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STUDY GUIDE

GRACE



## POWER GIFTS

### Q. What does “living in Grace” mean?

*“Grace is possibly one of the most misunderstood concepts by Christians today. And yet Grace is integral to our walk with God... He (Jesus) is Grace personified. His Grace is evident through the work of the Gospel – for the Gospel itself is Grace”. – Joseph Prince*

Have you ever received a gift from someone you know you have wronged? The gift was given to you out of a love you didn't deserve. Grace is God showing His love to you even though you don't deserve it. You can't earn God's grace. You do not deserve to be saved from sin and to have eternal life.

But God showed His grace by saving you from sin's punishment (past, present & future) when you trusted in Jesus as your Saviour. God also shows His grace by giving you strength and guidance, and by taking care of you each day. God, by His grace, gives you the power to handle difficult problems in your life.

*Christianity offers Heaven to anyone who believes through faith that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the grave. We all have to accept that our salvation was purchased by Jesus' sacrifice – His choice to offer His life by dying on the cross for our sins—it does not come by being good. We try to be good because Jesus has saved us, not so that He will save us. The Bible also tells us that we are saved to do good works and not because of **good works** (Ephesians 2:8-10). This salvation comes by grace or God's favour. It's what God has done for undeserving mankind. – Born 4 BC.*

*If you ever have trouble remembering the difference between grace and mercy, a simple rule of thumb is that grace is about getting something good that we do not deserve, while mercy is about not getting something bad that we do deserve. Justice is when we get what we deserve. But the best thing to remember is simply that there is nothing we can do to make God love us less, and there is nothing we can do to make God love us more—He already loves us to the max and it's all free. Is not His grace wonderful? Remember, God is never mad at you, He is always mad about you. – Born 4 BC*

*Grace (Theol.) The divine favor toward man; the mercy of God, as distinguished from His justice; also, any benefits His mercy imparts; divine love or pardon; a state of acceptance with God; enjoyment of the divine favor. – 1913 Webster's Dictionary*



## STUFF TO DO

### — HEAD —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>What does grace mean?</p> <p><b>2 Cor 12:9, 2 Cor 9:8</b></p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>How can you consistently live in God's grace, What effect should this have on your life?</p> <p><b>Rom 5:2, Gal 5:1</b></p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>What is the difference between living under grace and living under the law?</p> <p><b>Gal 3:24-25, Rom 6:14</b></p>

### — HEART —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>What does it feel like to know that not only are your past and present sins forgiven but also all the sins you will do in the future?</p> <p><b>Eph 2:8, Rom. 8:1, 1 John 2:12</b></p> <p><b>Heb 10:14</b> <i>"For by that one offering He perfected forever all those whom He is making holy."</i></p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>Because of grace, sin no longer can separate you from God, so why not do what you like?</p> <p><b>Rom 6:1-2, John 8:11</b></p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>How can you apply grace to your (or others) lives to free you/them from habits/sins/behaviours that enslave?</p>

### — HANDS —

<b>YOUNG</b>	<p>The bible says doing good things will not effect your salvation, so why should you do good things?</p> <p><b>Eph 2:8-9</b></p>
<b>GROWING</b>	<p>How can you show God's grace to someone who it isn't easy for you to this week?</p>
<b>MATURE</b>	<p>How would you describe/show grace to a new believer in a way that can enable them to apply its power to their life?</p>



## STUFF TO DO

Think of an area in your life where you need to draw more on the grace of God and get someone to pray for you regarding it.

## PRAYER POINTS & COMING UP

**FIESTA** - 18th & 19th March with Ps Phil Pringle

**FAMILY SUNDAY** - 20th March

**HEART SUNDAY** - 27th March Thailand Mission

## STUFF TO THINK ABOUT

2 Cor 9:8

2 Pet 3:18

Heb 13:9

James 4:6

1 Pet 4:10

Titus 2:11

Titus 3:7

Col 4:6 Heb 4:16

2 Thes 2:16

2 Tim 2:1

2 Cor 8:9

Eph 2:7



## **The following is primarily extracted from the sermon:**

The Doctrines of Grace Do Not Lead to Sin  
August 19th, 1883 by C. H. SPURGEON  
(<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/docgrace.txt>)

*Rom 6:14-15 "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!"*

The basis of the Gospel is the doctrine of Grace. Without grace there is nothing left worth preaching, believing, or contending for.

### **The doctrine of grace in brief terms:**

God deals with sinful men from pure mercy, finding them guilty and condemned, He gives free pardons, irrespective of past character, or any good works which may be foreseen.

