



EDIFICATION MATERIAL FOR FEBRUARY 2012

THEME: EXCEEDING GRACE OF GOD

TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING GRACE

TEXT: I TIM.1:12-15, I COR. 15:9 & 10

What is Grace? (Discuss)

Grace is a bestowed divine ability to perform given tasks without struggle. It is an enabler to do God's will, and fulfil purpose and destiny. Some regard it as God riches at the expense of Christ. It is a variant of truth also seen as 'unmerited favour,' outside of which we can do nothing, including living the Christian life. Even pleasing God takes His working in you. (Phil.2:13). Whatever does not begin with grace will end in disgrace. Jesus depended on grace because *He did not face the devil as God but as 'man.'* (Jn.5:19-21, 30, Lk.2:40)

To better understand "Grace" we must begin with the Covenant of Grace, which *is a relationship of favour that gives us access to God's unlimited power.* Anyone in this relationship would enjoy forbearance from God in all aspects of life.

HOW IS GRACE RECEIVED?

It is a 'free gift', only received by **Faith** - absolute trust in God's ability. Faith must be deliberately exercised for it to flow (Eph. 2:8-9). **No combination of efforts can manufacture grace.** Hard-work cannot access God's grace because:

- You do not **deserve** the grace of God
- You do not **merit** the grace of God
- You cannot **earn** the grace of God
- You cannot **obtain** the grace of God by your **effort**

We need a multiplied dimension of grace with peace (I Pet.1:2-4), to be exactly like Jesus, and become a partaker of His divine nature enabled to dispense/administer grace and pass it to succeeding generations (I Tim.2:1-3).

Grace is all you need. Without Grace, you will kill yourself with burdens you cannot carry. Those who operate in Grace will enjoy God's Presence, Peace, Power, Provision, Protection, Promotion and Provision.

Prayer/Song:

*Give me grace to follow
Exceeding grace to follow
Give me grace to follow
Your grace is enough for me.*