

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four : Grace in Peter's Epistles

I. Overview:

Grace is the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit giving Himself freely to us, being everything to us, and doing everything in us, for us, and through us for our enjoyment. The multiplication of grace is the grace that multiplies in our daily life in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Grace is multiplied to us through our sufferings, limitations, and weaknesses; the more burdens we have, the more opportunities we have to experience Christ as grace. The Spirit of Christ in the Old Testament prophets made them clear concerning Christ coming as grace to us through the processes of His incarnation to His glorification for the application of God's full salvation to us. The Spirit of Christ was coming to the New Testament believers to be the all-sufficient and unlimited grace of God's full salvation to them for their entry into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom age, which is the salvation of their souls as the consummation of God's full salvation. We have been called to enjoy and express Christ as grace in the midst of sufferings for others to see in our holy living and church meetings. The God of all grace, who has called the believers into His eternal glory, perfects, establishes, strengthens, and grounds them through their sufferings.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that God as grace will be increased in us.

Peter speaks of the grace that multiplies in the believers' daily life in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus their Lord. When we were regenerated, we received God into us, but we had only a small amount of God. Gradually, as God increases within us through the years, we will be weighty with the measure of God. This is because God as grace will be increased in us.

B. Expound Peter twice speaking of grace and peace being multiplied.

Peter twice speaks of grace and peace being multiplied. In 1 Peter 1:2 he says, "Grace to you and peace be multiplied," and in 2 Peter 1:2, "Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." Peter desires not only that grace be with the saints, but that grace be multiplied to them.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the words in 1 Corinthians 15:10.

In 1 Corinthians 15:10 in which Paul refers three times is the resurrected Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit to bring the processed God in resurrection into us to be our life and life supply that we may live in resurrection. Therefore, grace is the Triune God becoming life and everything to us.

B. Expound the salvation of the souls in First Peter 1:10.

First Peter 1:10 speaks of the grace that was prophesied by the prophets, who sought and searched diligently concerning the salvation of the believers' souls. What Peter teaches as grace is the grace that saves our soul. The Lord Jesus said, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul-life?" This soul needs to be saved. If, for the sake of saving your soul, you sacrifice the whole world, that is worthwhile.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the words in First Peter 1:13 in the grace the believers set their hope on.

First Peter 1:13 speaks of the grace on which the believers set their hope perfectly. Nearly every day, I pray that my soul will be saved at the Lord's coming back...This is the saving of the soul in the next age for those who enter into the enjoyment of the Lord to feast with Him. This grace will come by the revelation of the Lord Jesus at His second coming.

B. Explain the grace being given and manifested to us in 2 Timothy 1:9 and 10.

In 2 Timothy 1:9 and 10 Paul tells us that the grace of God, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages, now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. God's grace was given to us in eternity, but it was manifested and applied to us through our Lord's first coming, in which He nullified death and brought life to us.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the words in First Peter 2:19 and 20.

In 1 Peter 2:19 and 20, Peter is saying that if, because of a consciousness of God, we are willing to bear sorrows and suffer unjustly, that is, suffer unjust treatment, this is grace. The Greek word rendered "grace" in verse 19 is *charis*, referring here to the motivation of the divine life within us and its expression in our life, becoming in our behavior gracious and acceptable in the eyes of both man and God.

B. State that without the divine life, we shall face problems in our marriage and family.

If we would not have the divine life, we shall face problems in our married life, no matter how much we may love one another. We shall have at least five major problems; temper, disposition, habit, background, and our way of understanding things. No matter how much alike a husband and a wife may be, there will be differences between them among these things above. This will be the situation, even if the husband and wife love each other very much and are refined, educated people.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the grace of life in 1 Peter 3:7.

Peter speaks of the grace of life that is the inheritance of all the believers, whether strong or weak. Peter teaches the believing brothers to love and to sympathize with their wives because the wives as the weaker vessels are fellow heirs of the grace of life. This life is the Triune God Himself as our life, living in us to be our inheritance.

B. Explain the relationship between husband and wife in marriage life from 1 Peter 3:7.

The husbands should appreciate the preciousness, the valuable worth, of the wives, and apportion it, assign it, as honor to them duly and reasonably. The female, according to nature in God's creation, is weaker than the male physically and psychologically. In 1 Peter 3:7 Peter says that husbands and wives are "fellow heirs of the grace of life." Grace of life is God as life and life supply to us in His Trinity.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the words in 1 Peter 5:5 and how to practice.

In 1 Peter 5:5 Peter says that all of us should gird ourselves with humility toward one another. Everyone in the church should gird himself with humility. In 1:13 Peter charges us to gird up the loins of our mind, but here he indicates that our entire being needs to be girded. This figure comes how the Lord girded Himself with a towel when He humbled Himself to wash the disciples' feet.

B. Explain the words in 1 Peter 5:7 and how to apply.

In 1 Peter 5:7 Peter says, "Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you." The word casting here means throwing upon, that is, committing to, giving up to. The verb denotes a once-for-all act. The words all your anxiety indicate that the whole lot of our anxiety throughout our entire life, our whole life with all its anxiety, should be cast on the Lord, especially in the midst of persecution.

III. Conclusion:

Peter's epistles show us that the Christian life under the Government of God is altogether a matter of grace. When we are dealt with under God's government, we may have suffering, bear sorrows, or even experience by suffering unjustly. Although the processed Triune God will come to become our grace, after we have suffered a little while, He Himself will perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground us by His grace. Moreover, the epistles of Peter are full of experiences of grace; for example, the multiplied grace, the grace of life, the varied grace, the all grace, the true grace, the grace on which we set our hope perfectly, having the grace through prayers, entering into this grace in which we stand and to grow in it, ministering Christ as good stewards of the varied grace of God. Experience of this grace to bring in a living of enjoyment of God's full salvation, that is, to live out Christ as our good virtues in every aspect, and ultimately to produce the church as God's dwelling place, as the organism of the Triune God.