

# **Greater Grace - A Gift From God To Humanity**

## Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

## **Sunday Sermon – 10/5/2025**

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God's grace is God's unmerited, unconditional, and freely given favor.

From His Love, God offers Grace to humanity for eternal, abundant Life.

Grace is understood as a gift received by faith, enabling salvation and spiritual growth despite humanity's unworthiness.

Grace is God's Unmerited Divine Favor that affords us what we don't deserve, and that is life and the opportunity to live this life in an abundant way and in the life to come.

Grace also gives humanity the chance to let go of what they truly deserve, which the Bible states is the wages of sin—these are the consequences of all the hardships in this world, which is the enemy's intended outcome.

John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." Due to humanity's sins, Satan and his followers have a right to attack and negatively influence mankind, leading to destruction.

The grace of God offers humanity protection from these destructive forces. Believers can experience a fulfilling life. This verse also says: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

God shows us love not because of who we are but because of who He is.

This love was extended to us even before we were born, so God loved us, God loves us, and God will continue to love us because of who he is.

**5 even when we were dead in trespasses...** we all were born dead, we inherited the consequences of those who came before us because the bible says we "were born in sin, shaped in iniquity".

...made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

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God's love gave rise to God's grace, offering us the opportunity for salvation, which entails eternal abundant life and living righteously.

## 6 We have been raised up together and made to sit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Grace affords us the insight to view this natural world from a heavenly perspective.

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT) Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

We want to set our focus on the reality of heaven because that is where all our answers lie.

The wrong perception of a believer can lead them to experience unnecessary hardships and struggles.

When we remember our spiritual position alongside Christ in heavenly places, it will lead to a constructive shift in how we view the challenges we face on earth.

This heavenly perspective invites us to perceive these struggles as meaningful opportunities for personal growth, increase, and positive change.

### 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith...

God gives a measure of faith so we can take advantage of His Grace.

### Romans 12:3 ...as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

In essence, grace provides what God has for us, and faith enables us to access and accept those blessings.

The degree of faith an individual possesses directly influences the level of grace they can access and utilize.

#### ...and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Grace is a free gift: It is a freely given gift from God, intended to grant salvation and bestow His blessing.

#### Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

Grace affords us the opportunity to live in the blessing of the Lord, which makes one rich and adds no painful toil while we are living here on the earth.

#### 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Grace cannot be earned or deserved through good work, behavior, or personal merit.

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10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Even though we are flawed and sin, God's grace allows Him to work in us. Grace allows a perfect God to work on imperfect people with the Goal of a complete person in mind.

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

God works on us so we can work out the good work of His good plan.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

If we allow God to work on us long enough, the desire will come, and then we will enjoy the work that He is doing.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT) says: 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.

Not only does God give you the desire to want to please Him, but by grace, He offers us the capacity to please Him as well.

Grace gives God the opportunity not only to work on you to do, but to become what He predestined as well.

1 Corinthians 15:10-11 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Grace gives us the right to live in the promises of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.