He has provided, through the death of his dear Son, atonement by means of mercy. He accepts all those who place their trust in this atonement, selecting faith as the way of salvation, that it may only be by grace. He acts, from His own motives, not because of any reason found in the sinner's behaviour, past, present, or future. Grace starts work in a person before they are saved and continues until they get to heaven. Every part of salvation is based in grace, nothing is due to the persons actions.

*Eph 2:8-9 "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."*

Because God alone is exalted in the sovereignty of His mercy, and the sinner can do no better than meekly accept undeserved favour just because God wills to give it, this doctrine is not easily received by some.

Straightway the un-renewed man seeks ways to fight against the gospel of the grace of God, and one of the biggest is the declaration that the doctrine of the grace of God must lead to an increase in Christians sinning (sometimes called "greasy grace").

The argument is that if sinners are freely saved, then they will more readily sin; and if only God's grace regenerates a man then that person will think they may live as they like, and yet be saved.

They dare to assert that men will take license to be guilty because God is gracious, and say that if men are not to be saved by their works they will come to the conclusion that their conduct is a matter of indifference, and that they may as well sin that grace may abound.

This partially is a great mistake, and partially it is a great lie. Partially it is a mistake because it arises from misconception, and partially it is a lie because men know better.



On the surface this does appear somewhat probable.

If we were to say, *“Come, all who sin, come and welcome, and receive free and immediate pardon through the sovereign grace of God,”* it does seem probable that some may reply, *“Let us sin, for we can easily obtain forgiveness.”* But this is not in fact the case.

Actually the improbable and the unexpected comes to pass.

The inference that grace would lead men to sin is not logical, in fact the very reverse happens. Those who are ungodly do not, as a rule plead the grace of God as an excuse for their sin. They are too indifferent to care about reasons. There may be a few men with perverse thought processes who have used this argument to sin, but no doctrine should be argued against on the base of the potential of man to abuse it. Cannot every truth be perverted?

Surely, no normal person can really persuade themselves that the goodness of God is a reason for offending Him more than ever. If God is good to the undeserving, some men continue to sin, but there are others whom the goodness of God leads to repentance. They scorn the beast-like argument - that the more loving God is, the more rebellious we may be; and they feel that against a God of goodness it is an evil thing to rebel.

Men must be forgiven by grace, renewed by grace, transformed by grace, sanctified by grace, empowered by grace, preserved by grace; and when that happens we will see a nation following God; but while they are merely taught their duty, and left to do it of themselves in their own strength, it is a labour in vain because the gospel alone supplies men with motive and strength to live as children of God, and therefore it is to the gospel that we must look as the real reformer of men.



## Points to consider

- » The gospel of the grace of God promotes real holiness in men because the salvation which it brings is salvation from the power of sin.

*(Rom 6:14, 2 Cor 5:17)*

What we mean by salvation is this—deliverance not only from Hell but also from the love of sin, setting free from the desire to sin. If a person looks for excuses to continue to sin after being “saved” what have they been saved from? – have they truly been saved at all? The principle of love has been found to possess very great power over men. The natural response to great forgiveness is great gratitude.

- » The story (*Luke 7:36-50*) of the woman washing Jesus feet with her tears shows that the response to great forgiveness is great love. It is the person who does not think they have much to be forgiven for that is more inclined to excuse their sin. A desire to live a holy life is motivated by a revelation of the greatness of Jesus free sacrifice and pardon in the face of our great sinfulness, not fear of punishment. Deeds to which a man could not be compelled to do on the grounds of law, men have cheerfully done because of love. Law fails, but love wins.

There is no fear that the doctrine of the grace of God will lead men to sin, because its operations are connected with a special revelation of the evil of sin. (*Psalm 51.*)

When the greatness of God’s grace is understood, awareness of sin is intensified, leading a person to live an increasingly holy life. That which was not considered sin before is now considered something to repent of and ask Gods grace to empower us to remove from our lives. Grace (not judgement) makes us hate sin.

- » Every person who receives the saving grace of God is made a new creature in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit comes upon us, and transforms us: our ignorance is removed, our desires are changed, our understanding is enlightened, our will is subdued, our life is changed—in fact, we are as one new-born, to whom all things have become new. The blood of Jesus sanctifies us as well as pardons us.

- » The Holy Spirit helps us.

Because the Holy Spirit now empowers us we are lead towards the things of God and away from the things of the world. When we are tempted the Holy Spirit reminds us who we are and that we have the power of the creator of the universe in us to help us. The Holy Spirit creates in us a holy fear, reminding us of our need for ever increasing grace. He encourages us to live “face to face” with God where sin naturally falls away





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