

Our Response to God's Amazing Grace

In my last article entitled, "In Christ, We Lack Nothing that We Need," I called attention to the fact that, for Christians, all of the grace, i.e., the unmerited favor and help that we need for our sinful condition, we've received and continue to receive in Jesus. In John 1:16, John wants us to see that the grace of God in Christ just keeps on coming in the life of a Christian. We have grace *available* to us for all that we need. God's inexhaustible grace has been compared to many things. An artist once submitted a painting of Niagara Falls to an exhibition. Since he didn't name the painting, the gallery officials aptly named the painting, *More to Follow*. Just as Niagara Falls continues spilling over billions of gallons of water a year it's a fitting picture of God's grace. *There's never any lack of the supply of grace available to God's children.*

As children of God, we've been *rescued* from our sinful condition by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Our deepest need is already met. What's our *response* to grace to be? We should respond to God's *grace with our thanks*. The Greek word that's translated "grace" and which often speaks of the grace that God has given us, is also used, depending on the context, translated with a word such as "thanks, thankfulness, gratitude," quite often speaking of what our *response* to God should be. We don't *give* grace to God, but we *respond* to his grace with our grateful thanks. In addition to grateful thanks, we're also to extend grace to others, exhibit proper stewardship of God's grace gifts, as well as worshiping God for who he is as our gracious God. As we close out this series on John 1:14, I want to give us some scriptural application pertaining to the many gracious blessings that we receive.

Respond with Grateful Thanks

—Thank God for your salvation if you're a Christian. "*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*" 2 Cor. 9:15

—Thank God for the *grace* that he supplies in our weakness. Listen to the words that Paul received from God at a time of weakness even after he had pleaded with God in prayer to remove the problem that he had. God's answer: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul's response: "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

—Thank God for our brothers and sisters in Christ. "*I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.*"

2 Timothy 1:3; "...giving *thanks* for you remembering you in my prayers." Eph. 1:16

—Thanks in *every circumstance of life*. "Give *thanks* in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:18

Respond by Extending Grace to Others

—Thanks to God for every opportunity to serve others. "*I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his *service*.*" 1 Tim. 1:12

—Always express *gracious* words to others for the purpose of building up rather than tearing down. “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fit’s the occasion, that it may give *grace* to those who hear.” Ephesians 4:29

—God’s Spiritual gifts are *gifts of grace* to be used in the service of the body of Christ. “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having *gifts* that differ according to the *grace* given to us...” Romans 12:4-6 We are responsible to be good stewards of the *grace* gifts that are given to us by the Holy Spirit. “As each has received a *gift*, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied *grace*.” 1 Peter 4:10

Respond with Grace Wrought Obedience and Worship

—Our salvation should lead us to respond with “grace wrought obedience” motivated by love for God. Rom. 1:5

—Thankfulness for our salvation should lead us to worship. “Therefore let us be *grateful* for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28

We’ve been reminded in this series of the inexhaustible riches of God’s grace in Jesus Christ for his people. May we continue “with confidence to draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

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