



Living in Grace!

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Sermon Notes from August 23, 2009

Grace – A Definition

noun

1. elegance or beauty of form, manner, motion, or action.
2. a pleasing or attractive quality or endowment.
3. favor or good will.
4. a manifestation of favor, esp. by a superior:
5. mercy; clemency; pardon: *an act of grace*.
6. favor shown in granting a delay or temporary immunity.
7. an allowance of time after a debt or bill has become payable granted to the debtor before suit can be brought against him or her or a penalty applied: [grace period](#).

Theology

- a. the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God.
- b. the influence or spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them.
- c. a virtue or excellence of divine origin:
- d. Also called [state of grace](#), the condition of being in God's favor or one of the elect.
9. moral strength: *the grace to perform a duty*.

A,B, C's of Living in God's Grace

You have to:

- Change your **Attitude** – disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation, esp. of the mind (Moses, Children of Israel, Saul/Paul)
- Change your **Behavior** – conduct, manners; carriage of one's self w/respect to propriety or morals – **How are you wearing the Name of Christ? (Elijah, Elisha)**
- Stop **Comparing** Yourself to Others – to be worthy of comparison; be held equal. To appear in a similar standing (Romans 12:3)
- Make a **Decision** – determination (a firm resolution) as of a question or doubt by making a judgment: The act or need of making up one's mind (Romans 6:6)
- Stop Making **Excuses** – to seek or obtain exemption or release for (oneself): an explanation offered as a reason for being excused (Genesis 3:1-13)
- **Fear**- a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid. (II Timothy 1:7)



You Have to:

- Ask
- Believe
- Confess
- Do
- Endure
- Focus

Ask

John 15:16 (New King James Version)

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 14:12-13 (New King James Version)

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son

Believe

Matthew 21:21-26 (New King James Version)

21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

John 20:29 (New King James Version)

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

Confess

James 3:1-12 (The Message)

3-5A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. **A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!**

5-6It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos,



throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

7-10 This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

10-12 My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

Proverbs 18:21 (New Living Translation)

21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

What are you using your mouth for?

- To speak life
- To speak death

Become a Doer

James 1:22 (The Message)

22-24 Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

James 1:22 (New King James Version)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

James 2:17-20 (The Message)

Faith in Action

14-17 Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? 18. I can already hear one of you agreeing



by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

19-20 Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

Put Your Life Into Action

- Let go of what you don't want and keep what you do want-make sure it has purpose in your life.

Endure

- **Job**

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (New Living Translation)

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 3 Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. 5 And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. 6 And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. 7 Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

- **You want to know that you did not give up.**
- **You want others to see just how real God is.**
 - If people do not see Christ in you-how will they ever know that He is real!

Focus

Joshua 1:7-9 (New Living Translation)

7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 **Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it.** Only then will you prosper and succeed in



all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! **Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

- **Stop looking for the example—You are it!**
- **Live in Grace, For His Grace is Sufficient.**