

# Understanding Grace Upon Grace (John 1:16)

“of his fullness” = abundance

Aspects of Salvation

related to

Aspects of Grace

1. Spared the penalty of sin →

#1 is the first grace referenced God has shown from John 1:16.

Provides a standing before God

2. Rescued from the power of sin →

#2 & 3 are the second grace referenced by John 1:16, a continuing grace which elevates man to a position not previously attainable prior to man's fall.

Provides for the daily life on earth (our walk)

3. Delivered from the presence of sin →

Grace upon grace removes fear, gives assurance, stability, and direction to the earthly life.

Demonstrated in the ages to come

## By grace, a standing before God

This standing is fully accomplished the moment someone is saved.

Eph. 1:7 – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

These verses speak to the things which make up the believer's standing before God.

Rom. 3:24 – “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

Col. 1:21, 22 – “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled”

## Grace for the daily life

Romans 5:2 – Every believer stands in grace and has access to it by faith

God is ready to act through grace in every circumstance of the believer's life.

What would be the point of having access to God, if God was not ready to act on our behalf? God hears and answers. Elijah and prophets of Baal (a god that didn't answer).

1 Cor. 15:10 – All that we are, all that godly works we accomplish are as a result of God's grace.

Only by grace can a believer break the power of cancelled sin. When you are saved, you need grace to change your ways, to affect your walk. See James 4:6. “But He gives a greater grace.”

Grace... sustains us during times of affliction – Cor. 12:9  
 delivers us from the power of sin – Rom. 6:14  
 helps us become spiritually strong – 2 Tim. 2:1  
 establishes our heart – Heb. 13:9

These verbs are active. God is doing these things – now!

Grace  
upon  
Grace

helps us to serve God acceptably – Heb. 12:28, 2 Cor. 9:8  
allows special giving – 2 Cor. 8:2  
evangelizes through preaching – Eph. 3:8  
provides all ministering to the church – Eph. 4:7, 11, 12  
fully supplies in time of need – Heb. 4:16

## Grace in the ages to come

1 Pet. 1:13 – “... rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

Think about the actions of God towards believers upon Jesus’ return to earth. Do these actions meet the definition of grace that you have learned? Read the following verses pertaining to future events affecting the believers and list what the action is.

1 Cor. 15:52 – dead in Christ raised, living believers changed

1 Thess. 4:16, 17 – caught up together to be with God in eternity

Rom. 8:29 – conformed to the image of Jesus

1 John 3:2 – made like Jesus

Phil. 3:21 – have bodies like Jesus’ glorious body

John 17:21 – being one with the Father and Son, as they are one

John 17:22 – sharing glory with Jesus given by God the Father

What word contrasts the measure of grace toward the believer throughout eternity (Eph. 2:7) with the grace in this life (Eph. 1:7) ? Exceeding

Only at the end of time will the fullness of the grace upon grace God provides be revealed.

Purpose of grace – “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25-27)

Grace is not only God’s method of forgiving sin. Grace includes all that He does with and for the believer in raising him from his lost and condemned estate; in purifying and perfecting him; and finally, in placing him as a glorious being, far above all other created things, in a perfect union with Himself. This is grace upon grace.