The word grace appears often in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, and is truly one of the profoundly significant words in the Scriptures.

Although it is a familiar word to many, its actual meaning is not well understood. The most commonly held definition of grace is that it is some form of unmerited favor bestowed on us by God. Grace does have such a connotation, but this is not the highest definition of grace as revealed in the Bible.

In this Bible study, the footnotes of the New Testament Recovery Version provide us with a rich picture of the grace of God in its highest sense.

The Highest Definition of Grace

1. Grace is a living person, the Triune God Himself, who is embodied in Christ and who passed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit that He might enter into us to be our life, our life supply, and our everything for our enjoyment:

   Romans 5:2 and note 2; 1 Corinthians 15:10 and notes 101 and 102; Galatians 6:18 and note 18; Ephesians 1:2 and note 2; Philippians 4:23 and note 23; 1 Peter 3:7 and note 75; 1 Peter 4:10 and note 102.

2. Grace came through Jesus Christ and is Jesus Christ Himself:

   John 1:14 and 17 and notes 14 and 17; Galatians, 5:4 and note 4; 2 Thessalonians 1:12 and note 12; 2 Timothy 4:22 and note 22.

The Way to Receive Grace

1. Through God’s love and mercy and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit:

   1 John 4:8 and note 8; 1 Timothy 1:13 and note 13; Titus 3:5 and note 5; Hebrews 4:16 and note 16; Matthew 9:13 and note 13; 2 Corinthians 13:14 and note 14, paragraphs 1 and 2.

2. By humbling ourselves before God:

   James 4:6 and note 6; 1 Peter 5:5 and note 5.

3. By believing in the Lord Jesus Christ:

   Romans 5:2 and notes 2 and 2.
4. By loving the Lord Jesus:
   Ephesians 6:24 and note 24².

5. By exercising our human spirit:
   Hebrews 4:16 and notes 16¹ and 16², paragraph 2; Hebrews 13:25 and note 25¹;
   Galatians 6:18 and notes 18¹ and 18³, paragraph 1; Philippians 4:23 and note 23².

6. Through sufferings and trials arranged for us by God:
   2 Corinthians 12:9 and notes 9¹ and 9²; Romans 5:3 and note 3¹.

7. Through the words of grace contained in the Bible or spoken to us by the believers in Christ:
   Acts 20:32; Ephesians 4:29 and note 29³; Colossians 4:6 and note 6¹.

The Results of Receiving Grace

1. We are justified by God:
   Romans 3:24 and note 24²; Titus 3:7.

2. We are saved by grace:
   Ephesians 2:8 and note 8³; Titus 2:11 and notes 11² through 11⁴.

3. We have peace:
   Romans 1:7 and note 7²; 1 Peter 5:14 and note 14¹.

4. We reign in God’s divine life over all negative things:
   Romans 5:17, 21 and notes 17¹, 17³, and 21².

5. We are empowered, made strong:
   2 Timothy 2:1 and note 1¹.

6. We become members of the Body of Christ with spiritual gifts produced in us by grace for the building up of the Body:
   Romans 12:6 and note 6¹; Ephesians 4:7 and note 7².

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