

THE GRACE OF GOD

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand... ⁸For God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ²¹...so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:1-2, 8, 21 (NIV)

❖ Grace gives us CONTINUAL ACCESS to a loving and holy God.

... through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 5:2a (NIV)

1. Jews were kept from access to God by the CURTAIN in the TEMPLE.

But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:7 (NIV)

2. Gentiles were kept from access to God by the WALL in the TEMPLE.

They were shouting "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place."

Acts 21:28 (NIV)

At that moment (Jesus' death) the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

Matthew 27:51 (NIV)

❖ Grace shows us a GLORIOUS HOPE in this life and in the life to come.

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:2b (NIV)

1. We have PEACE with GOD, which gives us hope because He has taken care of our sin.

... we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Romans 5:1b (NIV)

2. Our ACCESS to GOD gives us hope because He is always available to us.

... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 5:2a (NIV)

❖ Grace gives us SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH during times of trouble.

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

1. Christians are not EXEMPT from struggles and tribulations.

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him...

Philippians 1:29 (NIV)

2. God will use our TRIBULATIONS to help us grow and mature our faith.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

- ❖ Grace is the HOLY SPIRIT in us that reveals God's love for us.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

1. The Holy Spirit is our SEAL that shows that we are part of GOD'S FAMILY.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...

Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

2. The Holy Spirit is our GUIDE directing us to follow God's will in our lives.

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (NIV)

- ❖ Grace gives us RECONCILIATION with God and His coming judgment.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)

1. God has MADE a WAY for man to be at one with God (Atonement).

... by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Ephesians 2:15-16 (NIV)

2. God has made a way for man to be in FELLOWSHIP and FRIENDSHIP with Him.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:9-11 (NIV)

❖ Closing Truth: Grace is simply God's UNDESERVED and UNEARNED love for us.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous...²⁰But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:19-21 (NIV)