



## Lesson Eight

# What About Those Who Received Grace From God?

We have often been told that the meaning of grace is unmerited favor. But does God just pick one here, and one there to cast over them the mantle of His grace? Does it just happen that God, on a certain day says, “I think I will bless this man, or that woman with grace, or salvation?”

Let’s look at a few people in Bible days to whom God’s grace was shown.

[5] *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

[6] *And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

[7] *And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

[8] *But Noah **found** grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

**Genesis 6:5-8**

We may discover something **very important** about Noah, and grace by reading a little further.

[9] *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a **just** man and **perfect** in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*

**Genesis 6:9**

Have you ever noticed when God wanted someone to work for Him, He seemed to **ALWAYS PICK** someone who was **ALREADY** working?

[18] *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, **casting** a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

[19] *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

[20] *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

**Matthew 4:18-20**

[21] *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, **mending** their nets; and he called them.*

[22] *And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

**Matthew 4:21-22**

*And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and fol-*

lowed him.

**Matthew 9:9**

While we do not have the background, or occupation of every one whom Jesus selected to be a disciple, it does **CERTAINLY LOOK** as though He **DID NOT** look for the **LAZY**, or **IDLE** to call them. We see the same pattern in the Old Testament.

*Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, **EVEN FROM FOLLOWING** the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel.*

**1 Chronicles 17:7**

*[19] So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, **WHO WAS PLOWING** with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.*

*[20] And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?*

*[21] And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.*

**1 Kings 19:19-21**

*The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.*

**Amos 1:1**

Remember the old axiom that says, “If you need a job done, look for a busy man”? **CAN IT BE** that when God looks for a man or woman to be a recipient of grace, **HE LOOKS** for someone who is **ALREADY** leaning toward Him?

*[10] Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?*

*[11] And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, **ALL THAT THOU HAST DONE** unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.*

*[12] The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.*

**Ruth 2:10-12**

There was a reason Ruth found grace in the eyes of Boaz. There was also a reason Esther found grace in the eyes of King Ahasuerus.

*[13] Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.*

*[14] In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.*

*[15] Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, **SHE REQUIRED NOTHING** but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther **OBTAINED FAVOUR** in the sight of all them that*

looked upon her.

[16] *So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.*

[17] *And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.* **Esther 2:13-17**

It seems that Esther had such a humble and obedient attitude. She **TOTALLY FOLLOWED** the instructions of the king's chamberlain.

Please, let us not make the mistake that somehow we **EARN** or **DESERVE** grace. However, it does seem in many cases that God is looking for those whom He knows **WILL RESPOND** to that grace.

We have only to look at the many healing miracles of Christ to see Jesus **DRAWN TO THOSE** who were reaching out to Him. No, they were not beggars. They were people who needed help, and **WERE WILLING** to make an effort to get it.

[27] *And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men **FOLLOWED HIM**, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.*

[28] *And when he was come into the house, the blind men **CAME TO HIM**: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.*

[29] *Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.*

**Matthew 9:27-29**

[46] *And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the high-way side begging.*

[47] *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, **HE BEGAN TO CRY OUT**, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

[48] *And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

[49] *And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.*

[50] *And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.*

[51] *And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.*

[52] *And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.* **Mark 10:46-52**

While it is true that Jesus volunteered His power to some, in most cases He healed those who made an effort.

[3] *And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.*

[4] *And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, **they UNCOVERED THE ROOF** where he was: and when they had **BROKEN** it up, **THEY LET DOWN** the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

[5] *When Jesus **SAW THEIR FAITH**, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy*

*sins be forgiven thee.*

**Mark 2:3-5**

No, we cannot earn grace, but we can **INFLUENCE GRACE** as a believer in Holy Living. We cannot in anyway take credit for our Holiness. Why? Because we are constantly reminded that were it not for God's grace, we **WOULD NOT EVEN WANT** to live holy.

We have been in church services where many stood and **WEPT BECAUSE** of the grace of God in their lives. Yes, the grace that saved us had become our instructor.

*[11] For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

*[12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

*[13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

*[14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

*[15] These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

**Titus 2:11-15**

*[1] Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

*[2] Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

*[3] And every man that hath this **HOPE** in him **PURIFIETH HIMSELF**, even as he is pure.*

**1 John 3:1-3**

We are **NOTHING** outside of God's grace. And yet, **we**, in a large measure, **DETERMINE HOW FAR** that grace is allowed to work in us.

Do you love God? Do you love the grace of God working in your life? Are you willing to work with that grace?

Those who say **HOLINESS** is **ALL** of God, and **NOTHING** of us, do not **REALLY UNDERSTAND** the Word of God. Let me encourage you to read the Word of God. When you honestly study the Word you will find in both Old Testament writings, and New Testament writings that holiness **DEMANDS OUR EFFORT** and **cooperation, ALONG WITH** God's grace.

Let's look first at the Old Testament. And while we look first at the Old Testament, let us realize the connections between the two.

*For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore **SANCTIFY YOURSELVES**, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

**Leviticus 11:44**

*[13] Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

*[14] As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

*[15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

*[16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**1 Peter 1:13-16**

For some reason there are many who believe the God of the Old Testament had a radical change of mind in the New Testament. Let me call to your attention two interesting verses, again, one in the Old and one in the New.

*For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

**Malachi 3:6**

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

**Hebrews 13:8**

It is true that there are some **CEREMONIAL** laws, and dietary laws, etc. that have been done away with. However, we must realize that God has not done away with laws of **LOVE, RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and **MORALITY**.

Thank God for those of us who have been recipients of the Grace of God, but let us realize that with that grace comes responsibility.

We must realize that when we receive grace, or gifts from God that it puts us in the role of a **DEBTOR** to God, and **EVEN** to man. We just read where Jesus said, "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." The Apostle Paul certainly felt he owed a debt.

*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*

**Romans 1:14**

Is feeling that we are a **debtor** to God and man a **BURDEN** or **BONDAGE**? No, of course not, unless we are selfish, immature, **LAZY BELIEVERS** who want everything to come our way. The Apostle Paul gloried in that God had chosen him.

Let us be quick to let our Lord know that we appreciate His grace in our lives. Let us also be keen to listen to Him who gave us that grace, and let Him know that we will **JOYFULLY SERVE HIM** because of that grace.