The apostle John told us that when we look upon Jesus and behold His glory, He is full of grace and truth. Of course, our glory is not like His. Nevertheless, He wants to give us 'more grace'. He wants to manifest His glory within us. The Lord resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. He gives more grace; He gives 'greater grace'!

It is important that we do not think of grace simply as the Lord's favourable heart toward us. This is certainly true, but grace is much more than His favour. In beholding Jesus and His grace, we see all His capacity to equip us and empower us to do His will. The word of His grace is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified and separated to Him.

When the children of Israel departed from Egypt, they were in great peril. They were afflicted on every side. Referring to their situation, the prophet Jeremiah spoke a word of great comfort and encouragement to all believers. 'The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness.' And he continued, 'The Lord appeared to him from afar saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love! On account of this, with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built again".' In a most glorious way, it is the word of His grace that builds us up.

## References:

Psa 84:11      Prov 3:34  
John 1:14      James 4:6  
Acts 20:32     Jer 31:2-3

## Further Study

John 1:1-17

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 16

# Strengthened by grace

Did you know that our hearts are to be strengthened by grace? When the apostle wrote this to the Hebrew Christians, he was speaking of Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever. We must not be carried away by strange teachings as if we are fed and strengthened by them. Nor should we be strengthened by food, being preoccupied with things that are temporary and which do not benefit us. We must remember those who have led us and spoken the word of God's grace to us. Let us consider the result of their conduct and imitate their faith.

It is essential that we set our hearts to be strengthened by the word of His grace. The grace of God stands over against fleshly wisdom. If you are in a difficult phase, then you can find grace in the 'wilderness'. The word of His grace is the word of wisdom for your current season. It is a crown of beauty; it is the garland of grace. The prophet Zechariah spoke of the 'Spirit of grace and supplication' being poured out upon us. This marvellous outpouring will cause us to look upon Him whom we have pierced. Like those people of a former time, we will find ourselves mourning for Him as one who mourns for an only son.

If grace is simply the favourable heart of God toward us, then it is not the exertion of His power. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace. We must draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Like the apostle Paul, we rejoice that we have found mercy. But more than this, we rejoice that He gives 'more grace'.

## References:

Heb 13:7-9    2 Cor 1:12  
Prov 4:9      Zech 12:10  
Heb 4:16      James 4:6

## Further Study

Heb 13

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 17

# Greater grace

It is an encouraging thought that the Lord gives 'more grace'. Indeed, He gives 'greater grace'. Let us consider that the grace and strength that He has given us in the past is not sufficient for the future. It is not as though His grace toward us is lacking in any way. Rather, we must find a 'greater grace' for the work that is before us. The apostle Paul accounted that James, Peter and John, as fellow apostles, recognised the grace that was in him. Grace is given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Not only are we to be strengthened by grace, we are also to stand in this grace. We have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace by which we stand.

At this time, we must draw near to the throne of grace. This is most certainly not some religious endeavour. It is in this presentation of ourselves that we are strengthened by grace. When we draw near to Him, He pours out upon us the Spirit of grace and supplication. He draws us into the secret place of prayer. And it is here that we draw near with confidence and cry out to Him. Most certainly, we must not cast away our confidence which has great reward. When we draw aside to the place of supplication, He pours upon us the abundance of His grace. This is not simply temporary help which carries us through difficult times. It is 'more grace'; it is 'greater grace'. At this time, the Lord is equipping us for the work yet ahead of us. It is essential that we abide in Him so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame.

**References:**

James 4:6      Gal 2:9  
Eph 4:7        Zech 12:10  
Heb 10:35     1 John 2:28

**Further Study**

James 4

**Daily Proverb**

Proverbs 18

# This is our confidence

'This is the confidence that we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.' We must have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus. And in so doing, we are drawing near to the throne of grace. We remember the words of the apostle John, that if our hearts condemn us, 'God is greater than our hearts'. And further to this, 'If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God'. Do not be discouraged. Even though you may be coming short of the grace, He wants to give more grace. If you are lacking strength, then you ought to rejoice in weakness. Like all those who have gone before us, we must be strengthened by the word of His grace. In weakness, we will be made strong.

When we consider the early church, we see a body of people giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Abundant grace was upon them all. Nevertheless, the phase of grace which established the early church did not continue in that same form. The process of change and perfection came upon them quickly. We'll recall the apostle Paul encouraged the believers that through many afflictions we must enter the kingdom of God. He gives grace to the afflicted. We're all surprised when seasons of difficulty fall upon us. It usually takes some time for us to renegotiate our place before the Lord. A season of abundant grace inevitably gives away to a season of affliction. If we are to enter the kingdom of God and participate in His eternal glory then we will need 'more grace'.

## References:

1 John 5:14    Heb 4:16  
Heb 11:34    Acts 4:33  
Acts 14:22    Prov 3:34  
1 John 3:20-21

## Further Study

1 John 3

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 19

# Specific grace

We must not confuse mercy and grace. Certainly, He demonstrates His mercy, goodness, and loving-kindness when we are in times of difficulty and trouble. But more than this, He gives 'more grace'. This grace is not the merciful help by which we survive a difficult season. Grace is the strength and power of Christ. And when we have received it, we are equipped for the season ahead. In the days of Ezra when the people were rebuilding the temple, they received special compensating grace for the difficult work ahead of them. Ezra said to the people, 'For a brief moment, grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in the His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage'.

Like that generation who set about doing the work of the Lord, we also receive a brief moment of grace. However, we must not presume upon this, lest we come short of the grace. There are times when the Lord pours upon us the kind of grace and help which is abundant and beyond our expectations. Nevertheless, we must not rest upon this. We must grow in the grace so that it is not just a compensating help for difficult times. As we continue in the process of maturity and perfection, we must be individually defined by the grace of God which is given to us. The apostle Paul said, 'By the grace of God, I am what I am'. More than this, he only spoke 'through the grace' given to him. According to the grace of God, Paul was chosen particularly as a wise master builder. You and I likewise, have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

**References:**

Ezra 9:8  
Heb 12:15  
Eph 4:7

1 Cor 15:10  
Rom 12:3  
1 Cor 3:10

**Further Study**

Ezra 9

**Daily Proverb**

Proverbs 20