



## TRUE TRUST IN GOD PREVENTING GRACE – GOD’S ABILITY / CAPACITY (THE SUPERNATURAL)

Dr Stephen Smith, 30 March 2014

One of the most common definitions of grace is – **ABILITY**. Grace is God’s ability (supernatural) in man that enables him to do what he cannot do in his own capacity.

*<sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.*

*<sup>30</sup> And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].*

Romans 8:29-30

My conclusion regarding the church is that most Christians want to change, or *develop until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him* (Eph. 4:13).

True victory stretches far beyond performance or appearance. It is not the will of God that the Christian life should be so difficult and complicated. It is His will that we will go from strength to strength through His Spirit from glory to glory.

*Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it; <sup>3</sup> For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest; and this He said although [His] works had been completed and prepared [and waiting for all who would believe] from the foundation of the world.*

*<sup>10</sup> For he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labours, just as God rested from those labours peculiarly His own. <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell].*

Hebrews 4:1-3; 10-11

Knowledge can bring fulfilment when we execute it in practice. Knowledge that cannot be executed will eventually lead to denial or refusal of the truth! It is therefore important to have **GRACE** (God’s ability) in order for us to walk in that which we believe.

Now, He becomes the source of my worship; the source of my life; finances; marriage and healing. My thoughts, actions and views revolve around Jesus. He becomes the centrepiece of my life. In front of people I acknowledge His grace (God’s ability) in me), love and loving-kindness. God becomes my source, peace, joyfulness and praise. In the fullness of grace – He becomes my EVERYTHING!

## TEMPTATION

Temptation is the breeding place for condemnation. The source of temptation does not come from the devil, it starts with us.

*The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.*

James 1:14-15 (Message)

Should I feel that I have *to do something* to get qualified; I will not succeed in having the confidence in God's provision. We will find ourselves in dead works (toiling), where we want to convince God in doing something for us.

*<sup>4</sup> By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rotteness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.*

*<sup>1-2</sup> I, Simon Peter, am a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. I write this to you whose experience with God is as life-changing as ours, all due to our God's straight dealing and the intervention of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master. Don't Put It Off. <sup>3-4</sup> Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.*

*<sup>5-9</sup> So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet; no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.*

II Peter 1:1-9 (Message)

The perversion that's in this world makes us corrupt when we are trying to get hold of God's promises through the world's system, the religious system, or any other system that is indifferent to trusting in God and His capacity that is in us.

Peter shows us that perversion comes as a result of lust. **The Living Bible says it like this: *to save us from the lust and rottenness all around us.*** It doesn't necessary have to be a desire for evil things, but a desire (lust) to anything outside of God and His Word.

As a result of this, a lot of people have turned their faith away from God and they try to fulfil their glory by means of the world's way or the worldly system.

*<sup>14</sup> But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).*

James 1:14

## DESIRE

It is important to understand this key issue regarding desire. Every desire that you have comes from God.

Perverse methods are being introduced by lust to meet our God-given desires.

Once we have sinned, we stare the greatest religious temptation in the face: We fall from grace – God's ability!

The key to restoration is the same key to victory – BELIEVE!

## REJECTING GRACE

<sup>21</sup> *[Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift (God's capacity) as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law (works), then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]*

Galatians 2:21

HAT Verklarende Woordboek sê: *Verhinder, belet om te bereik of te verwesenlik waarna gestreef word; verydel, dwarsboom.*

When we want to get to our inheritance through "works", then we are frustrating, or nullifying God's power in our lives and we are preventing ourselves from getting it!

The best way to experience grace, is to experience it on a continual basis. This only happens once my heart is 100% convinced that I am the righteousness of God and when I am committed to walk in it. Everthing Jesus did, He did as a man full of grace and truth. He was the perfect example in showing us how to rule over sin. He did it through God's grace (capacity) that worked through Him.

*For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another (GOD'S CAPACITY!) and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.*

John 1:16

We are able to receive that fullness of grace (capacity) that worked in Jesus. Is it this grace that makes the New Covenant Life a possibility? For someone who's heart is totally established in the Word of God, there is not much you can work on in the area of sin and temptation. Jesus lived a life above sin and temptation. It was His faith in the truth that made his grace effective in His life.

*And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacle (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.*

John 1:14

We as human beings were not able to keep the law (obedient) in our own capacity, (the flesh). The law was implemented to make us more aware of our sin. The law required perfection and completeness, but could not show us the way to perfection.

*For the Law never made anything perfect—but instead a better hope is introduced through which we [now] come close to God.*

Hebrews 7:19

I never wonder if I do qualify for God's grace, because:

*Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.*

Colossians 1:12