

Grace

1-18-26

James 4:6 (ESV)

But HE gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

This is an earthshattering truth. Not only does God give us grace, BUT HE can ALSO give us more grace. Therefore, it is very important to understand the Biblical meaning of Grace.

Biblical grace is not just favor. The Strong’s Concordance defines grace as “the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in one’s life.” In short grace is favor and power from God. If we don’t include power from God in the definition, grace is just fluff for overlooking sin. Phil. 2:13 gives us the Biblical definition of grace. It is IMPERATIVE that you make a note in your Bible identifying Phil.2:13 as the definition of Grace.

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

It is God who works in you, both to will (to desire) and to work (give power) for HIS good pleasure.

It is imperative that you insert this definition wherever you see the word grace in your Bible. You can shorten it to favor and power.

Expanded translation of Phil. 2:13: It is God who works in us, both to will (to give us the desire) and to work (to give us the power; literally to put forth power) to do HIS good pleasure. O/H

Grace is not passive, but active with all the power of God. God breathes HIS grace into us to accomplish HIS purposes.

Titus 2:11–12 (ESV)

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** “training” us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Titus says, “The grace of God has appeared TRAINING US.” The grace of God is the power of God that trains us. It is “the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in our life” that trains us. To receive more grace more power, we go to the Throne of Grace.

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the THRONE OF GRACE, that we may receive mercy and find grace (power) to help in time of need.

Biblical truth: We go before the Throne of Grace to receive more power to help in our time of need. There at the Throne, God breathes HIS power into us. Personally, I think of grace as violent grace working with the full creative power of God. We must deny Christ to resist it. When we humble ourselves and submit to God, HE gives us more Grace, more power, and exalts us.

James 4:10 (ESV)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and HE WILL EXALT you.

Biblical, humility is recognizing we can't accomplish God's purpose ourselves, but that God alone can accomplish what HE desires. In short, "We can't but God can." Therefore, when we acknowledge "we can't but God can" God gives us more grace and exalts us.

1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and HE will not only give you power but also, HE will EXALT you. This how God works; pay attention.

1 Peter 5:6–7 (ESV)

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the “proper time” HE may EXALT you. 7 Cast all your anxieties on HIM, because HE cares for you.

Let me summarize how we receive the power of God with HIS promise to exalts us. We acknowledge “we can’t but God can” then we listen to HIM.

Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)

But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at MY WORD (the Bible).

Praise God, let us go before the Throne of Grace and receive more Grace!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake HE made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God (with power).