

God's Grace

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I. Introduction.

A. When we are trying to define the relationship between our responsibility to be holy and God's power to make us holy, we often tend to rely only on ourselves or only on God because the relationship is difficult to understand.

B. We are 100% responsible and 100% dependent on God. (Psalm 127:1)

II. Grace is God's life giving element that enables us to pursue holiness.

A. Grace is divine strength and enablement given without regard to personal merit, but solely through the merit of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:1)

1. Without grace, we soon exhaust our ability to be self-controlled. (2 Corinthians 8:1; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:13)

III. There are several elements necessary to obtaining God's grace.

A. You have to realize that you need it. (John 15:5)

B. God invites us to come to the throne of grace. So pray for grace for your current circumstance. (Hebrews 4:15-16; Acts 20:32)

C. God gives us grace and strength through the hope of the Holy Spirit using the scripture. (Romans 15:4ff, 13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Romans 8:13)

D. "You work as if it all depends on you and then you pray as though it all depends on God."
D.L. Moody

IV. We must pray for grace. (Nehemiah 1:3ff, 2:1ff)

V. In the pursuit of holiness, we must press on with the correct motivation. (Hebrews 12:14; Philippians 3:12-14)

A. The pursuit of holiness is a lifelong process.

B. The pursuit of holiness is subject to many frequent failures.

C. The pursuit of holiness is painful to the flesh, so it works on our emotions

D. There are several keys to creating correct motivation in our hearts and all of them involve a process of continual growth.

1. Our desire cannot be for self-esteem- this is selfish. Our motivation must be God-centered.

2. The love of God for us motivates us. Meditate on scripture that speaks to God's love for you. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Genesis 39)
3. Let God's worthiness motivate you. (Revelation 4:11-12, 5:12)
4. Let the prize that is set before us motivate you. (Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 25)

Application questions:

1. How does Jerry define grace differently than many other Christians?

2. How does the Holy Spirit use scripture to give us grace?

3. How can you develop a desire for holiness in your life?
