

# Times of Greater Grace Series: 1

## Acts 4.33

### What Is Grace?

*“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.”*

What is the Biblical definition of grace?

The English word grace appears 170 times in the AV – 39 in OT and 131 in NT (148 times in NKJV)

- However, the most common Greek word for grace, *charis*, appears 156 times in NT and 78 times in OT (total 234).
- *Charis* is good-will, loving-kindness, favour, pleasure, delight; blessing and reward (Grace – **God's Riches/Rewards At Christ's Expense**). It also has the idea of a goodly appearance, beauty. The Hebrew word *chên* means the same – favour, kindness.
- One key attribute of grace is that it is totally undeserved and unmerited. There is nothing that we can do to earn grace, it is God's favour and good-will towards us which result in blessings.
- *Charis* is derived from the word *chairō* which means 'to be well, blessed, and full of joy'. It was a common greeting among the Greek people (James 1.1, Acts 15.23). As shalom (peace) was for the Hebrews, which is why Paul often began and ended his epistles by pronouncing grace (and peace) to his readers – Romans 1.7, Romans 16.24; 1 Corinthians 1.3, 1 Corinthians 16.23; 2 Corinthians 1.2, 2 Corinthians 13.14; Galatians 1.3, Galatians 6.18; Ephesians 1.2, Ephesians 6.18; Colossians 1.2, Colossians 4.18;
- Peter also used 'grace' as a greeting - 1 Peter 1.2; 2 Peter 1.2
- Another meaning and use of the word *charis* or grace is in connection with the giving of thanks. Romans 6.17, Luke 17.9, Colossians 3.16 are just a few good examples of *charis* being used to express thanksgiving. **Note how some languages have adopted this word to use it in this way (grazzi, grazie, gracias)**. The English words grateful and gratitude (both meaning thankful) also have been derived from this word. The word **gratis**, which means 'free' is a contraction of **gratia** meaning 'favour'. Grace is therefore the free favour and blessing of God bestowed upon man.  
The prayer we pray over the food at eating times is often called grace. We speak blessing over the food and give thanks to God for it. The food is sanctified by the word of God and prayer (1 Timothy 4.4-5)
- From *charis* we also get charisma, used of the gifts of God. These gifts are a result of grace and really could be called the Gifts of Grace - 1 Corinthians 1.4-7 (see Amplified). These verses tell us that whoever has grace is not lacking in any gift.

### **Psalm 84.11**

- Grace comes from God.
- Grace does not withhold any good thing from the upright.
- Psalm 37.25 – David writes that he has never seen the righteous go without – every good thing the grace of God has provided
- C H Spurgeon writes in *The Treasury of David*, “*Grace makes us walk uprightly and this secures every covenant blessing to us.*”

We receive the Grace of God through Jesus - John 1.14-17

The riches of God's grace is exhibited in His kindness towards us in Christ – Ephesians 2.7-8

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace – Hebrews 10.29, Zechariah 12.10

God's throne is the Throne of Grace – Hebrews 4.16 and is where we find grace to help in our times of need.

- Not everybody could approach the throne and petition the king – it required an invitation. See Esther 5.1-3
- We are encouraged to come boldly, without fear, to God and ask for grace to help and aid us in our times of need.