

What is grace?

Dictionary: 1. Seemingly effortless beauty or charm
3. Skill at avoiding the inept or clumsy course; sense of propriety
4. A disposition to be generous or helpful
6. Temporary immunity from penalties after deadline passed
7. *Theology*. Divine love and protection bestowed freely on man
8. A short prayer of blessing or thanks with a meal

- Old Testament: You “earned” grace (although under later rabbinical tradition it could be given when works were lacking)
- Jesus: Didn’t talk much about grace. Why might that be?
- Paul: Talked a whole lot about grace (24 times in Romans)

VIDEO ABOUT GRACE

God doth not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the **covenant of works**; but of his mere love and mercy delivereth his elect out of it, and bringeth them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the **covenant of grace**. – Westminster Larger Catechism (Q. 30)

“Christ means that God’s love is not a reward for what we have done or confess that we have not done, but a *gift* given absolutely freely, with no strings attached.” – Shirley Guthrie Jr.

Another way of looking at grace:

“Grace often refers to that gracious act of God in Jesus Christ, the time when God reconciled us to God’s self. Here, however, grace is a place, a sphere, the arena in which we live and love and have our being. Grace is like the Promised Land into which Joshua led the children of Israel. Grace is like the home we long for. We speak not only of a gracious act but a ‘state of grace,’ like the state of [North Carolina], a realm in which we live.” – David Bartlett

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Thro’ many dangers, toils, and snare I have already come.
'Tis grace hath bro’t me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

Grace & Gratitude – an inseparable pair!