

Danny Anderson
Being Spiritual, week 3

What is grace?

Grace is God's unmerited favor.

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God... - Ephesians 2:8*

Grace is God's help for your life.

- *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. - 2 Corinthians 13:14*
- *Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. - 2 Timothy 2:1*
- *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. - 2 Peter 3:18*

The grace of God is God acting in your life to accomplish what we cannot accomplish on our own.

Most of us choose to run off our own strength.

- *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. - Colossians 1:13*
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6*
- *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:4-5*
- *He would withdraw to desolate places to pray. - Luke 5:16*

We receive God's grace through spiritual practices.

A spiritual practice is any activity that empowers us to do what we can not do in our own strength.

- This includes memorization and meditation on Scripture, solitude, silence, prayer, journaling, confession, small group and worship.

Acquiring the grace of God is not a passive process.

- "To the extent that the actual life of a human being is dependent upon his or her interaction with God, that human being is a spiritual person. In contrast, one is carnal or fleshly to the extent that this quality of life is lacking and one is operating on merely human or natural resources." - Dallas Willard
- We are spiritual to the extent that we draw our strength from Jesus.
- *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Hebrews 4:16*

WEEKLY BIBLE READING			
One Year New Testament	SUNDAY 1 Peter 1:1-20	MONDAY 1 Peter 1:21-2:17	TUESDAY 1 Peter 2:18-3:12
This Week →	November 22	November 23	November 24
WEDNESDAY 1 Peter 3:13-4:11	THURSDAY 1 Peter 4:12-5:14	FRIDAY 2 Peter 1:1-21	SATURDAY 2 Peter 2:1-22
November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 4:16			

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

1. Danny said, “Grace is God acting in our lives to accomplish what we cannot accomplish on our own.” Can you share a time when you knew God had accomplished something in your life that you were not capable of doing on your own? Describe how it feels when you look back on that moment and recognize God’s infusion of power and strength in your life?

Would you say you live most of your life running off of God’s strength or your own? Explain how you came to this conclusion.

2. Living in your own strength is living in your own kingdom. What are some of the pitfalls of living a self-sufficient life? Where does the struggle of self-sufficiency show up in your life? Why is it so hard to lean into God for help in this area?

READ Colossians 1:11-14. What does it mean to be “transferred” into the Kingdom of Jesus? What does it look like when we decide to transfer our trust to the grace and strength of God? READ Proverbs 3:5-6. In what areas of your life have you transferred trust from your own strength to God’s, and then seen God work in a powerful way?

3. A spiritual life produces results in an individual that cannot be explained by human effort and resources alone. READ John 15:4-5. How does Jesus explain the kind of results a spiritual life produces? What does it mean to “abide” or “remain” in Jesus?

Share some of the methods you can use to be intentional about abiding in Jesus each day. READ 2 Peter 3:18. How can God use small investments of time, and a desire to become like Jesus, to grow His grace in you?

4. Dallas Willard wrote, “To the extent that the actual life of a human being is dependent upon his or her interaction with God, that human being is a spiritual person...In contrast, one is carnal or fleshly to the extent that this quality of life is lacking, and one is operating on merely human or natural resources.”

When it comes to your spiritual life, what do you want to accomplish – what do you want to become? To what extent are you dependent upon your interaction with God to accomplish those goals?

Acquiring the grace of God is not a passive process. In what specific spiritual practices do you need to actively engage so that your life will show the supernatural power of God?

