

Character Profile: My God Gives Grace (Divine Help)

The Bible Proclaims and Displays that God gives Grace.

Definition: The word translated as grace is typically the word *karis*. *Karis* means favor, grace, kindness, goodwill, gracious deed or gift. The condition of goodwill and resulting act of kindness.

2 Cor. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2 Cor. 12:8-10 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Eph. 1:6-7 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Peter 5:5b-7 ...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1. Look for key/ repeating words in these verses. Do you see any themes or common ideas?
2. Meditate on God's grace in 2 Cor. 9:8. Think about the key words "all" and "abound." In this verse what are the two results of God giving grace? Apply those two results to your life, personally.
3. Meditate on 2 Cor. 12:8-10. Put yourself in Paul's shoes. What was Paul initially asking God to do? What Was God's answer? What was Paul's response and why did he respond that way?
4. Meditate on Eph. 1:6-7. What is a result of God's grace in this passage? Meditate on those results?

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5. Meditate on Heb. 4:16. Isn't it awesome to know that God's presence is a place of grace?! When does this verse instruct us to go to God's gracious throne? What does God give from His throne?

6. Meditate on 1 Peter 5:5b-7. According to this verse, how can you be a recipient of God's grace? When does God choose not to give grace? Practically, how can we humble ourselves according to these verses? Apply that truth personally.

7. Meditate on 1 Peter 5:10. How does this verse characterize God? What are some of the results of God's grace according to this verse?

How should we apply the truth that God gives Grace?

1. How do we tend to think incorrectly about God in this area?
2. How do we need to "renew our mind" (change the way we think) because of today's verses? (Hint: What thoughts should replace the wrong thoughts from discussion question 1 above?)
5. **Pray specifically for each other.** As you go around your circle, specifically pray that the person to your right will come boldly before God's throne (Heb. 4:16) and specifically pray that the person on your left would be characterized by humility rather than pride (1 Peter 5:5b-7).