

Opening Scripture: *Ephesians 2:8*

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

Introduction: Walking in Grace.

The sermon begins with a reminder that grace is the unmerited favor of God, a divine assistance given freely to believers. It is described as a journey — a call to grow and progress in grace, moving from one level to another, much like advancing from the outer court to the Holy of Holies in spiritual maturity. The speaker emphasizes that grace is not static; it calls for growth, maturity, and an active yielding to God’s will.

Key Themes and Points

1. Grace as the Foundation of Salvation

- We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). No man can come to God except by His grace, which initiates salvation.
- Titus 2:11 reinforces that grace, bringing salvation, has appeared to all men. It is a universal invitation to redemption.

2. Growing in Grace

- Spiritual growth involves moving from dependence on external rituals (as under the law) to an internal transformation led by the Holy Spirit.
- Just as driving becomes second nature after practice, believers grow in grace until spiritual responses become instinctive.

3. Dependence on Grace, Not Works

- Romans 11:6 reminds us that grace is incompatible with works; it is a gift, not something earned.
 - While believers are called to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), this does not mean reliance on human effort. Instead, it is God working within us for His purposes (Philippians 2:13).
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Examples of Grace in the Bible

1. Moses

- Moses experienced extraordinary grace, as evidenced by his radiant face after meeting with God (Exodus 34:29-35). This glow was a testament to the transformative power of being in God's presence.
 - 2. **The Three Hebrew Boys (Daniel 3)**
 - Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah displayed unwavering faith when faced with the fiery furnace. Their boldness and confidence in God were products of grace, enabling them to stand firm even when death seemed imminent.
 - 3. **David**
 - David's dependence on grace is seen in his constant inquiries to God before making decisions, even in familiar situations. This highlights the importance of seeking divine direction rather than relying on past experiences.
 - 4. **Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20)**
 - When facing overwhelming odds, Jehoshaphat was reminded that the battle was the Lord's, not his. Grace enabled him to trust God's promise of victory without fear or dismay.
 - 5. **The Apostles**
 - Peter's transformation from denying Jesus to boldly preaching at Pentecost is attributed to the grace of God empowering him with courage and authority.
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Practical Applications

1. **Yielding to God's Will**
 - Grace requires believers to surrender their own plans and allow the Holy Spirit to lead. This is an active, ongoing process that demands trust and patience.
 2. **Consistency in Spiritual Disciplines**
 - Studying God's Word and maintaining a life of prayer are essential for growing in grace. Neglecting these practices results in spiritual stagnation.
 3. **Recognizing God's Role in Success**
 - Achievements in life are not a result of human effort alone but are made possible by God's grace. This calls for humility and gratitude.
 4. **Facing Challenges with Grace**
 - Like the three Hebrew boys, believers should face trials with the confidence that God is present, even if His intervention is not immediately visible.
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Call to Action: Striving Toward Perfection

The sermon concludes with a challenge to strive toward spiritual maturity, described as entering the Holy of Holies. This journey involves:

- Continual dependence on God's grace.
 - Effort in seeking and knowing Him.
 - Trusting in God's provision and timing, even when circumstances seem unclear.
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Closing Prayer and Reflection

The speaker closes with a heartfelt prayer for God's help in growing in grace. Believers are encouraged to surrender fully, trusting God to guide every step, and to let His Spirit lead without resistance.

Key Scripture to Meditate On:

Proverbs 4:18

"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."