

THE GRACE CONNECTION

- I. Introduction: Definitions of grace
 - a. Grace is the ability of God in and through us to do those things we can't do in and of ourselves. Grace is therefore power.
 - b. Grace is that which bestows or causes pleasure.
 - c. Grace is the friendly disposition on the part of the bestower, loving kindness, goodwill.
 - d. Old Testament the word in Hebrew, *chen*, has the meaning of favor (neither expected nor deserved).
- II. Where is grace in the scriptures?
 - a. In the Old Testament the first occurrence is in Gen 6:8, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord". It is found 69 times as a noun and 80 times as a verb.
 - b. Grace is a common theme in New Testament salutations: at least 12 times by Paul, 2 by Peter, one in the epistle of John and one in Revelation
 - c. God is conveying the importance of His grace in our lives, even the absolute need we have of His grace.
 - d. Typical: 2 John 1:3 From heaven and with full authority for release to men.
 - e. In John 1:16 we see that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, we could almost say "grace in truth". This is the age of grace. Example of the water main.
- III. Uses of grace
 - a. To obtain, to break through, to restore, to overcome, to deliver, to live in fullness, to operate His gifts, to bring a turn around, to recover, to succeed, to perform excellently, to bear much fruit but never just to get by. Many dreams I've had showing the need for grace.
 - b. 1 Cor 15:10 shows us that grace is the jet fuel of signs, wonders and mighty exploits.
 - c. For salvation a prevenient grace is required. Eph 2:8
 - d. To walk in righteousness (holiness). Gal 2:1
- IV. How to obtain grace
 - a. Rom 5:2, by faith.
 - b. Act 16:25-34. Praise opened the valve wide.
 - c. Open wide your heart with desire, desire that burns for the King and His Kingdom, His will to be manifested. Desire to bring glory to God.
 - d. Obedience in our walk. Ps 81:13 and 16
 - e. Walk humbly and recognize your poverty of spirit for He gives grace to the humble, Jam 4:6, and His power is perfected in weakness, 2 Cor 12:9.
- V. Conclusion
 - a. Fear not. Luke 12:32 The grace of God, the resources of the Kingdom and the love of the King are towards you.
 - b. Only you can open wide or stop the flow.
 - c. What will it be?