

Faith to Receive what Grace has Offered

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

Sunday Sermon – 11/30/2025

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.

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, (Greek word for mercy is éleos, compassion, active pity). We need active pity because without Christ, we're pitiful. *Not only is God rich in mercy, but he is long-suffering, giving us many chances to get it right!*

...because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, (we were born dead, so God loved us to Life) God loved us by giving us Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and now intercedes for us at the Father's right hand. Additionally, the Father has given us the Holy Spirit, who is our power for living.

So, we see that the God-kind of love gives.

<u>made us alive</u> together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and <u>made us sit together</u> in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Salvation allowed us to reach a state of spiritual completeness. Our lives now involve the transformation on the emotional, mental, and physical levels, allowing us to more fully embody the likeness of Christ.

This process of transformation includes our thoughts, feelings, and actions as we follow His example. God not only gave us life but also placed us in a position of honor and glory. with Christ Jesus. You were made for this.

Our true reality is that we are spiritual beings having a natural experience for development on the earth.

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (The current status of your state of being is not who you are destined to be.

The current status of what you can do is not what you are destined to achieve. *I'm not talking about working harder, I'm talking about walking in a greater anointing so you will get greater results.*

The current status of what you have is far short of the riches that God has planned for us.

We must stop selling ourselves short!!!

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,

Jesus Is Lord ~ Assembly of Love Faith to Receive what God has offered Bishop Steven Norman Sunday Sermon – 11/30/25



which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Everything that God expects us to walk in is already offered by His grace; all we have to do to take advantage of it is apply His faith.

All of what I just went over is a result of the gift of God's Grace and Faith.

Let's review. What is Grace?

Grace is God's unmerited favor and empowerment.

Grace affords us all the promises and riches of God that we don't deserve. Because of the finished works of Jesus Christ, all God's promises, the Father says we already have a right to (Yes). So, all we have to do is affirm and agree with what the Father says we have a right to (Amen).

Grace protects us from many of the consequences and penalties of our sins, as we fall short of God's original intent for us.

God's grace allows us to surpass the consequences of our sins.

Grace empowers us to face and overcome any adversaries and adversities, *helping us stay steadfast on our journey*.

Regardless of the magnitude of our challenges, the boundless grace we receive through faith in Jesus Christ far surpasses them all.

Overview: What Grace Provides

Grace Provides Strength in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9: "But he said to me, '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". God's grace provides strength when we are weak, allowing His power to be manifested through us for what is necessary.

Grace Provides Power to Overcome Sin

Romans 6:14: "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace". God's grace liberates believers from the dominion of sin, empowering us to live righteously.

Grace is Provision for Daily Living and Transformation

Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age".

God's grace actively trains and equips believers to live holy lives in this world. The Spirit of Grace (The Holy Spirit) is always there to instruct, provide for, and empower the believer in the ways that please God.

Jesus Is Lord ~ Assembly of Love Faith to Receive what God has offered Bishop Steven Norman Sunday Sermon – 11/30/25



Grace gives us the power to lead a temperate life, meaning we can be in control and maintain self-control no matter the pressure of our emotions!

Grace Provides Gifts for Service and Ministry

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV) Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Believers are to use the diverse gifts of grace God has given them to serve and minister to one another.

Ephesians 3:7: "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power". Ministry is accomplished through the empowering grace of God, not just human effort.

Grace is the Source of Our Identity and Work

1 Corinthians 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain". The Apostle Paul attributes his entire identity and productive ministry to God's grace, which worked through him. Grace offers each believer the authority, ability, and capability to be all God said they can be, to do all God says they can do, and to have everything God says they can have.

By Grace, we have a right to have it all.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

We need God's grace for salvation, to live an abundant, godly life, and for strength in our weaknesses. The Bible teaches that this grace is a free, undeserved gift from God, allowing us to have it all.

Grace is presented as an ongoing power that enables believers to live a life that pleases God and helps in transformation.