

GRACE ALONE: WEEK 1- Grace is a Gift

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Share a recent experience that was challenging for you?
2. When you found yourself in this challenging experience, how do you get through it?

WORD

We are starting a series “GRACE ALONE” and throughout these four weeks, we will learn about grace and the role of this gift of God as His followers. We will understand that yes, we were saved by grace alone. But what happens then? Do we still need grace? And if so, why do we still need it? What does grace look like?

2 Peter 1:1-2 NIV

*Greeting 1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in
abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

This letter was written by Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ”. By identifying himself as an apostle, Peter is emphasizing his authority from Jesus Christ. Peter’s identity, an apostle and a servant highlights the authority and humility found in Christ. The audience of this letter are the people who have obtained a faith of equal standing, meaning the followers of Jesus Christ. The letter was specifically written to issue a final challenge to the believers. To never stop growing in our faith in Jesus Christ. Peter also said here that we have only obtained our faith by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

God’s grace is a gift. Not one of us will have the quality of being right in the eyes of God, because we are all sinners. But God is full of grace that He gave

His son for us to die for our sins. And through that we will have this quality of being right in the eyes of our God.

Colossians 1:22

he has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you Holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.

DISCUSSIONS

Share an experience when you tried to break free of a specific sin, but couldn't. Did you feel hopeless or powerless?

WORD

Why was Peter praying for ABUNDANCE of grace and peace for the followers of Christ? In order to answer this question we need to know first what really is this grace that he is praying for the believers and what were the believers facing back then. What is Grace? Grace is a gift, it described as an unmerited favor given from God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

"For by grace you have been saved through faith— and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Romans 3:23-24 NIV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Titus 2:11 NIV

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."

Romans 5:8 NIV

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

These verses collectively explain the central message or the central concept of grace. That Grace is a gift. A gift that didn't cost us anything. A gift that was given by God because He loves us so much. This gift that was freely given to you and me through Jesus Christ. Grace is present in the Old Testament and New Testament. Grace is evident in our daily lives without us knowing it, there's grace when we are sick, when we are lack or have nothing. Through His Grace, there's peace in times of chaos. Peter prayed for abundance of grace. Because he knows that Christians will be facing persecution and false teachings.

Salvation is a gift to receive and not a goal to achieve. Grace is God's unmerited favour. It would not be grace if we did anything to earn it or deserve it. If God owes it to us because we are good people or have tried to do the best we can, it is not grace. Grace means that we get the opposite of what we deserve. We deserve God's wrath because we have sinned and continue to sin against Him. Instead, He saves us by His grace. Many people will see the gift of grace and think that they don't need it, and some people will leave this life feeling that the gift of grace is required. By the time that they leave this place, it will be too late.

DISCUSSION

How do these teachings of God's grace through the Apostle Peter moved us or encourages us? Do you have any new or surprising insights?

LIFE APPLICATION

As we begin to live out the benefits of grace, we get to live the blessings of Christ. As disciples of Jesus, we get to live the destiny we are created to live.

Let us **spend our time with Lord regularly.** James 4:8a says "*Come near to God and He will draw near to you*" Come to God, spend time with Him and He will draw near to you. More like He's already there but you will feel His presence more when you spend time and come near to him. Reading

through His teachings, his interactions with people. We will understand His actions, His thoughts and we will know more of Him. By doing these things we will know more of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. By learning more about God we will realize that yes we are loved. We are highly favored.

Let us **fellowship with one another**. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV says there *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* Through spending time with fellow believers we will be encouraged and we will see God moving in their lives. And through this we will know how good God is and we will know more of Him.

DISCUSSION

Have you received the gift of God's grace?

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

“For by grace you have been saved through faith— and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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