God's Grace

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Grace may be defined as God's unmerited favor and as the power that He gives us to sustain and help us in time of need. God willingly gives grace for the benefit of His people. It doesn't matter who you are or what relationships you have in your life; sooner or later you will need to give grace or be given grace by someone.

God's grace can be compared to the pardon that a governor of a state can give to a guilty prisoner, who is facing execution for something that he or she did. Without this pardon, without this grace, they will be given what they deserve.

We are deserving of death because all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23, 6:23), yet God offers us a pardon (grace). Jesus died for us so that we could live and have eternal life. His death can be our "salvation" only if we accept it and accept Him as our Lord and Savior. Just like the prisoner above, we can turn it down or we can accept this pardon that God offers (John 3:16).

When a person really looks at it, grace is the power of God to do for us, what we cannot do for ourselves. The fact is we cannot do anything for ourselves; Jesus says, "...without me you can do nothing."(John 15:5 NKJV)

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:4, 5; 8-10 NIV)

We can never earn God's grace, but we have it anyway because of His love for us. There is no one that does not need God's grace. Not only do we need His grace, we also need to give grace to others.

One of the greatest opportunities that I have experienced is to give grace to others. They may not deserve it and I may not want to give it, but I always remember the numerous times that God didn't give me what I deserved, but He gave to me out of His love.

In Psalm 103 the Word says; don't forget any of God's benefits. Well there are so many benefits for both sides when grace is given. It's a great opportunity to maintain peace, display goodwill, show that you don't always have to be right even if you are right.....and the list goes on. The biggest benefit is displaying Christ-like behavior; because we are made in His image. We don't need to give people what they always deserve, but we need to look through the eyes of God and give to them from a heart of love.

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