



**James 4:6a But He Gives more Grace!**  
A Survey of the Joys of Grace in the New Testament  
November 8, 2015

**Text: James 4:6a**

The primary word in the New Testament for *grace* is from the Greek: *charis*. It means:

- “That which bestows or occasions pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard.”
- “On the part of the bestower, the friendly disposition from which the kindly act proceeds, graciousness, loving-kindness, goodwill.”
- “On the part of the receiver, a sense of the favor bestowed, a feeling of gratitude.”
- Webster’s 1828 dictionary: “the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him.”
- God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense! ☺ (G.R.A.C.E.)

A Long quote by John MacArthur

“*Grace* is a terribly misunderstood word. Defining it succinctly is notoriously difficult. Some of the most detailed theology textbooks do not offer any concise definition of the term. Someone has proposed an acronym: GRACE is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. That's not a bad way to characterize grace, but it is not a sufficient theological definition.

One of the best-known definitions of grace is only three words: God's unmerited favor. A. W. Tozer expanded on that: "Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines him to bestow benefits on the undeserving." Berkhof is more to the point: grace is "the unmerited operation of God in the heart of man, effected through the agency of the Holy Spirit."

Grace is not merely unmerited favor; it is favor bestowed on sinners who deserve wrath. Showing kindness to a stranger is "unmerited favor"; doing good to one's enemies is more the spirit of grace ([Luke 6:27-36](#)).

Grace is not a dormant or abstract quality, but a dynamic, active, working principle: "The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation...and instructing us" ([Titus 2:11-12](#)). It is not some kind of ethereal blessing that lies idle until we appropriate it. Grace is God's sovereign initiative to sinners ([Ephesians 1:5-6](#)).

Grace is not a one-time event in the Christian experience. We stand in grace ([Romans 5:2](#)). The entire Christian life is driven and empowered by grace: "It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods" ([Hebrews 13:9](#)). Peter said we should "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)).

***Thus we could properly define grace as the free and benevolent influence of a holy God operating sovereignly in the lives of undeserving sinners.***

**Reasons to Rejoice from the Context of James 4 so far:**

Just look at this “free and benevolent influence of a holy God” in your own life!

- We have all quarreled and fought, and yet He gives more grace!
- We have all allowed pride-driven passions to war within us, and yet He gives more grace!

- We have all murdered (at least through hatred), coveted, and prayed selfishly, and yet He gives more grace!
- We have all committed spiritual adultery with the world, and yet He gives more grace!
- We have all provoked Him to jealousy (because He loves us), and yet He gives more grace!

### **A New Testament Survey of the Many Benefits and Joys of Grace!**

1. *John 1:14-17 ESV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of **grace** and truth. (15) (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") (16) And from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**. (17) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
  - The Law, due to its sharp and uncompromising holiness, condemned us...and rightly so.
  - *Romans 5:20 ESV Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...*
  - But in Christ, we received not just truth, but grace...and grace upon grace!
  - We are, by His blood, no longer under the "curse of the law." We have been saved from the wrath to come! Hallelujah! ☺
2. *Romans 3:23-25 ESV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified by **his grace as a gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*
  - The grace of God is a gift, received by faith!
  - It comes through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!
  - Oh, let us rejoice in His holy sacrifice and mercy, and that God would "pass over" our sins!
3. *Romans 5:15-17 ESV But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, **much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace** of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. (16) And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the **free gift** following many trespasses brought justification. (17) For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive **the abundance of grace** and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*
  - Grace to us, is not just a gift, but it is a FREE gift!
  - This gift cost Christ his life! He died a brutal death, carrying the full measure of our sins and facing the full measure of the curse of the Law and the wrath of God!
  - His gift abounded for many! May this gift of righteousness reign in our lives!
  - *Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV For by **grace** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
4. *Romans 6:1-2 ESV What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*
  - *Romans 6:14-15 ESV For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (15) What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*
  - Grace isn't a means to sin...a "party free" card...a perversity pass! ☺
  - NO! This marvelous grace...this unmerited favor of God enables us to walk in holiness and love towards Him!

5. *Romans 12:6 ESV Having gifts that differ **according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;***
  - Because of the grace of God, we have gifts and Spirit-empowered abilities to be USED to serve Christ and His Kingdom!
  - Again, they are to be USED. ☺ Knowing that they are given “according to grace” should help us serve and bless others.
  - *1 Peter 4:10 ESV As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*
6. *2 Corinthians 8:6-9 ESV (6) Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this **act of grace.** (7) But as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you--**see that you excel in this act of grace also.** (8) I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. (9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*
  - Giving is an “act of grace.” Christians given so much grace are supposed to be generous!
  - The essence of generosity IS GRACE. Giving is close to the heart of God for many reasons, but chiefly because He gives us EVERYTHING in grace. When we give in grace, we imitate Him!
7. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV (7) So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. (8) Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. (9) But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*
  - The grace of God is sufficient, even during times of suffering!
  - By His grace, even our weaknesses have a purpose: to display His power!
8. *Ephesians 4:29-32 ESV Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give **grace** to those who hear. (30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*
  - Our speech should always be seasoned with salt and full of grace.
  - The goal, even when tough truths are spoken, should always be for the “building up.”
  - Friends, I believe we grieve the Spirit when we forget just how much we have been forgiven, and our words lack mercy and forgiveness. I know I’ve failed much here. I truly repent for that.
9. *2 Timothy 1:8-9 ESV Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and **grace**, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.*
  - Paul wasn’t the only one called by God purpose and grace; you’ve been called as well! Yes...even before the ages began!
  - Oh, the mercy, love, and sovereignty of our LORD, who loved us and called us to such a holy calling!
10. *2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV You then, my child, be strengthened by the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be*

able to teach others also.

- Christ's grace strengthens us! He gives more grace!
- For the believer, this grace is as inexhaustible as our sins, as high as the heavens, and as long as the east is from the west!
- This grace will even give us the ability to teach others and make disciples!

11. *Titus 2:11-15 ESV For 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, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (15) Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*

Here an obvious reference is the life and finished work of Jesus, the grace of God:

- Trains us in holiness
- Trains us to live godly lives
- Helps us wait for the appearing of Christ
- Helps us understand the "why" of His coming: to redeem and purify a people who work!
- Helps us declare the Word regardless of circumstances

12. *Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) 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.*

- God's presence is called "the throne of grace."
- This means when we, as His children humbly approach Him in prayer and worship, He casts us not away, but welcomes us and loves us! From our Father, we find mercy and grace in the time of need!

13. *1 Peter 1:13-16 ESV Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

- Where should our hope be friends? Where should we set our prepared, action-minded thoughts?
- What is the motive for day to day holiness "in all your conduct?" You guessed it: GRACE. The grace-filled work of Christ!
- Like law does not work against love, can you see that grace and holiness do not work against each other in this context?

14. *Jude 1:4 ESV For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

- Hyper-grace won't correct sin. Biblical grace loves God and people too much to let people drown in darkness.
- Hyper-grace works to pervert true grace; no one who has received the grace of God affirms sin or denies Christ.

**Final Thoughts:**

The grace of God is one of the overarching, unifying doctrines in all of Scripture. The call to demonstrate grace to others flows out of our LORD's loving and merciful nature towards His people. May this church understand this love, and excel in every form of biblical grace towards others.

*1 Peter 5:10-11 ESV And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all **grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (11) To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

*2 Peter 3:18 ESV 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. Amen.*

*Revelation 22:20-21 ESV (20) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The **grace** of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*