

## GRACE

God is certainly a God of grace and we as Christians are beneficiaries of this grace, as God generously pours it out on His covenant brethren. However, there is some misunderstanding that equates grace to mercy, and this is erroneous. Grace has a merciful component that is a result of the loving kindness of the Lord, but it is different than mercy. Grace is the enablement, ability, and capacity of God that is beyond our measure that we are to appropriate as we walk out our salvation and our purpose in Him.

Hebrews 4:16

*“Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.”*

Ephesians 3:7

*“of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.”*

There is the grace that found us in our helpless state that we appropriated in faith to get saved (saving grace).

Ephesians 2:8

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;”*

There is also the grace we appropriate by faith to complete the good works we were made to do (Ephesians 2:10). This is done by getting out of the way and letting Him work through us the way He wants to – in His strength and not ours.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

*“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

*Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

This verse contains the key to walking in God's grace, avoiding the snares of the devil, and acquiring the ability to walk out our salvation and complete his purpose for us. We are to get out of ourselves and into Him. We are to let Him lead us into the how, when, and where of the things He wants done - our ignorance swapped for His wisdom; our inabilities traded for His ability. Notice that power is perfected in weakness, meaning it's all Him and not us. We are just the willing, yet empty vessels through which His abilities are allowed to function.