

Times of Greater Grace Series: 2

Acts 4.33

Grace To Help In Times of Trial

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

We receive the Grace of God through Jesus

- The grace of God was upon Jesus - Luke 2.40, 52
- Jesus was full of grace - John 1.14-17
- We are only the beneficiaries of grace because of Jesus and His death on the cross - Romans 5.15-19 (see vs15 in NCV)
'free gift' is the Gk word *charisma* – which literally means gift of grace

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

- God will make known to us the exceeding greatness of the riches (or fullness) of His grace
- We put our faith in Him and by His grace He has saved us.
- We did and can do nothing worthy or deserving of salvation, we received it as a free gift of His grace.

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

- The Divine executive, the One who imparts grace to the people of God. (Ephesians 4.29-30). We are to minister grace through edifying speech – this means that we speak blessing and edification so that the Holy Spirit can impart grace to the hearers.

God's throne is the Throne of Grace

Hebrews 4.16 - it is where we find grace to help in our times of need.

“Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [*for our failures*] and find grace to help in good time for every need [*appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it*].” (Amp)

- (vs15) Jesus is our great High Priest who Himself has been tempted in the same ways as we are, yet He without sin (by yielding to the temptation).
 - 1 John 2.16
lust of the flesh; lust of the eyes; pride of life

- Adam's wife and Jesus were both tempted in these ways - Genesis 3.6; Luke 4. 1-13
- These are the ways we are tempted too - Matthew 18.8-9
hands (lust/satisfying of the flesh); feet (pride of life – our standing); eye (lust of the eyes)
- He is therefore qualified to sympathise with our weaknesses. He knows how we feel and what we are going through. He is touched with the 'feelings of our infirmities'
- His grace is available to help us when we are in need. In times of need and trial we ought to run to the Throne of Grace (Psalm 91.1-13)

See also ***Hebrews 2.16-18***

- 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.
- Often we ask for things that we think we need rather than what we actually need. James 4.3, amiss = badly