

GOD'S GRACE SEEN IN US

Pure, untainted grace is from above, from God in Heaven. He has poured out His grace upon His image-bearers in many ways in spite of the fact that man is undeserving of such favor and kindness. The magnitude of God's grace is particularly expressed in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ and in the revelation of His gospel, which makes every spiritual blessing available. Grace is intricately woven in the fabric of God's nature, of who God is.

Recipients of that divine grace with its gifts should reflect holy grace in their daily lives as well. Children of God ought to bear the image of their Father. Disciples of Jesus ought to imitate Christ. Jesus told His apostles, *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father"* (John 14:9). The Son bore the nature of His Father. Predestined to be *"conformed to the image of the Son"* (Romans 8:29), Christians are new creatures, imitating Christ. Thus God's grace is seen in His children.

For example, the grace of God that has supplied *"seed to the sower and bread for food"* increases the harvest of saints' righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10). The *"surpassing grace of God"* in Christians becomes visible through ministering to the needs of saints, which in turn leads to an overflow of thanksgiving to God (9:12, 14). Recipients of grace show grace by ministering, and men in turn glorify God (v. 13).

The same grace of God that has brought salvation to all teaches men to actively bear fruits of repentance. Grace trains. God's instruction about the requirement of denying ungodliness and worldliness is grace (Titus 2:11, 12). Believers of Christ must not only stop pursuing and practicing sin, they must live righteously before God. God's unmerited favor molds the character of the obedient unto godliness.

Grace's spiritual transformation of the lives of Christians will manifest itself in their speech. *"Conduct yourselves in wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person"* (Colossians 4:5-6). Our words ought to reflect God's grace in us. Wisdom and grace definitely ought to be on the lips of those who have been redeemed by the Son's blood - especially in sharing the mystery of Christ by speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Grace, what a profoundly needed, favored kindness in our world! And that amazing grace which comes from above is to be learned and incorporated in the lives of those who have been saved by grace.