

SERMON NOTES - GraceNotes - Abundance & Empowering

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1. Intro & Recap

- What is a "Grace Note"? Grace is multifaceted. We need to understand all its parts and live in them.
- 1 Peter 4:10 NKJV - "10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace** of God." NIV - "*grace in its various forms.*" ESV - "*God's varied grace*" NASB - "*the multifaceted grace of God*"
- Elements of grace - more than one part - Mercy, Justice, Empowering, Eternity
- Why is grace so important? It is the unique thing that sets Jesus and Christianity apart from every other religion. Eph 2:8-9 NKJV - "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."

2. This week's element = Abundance / Overflowing / Empowering

Mercy is great. Being declared righteous is amazing. But Grace is MUCH more than just making up for your past mistakes - it is an empowering to be and do amazing things for God.

Example of an old discarded rocket being bought, cleaned, fixed and then made ready to launch. You must launch. You were saved for a purpose...not just to be forgiven.

2.1 REIGNING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS - DOING HIS WILL, PLEASING HIM

Rom 5:17, 20-21 NKJV - "17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ... 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Hyperperisseuō - "to abound beyond measure, abound exceedingly. To overflow, to enjoy abundantly"

2Co 2:14 NKJV - "14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (see Talk on Leading Lights site called "[Continuing Success](#)")

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Phi 2:12-13 NKJV - "12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works (*energeō*) in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Romans 6:14 NKJV - "14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Titus 2:11-12 NKJV - "11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,"

Titus 2:11-12 NIV - "11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,"

2.2 GIFTS & MIRACLE POWER - "*Charismata*"

Act 1:8 NKJV - "8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.""

Act 2:16-17 NKJV - "16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

Gal 3:3, 5 NKJV - "3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ... 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?--"

Luk 11:11-13 NKJV - "11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!""

2.3 MINISTRY & CALLING

Ephesians 3:2, 7-8 NKJV - "2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ... 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working (*energeia*) of His power (*dynamis*). 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,"

Romans 12:6 NKJV - "6 Having then **gifts differing according to the grace** that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;"

Ephesians 4:7 NKJV - "7 But to each one of us grace was given **according to the measure of Christ's gift.**"

2.4 PROVISION, & GENEROSITY

2Co 8:1-2, 6-7, 9 NKJV - "1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ... 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also. ... 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

2Co 9:6-8 NKJV - "6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make **all grace abound** toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

CONCLUSION:

Grace empowers you to serve Him, to Please Him, to Reign in Righteousness, to use your gifts in ministry, and to be generous and have more than enough.

1Co 15:9-10 NKJV - "9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.